



# The Vikings



Vikingas  
(Lithuanian)



Vikinger  
(German)

ਵਾਈਕਿੰਗ



Vichingo  
(Italian)

Wiking  
(Polish)



وائکنگ  
(Urdu)

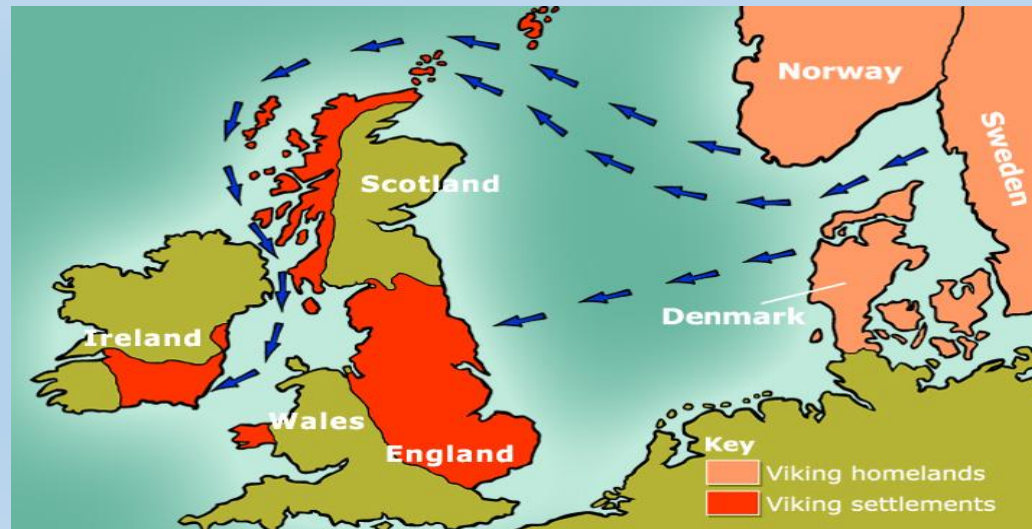
Where did they travel from?

- Norway
- Sweden
- Denmark



Where did they travel to?

- Scotland
- England
- Wales
- Ireland



The **Vikings** were Norse people who came from an area called Scandinavia. You might know it better as Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

# Who were the Vikings?

Vikings were also known as the Norsemen.

"Norsemen" means people of the North.

Vikings were great travellers and sailed to other parts of Europe, like France, Spain and Italy. They even travelled as far as Canada.

They invaded other parts of the World to trade, raid and often settled.

## *Interesting fact*

To find out which direction to travel, when out at sea, Viking sailors would release ravens. These birds flew towards the land and the longships followed them.



a raven

Viking warriors were fierce fighters. They used shields to protect themselves and used spears and swords to fight.

Helmet

Sword

Spear

Shield



# Viking Longships



Vikings were fearsome warriors and excellent boat builders. They had many different types of boats but the **longships** were the Vikings' largest and fastest ships. They measured 20-30 metres and could carry 60 men.

The Vikings built fast ships for raiding and war. In a raid, a ship could be hauled up on a beach and the men would jump out to fight. They could make a quick getaway if they were chased.

Their boats were decorated with fierce carvings to scare away their enemies and any sea monsters that might be lurking in the waters! The Vikings liked to give their ships names like Long Serpent or Snake of the Sea.



Viking Longships were light and thin so that they could be used to sail through rivers as well as through seas. They were built of oak planks and gaps were filled with animal hair or wool, mixed with tar to make the ships waterproof.

