

# Vikings

## Key Vocabulary

Viking	Scandinavian seafaring pirates and traders who raided and settled in many parts of north-western Europe.
Scandinavia	a group of countries in northern Europe including Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway.
Long Ship	a long, narrow specialised type of Viking warship with a carved, wooden dragon's head.
Long House	a long, narrow building where Viking families and their animals lived.
Invade	to enter a country by force with large numbers of soldiers in order to take possession of it.
Settlement	a place where people establish a community
Viking Helmet	a horned headpiece Vikings wore to protect their heads and to intimidate their opposition during battles.
Norse Language	a horned headpiece Vikings wore to protect their heads and to intimidate their opposition during battles.



## Key facts

The name 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the Old Norse Language.

The Vikings homeland was originally in Scandinavia, which were a group of countries including Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway. They sailed over to the United Kingdom to discover new lands and to look for gold and treasure.

They sailed across the North Sea in boats called long ships. These were long, narrow ships, made out of wood and were between 16 and 37 meters long. They were the first of their kind, as they were able to sail through oceans, seas and rivers.

The Vikings first invaded the UK in 793 AD and last invaded in 1066, when William the Conqueror became the King of England.

The Vikings spoke a language called Norse. There were 24 runes in the Norse alphabet.

The Vikings prayed to twelve different gods, which represented different aspects of life and society. These gods included Odin, Thor, Balder, Vidar, Vale, Brage, Heimdall, Ty, Njord, Froy, Ull, Forsete. The king of all of the Norse gods was Odin, god of poetry, battle and death.

Viking families lived with their animals in 'longhouses' made our of wattle and daub, with thatched rooves. When important Vikings died, they would be placed with all their belongings, even their animals, in a burial ship. The boat would be set alight and pushed out to sea. This would be part of a special ceremony.

The Vikings were skilled craftsmen creating high quality cloth, delicate jewellery and strong armour