

In History IALT: understand why Vikings used Longboats.



Recap question:

Why did the Vikings come over to England in the first place?

Who Were the Vikings?



The Vikings' homeland was **Scandinavia**; modern Norway, Sweden and Denmark. From here they travelled great distances, mainly by sea and river. They travelled as far as North America to the west, Russia to the east, Lapland to the north and North Africa and Iraq to the South.

- We know about them through **archaeology**, poetry and the writings of people in Europe and Asia whom they encountered.
- They were skilled craftsmen and boat-builders, adventurous explorers and wide-ranging traders.

Let's look at some more facts in [this video](#).



Why do you think the Vikings wanted to travel?

What are Longboats?

Long boats are Viking long ships that would take Vikings across the sea.



The Gokstad Ship Discovery



Here is an example of how we know about the Vikings through archaeology. In 1880, a team of archaeologists discovered a Viking longboat buried under the ground in a farm in Norway.

The ship is now in a museum in Oslo, Norway.

As a group, look through the images of the Gokstad ship on your sheet.

Can you answer the questions together?



Viking Longships

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The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

Appearance

The front end of the ship would have a carved figure head to scare off enemies and be intimidating.



Speed

They were long and narrow for travelling quickly through the water. This was important for surprise attacks and speedy getaways!



Power

The ships were powered by wind in a wool sail or manpower by rowing with oars if there wasn't any wind available.

Steering

One man would steer the ship by using a big steering oar at the back (stern) of the ship.



Room

A typical longship would have enough room to fit around 50 - 60 people inside. Eating and sleeping were done on the deck as there was no shelter on the ships.

Protection

The Viking men's shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both men and women during battles.

Can You Design Your Own Viking Longboat?



A figurehead at the front of the ship helped to scare enemies!

Very detailed carvings were etched into the sides of the ship.



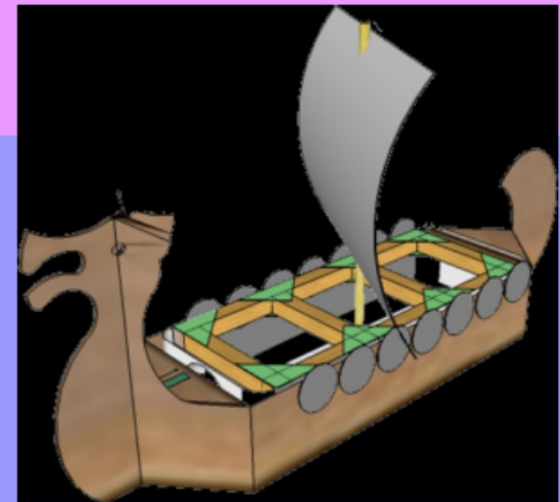
The sail was square and sometimes dyed red, again to scare the enemies away!



Task: Create longboat out of bottles.

Instructions:

1. Get one half of a water bottle.
2. Cover in brown paint.
3. Start to create the sail out of paper with Viking colours.
4. Create head of a beast for the ship.
5. Decorate like a Viking warriors ship.



If you do not have the resources then please DRAW your longboat! Or try to make it with cardboard instead... Get creative!

Imagine You Are a Viking



Can you persuade everyone to sail in your longboat?



You should sail in my longboat because...