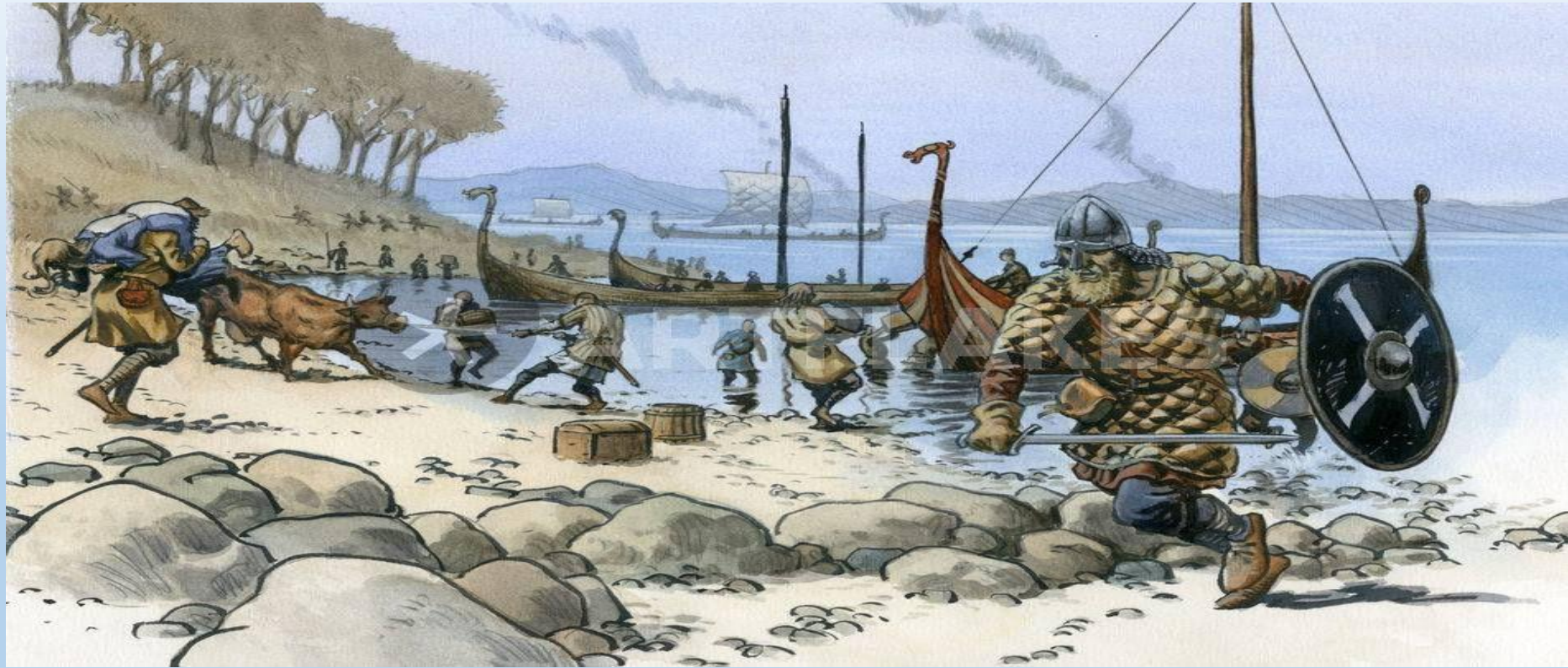
The sails of the ships were square and made with wool or linen. They often had a striped or diamond pattern on them and in bad weather they were lowered over the ship to act as a tent.

The crew slept on the boats in fur-lined sleeping bags and they kept their personal belongings in chests which they sat on while they rowed.

The crew was made up of a **helmsman** (to steer the boat), a **lookout** (to look out for any danger), a **bailer** (to remove water from the ship), and the sailing crew and oarsmen to row.







Vikings raided new countries. They stole animals and riches from the people who lived there.

# Rune stones



Vikings had their own system of writing, called Runes. The basic alphabet had 16 letters. It was called a Futhark after the first 6 letters. The first runic inscriptions, or carvings, are from around the year 200 AD, and have an alphabet with 24 letters.

# Religion

The three most important Viking Gods -

**Odin** - the leader of the gods - god of magic, poetry and war.

**Thor** - was the god of thunder.

Thor had iron gloves, a magic belt and a hammer. He was also god of protection. He provided protection from cold hunger, giants and other dangers.

