

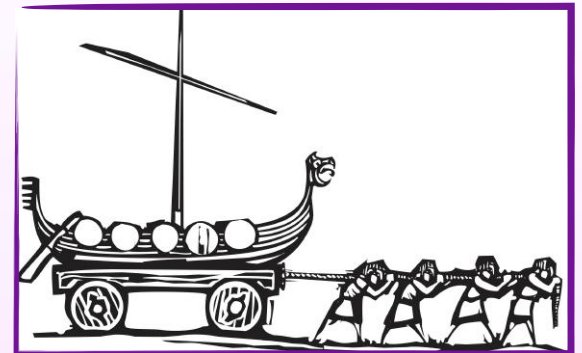
Vikings

The Viking Age lasted from about 700AD to 1100AD. The Viking people came from Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway and Sweden) and spoke the Norse language.



Vikings

Most Viking slaves (or thralls) were foreigners who had been captured. Unsurprisingly, they did all of the dirty and unpleasant jobs and were the legal property of their master.



Vikings

Viking citizens who worked for a living were called freemen. They were able to complain to their local chieftain if they were unhappy about something.



Vikings

In the early part of the Viking age, chieftains were the rulers of the people. If the people were dissatisfied with their leader, they could choose a new one.



Vikings

Viking society was based on a system of laws. Anyone who broke the law was an outlaw and could be killed.



Vikings

People accused of a serious crime were forced to walk across red hot iron or handle hot stones. If the burns healed, the person was innocent. If they became infected, the person was guilty!



Vikings

The most popular pastime for the Vikings was storytelling. This is how traditional stories were passed down through families. They were often sung or made into rhymes.



Vikings

Viking fathers chose their daughters' husbands for them. They were usually married by the age of 15.



Vikings

Viking law allowed wives to divorce lazy husbands. A woman needed witnesses to watch her declare that she was divorced. After the divorce, the husband had to pay maintenance.



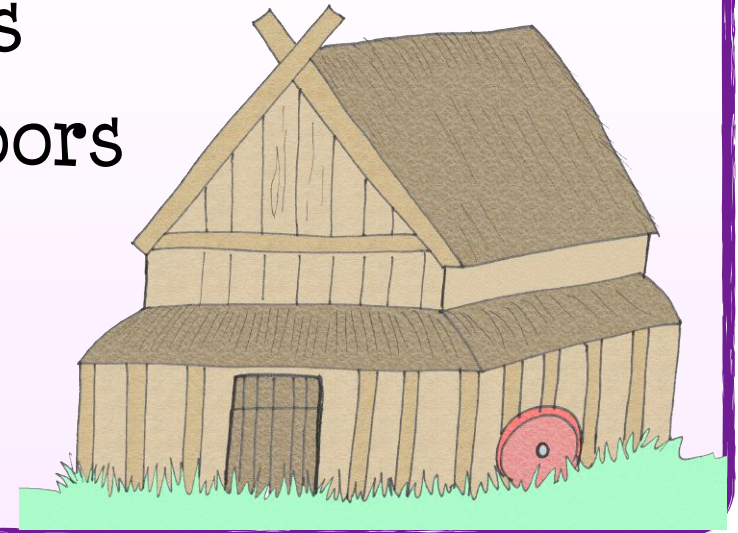
Vikings

Wealthy Vikings were buried in a ship with all of their possessions. These were usually burnt on the sea, but some were buried on land.



Vikings

Viking houses were built from locally available materials, such as wood, stone or turf. The floors of the houses were dug out below ground to keep the house warm.



Vikings

The Vikings used an alphabet called runes to write things down. Runes are made up of straight lines and angles, making them easier to carve into wood or stone.



Vikings

Vikings kept their animals in their houses, to protect them from bad weather. The humans lived at one end and the animals lived at the other!



Vikings

The Vikings sailed to North America, while trying to get to Greenland. A temporary Viking settlement has been found in Newfoundland, Canada.



Vikings

Odin was the Viking god of war. Viking warriors who died in battle were believed to go to Valhalla (Odin's castle). The roof of Valhalla was made of shields.



Vikings

Both ends of a Viking longboat were similar shapes, so they could change direction without having to turn around.



Shiki

Lots of English words that begin with "sk" come from the Norse language, like "skirt" and "skill".



SHIN

The Vikings were very clean people. They combed their hair, took baths on Saturdays and made soap out of horse chestnuts (conkers).



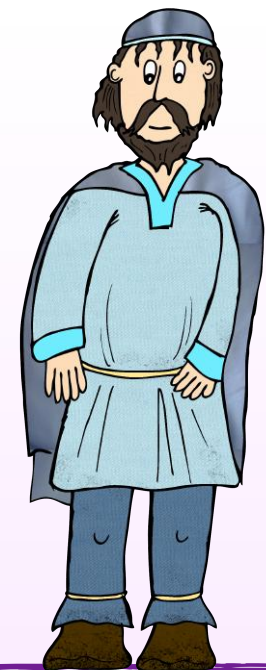
Vikings

Many British placenames come from the old Norse. The suffix "thorpe" means farm. An example of this is Scunthorpe.



Vikings

There were no law books, but every village had a law-speaker, who had to memorise all the laws and recite them to the villagers.



Vikings

Vikings