

# Viking Longships

## 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 deck.

## Protection

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



# Viking Longship Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops  
Don't forget - The spellings that you might need could either be in the question or within the text.

1. What was the purpose of the carved figure head at the front?

---

---

2. How did the shape of the longship help it to travel quickly?

---

---

3. What is the stern of the ship and what happens there?

---

---

4. Do you think wool is the preferred material used for sails on modern boats today?  
Why/why not?

---

---

5. What was the purpose of the shields on the side of the ship?

---

---

6. Why was all eating and sleeping done on deck?

---

---

7. How would you evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Viking longship as a method of transportation? Give reasons for your answer.

---

---

---

# Viking Longships Comprehension Answer Sheet

1. The purpose of the carved figure at the front was to scare off enemies and be intimidating.
2. The shape of the longship helped it to travel so quickly because it was long and narrow.
3. The stern is the back of the ship and here it is steered using a big oar.
4. Pupil's own response based on: No I do not think wool is the preferred material used for sails on modern boats today because it is not waterproof/ it is heavy.
5. The purpose of the shields on the side of the ship was to protect both men and women during battles.
6. All the eating and sleeping was done on the deck because there was no shelter anywhere else on the ship.
7. I would evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Viking longships as a method of transportation as being very good because they were long and narrow and moved quickly through the water, and they were built to carry a lot of people.