**Freyr** - was the god of agriculture and fertility.

## Valhalla

The Vikings believed that men who died in battle went to Valhalla. It a great hall where dead heroes feasted with the gods.

# How did Vikings dress?

## Viking men

They wore lots of layers to keep them warm. They wore a long tunic, to their knees, with long sleeves in winter and short sleeves in summer. They wore long trousers made of linen or wool, usually held up with string or a leather belt if the Viking was rich. A Viking man would have worn a cloak around his shoulders to keep warm in winter.



long tunic

leather belt



# Viking women

Under-dress



Viking women wore clothes made from the same materials as men, linen or wool. They wore an ankle length under-dress with an apron-dress over it. Women's clothing did not have pockets. They wore cloaks over their shoulders to keep warm.

Apron-dress

cloak



# Viking children



Children wore the same type of clothes as their parents

# Viking houses



The Vikings built their houses from local material such as wood, stone or blocks of turf.

Vikings lived in long rectangular houses made with upright timbers (wood).





# Viking houses

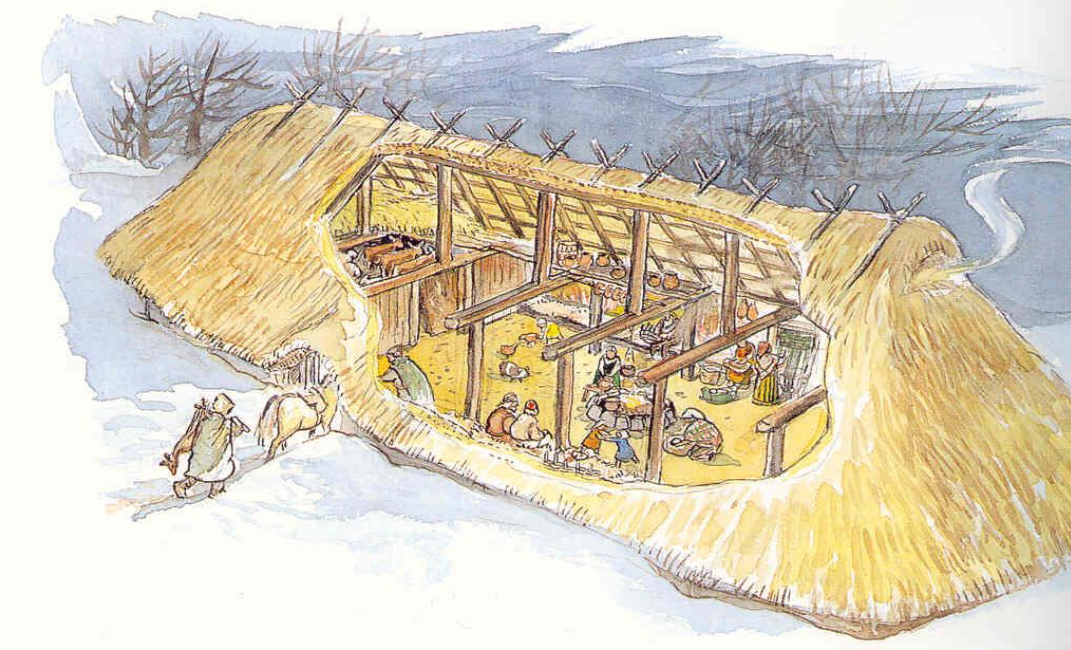
Viking houses were often one room homes with a cooking fire in the middle. The smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.

Animals and people lived in the same building. The animals lived in a byre at one end of the house and the people lived at the other.

The walls were made of wattle (woven sticks, covered with mud to keep out the wind and rain).



Wattle & daub



# What food did Vikings eat?



Leeks



Turnips

The Vikings were farmers who grew crops for food

Leeks  
Turnips  
Onions  
Parsnips

Onions



Parsnips



# What food did Vikings eat?



Berries



Nuts



Nettles

Spinach



Grains (to make bread)



Parsley (herbs)





# What food did Vikings eat?



Chickens



Sheep



Goat



Fox



Beaver



Bear