

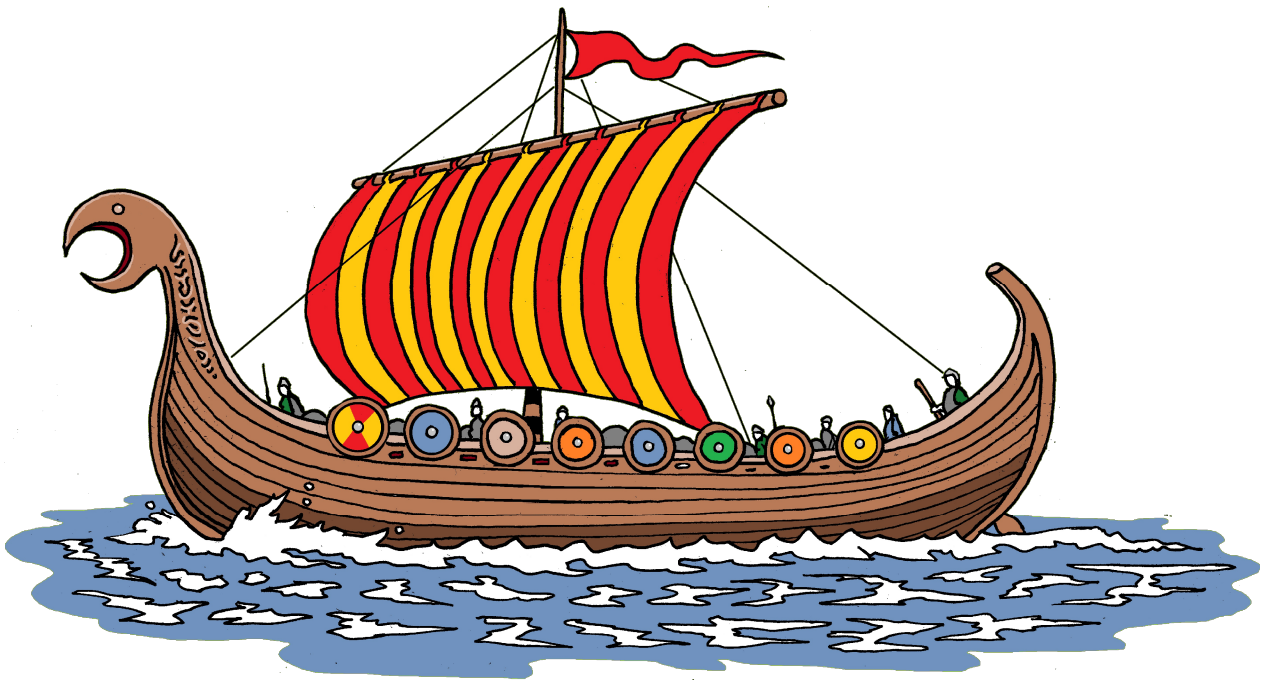


HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

Were the Vikings Pirates?

Pirates have a long history, even stretching back to ancient times, when the Greeks and Romans were harassed by sea raiders, the early day pirates.



However, probably the most successful pirates of all time were the Vikings. These fierce pirates terrorized the seas around Europe for nearly 400 years from around 700 AD.

They didn't just stay in the North Sea, no, they went further, the more daring ones went all the way across the North Atlantic Ocean and created settlements.

Erik the Red

We know of Erik Thorvaldsson, an explorer, known as Erik the Red, who we understand is meant to have created the first settlement in Greenland. He was "Eric the Red" because of his red hair and beard. His journey took him all the way from the Jæren, a district of Rogaland, Norway, across the Atlantic to Greenland, where he created a settlement.

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Were the Vikings Pirates?

Leif the Lucky

His son Leif Erikson, “Leif the Lucky”, went further all because the villagers thought him the unluckiest man in the village, so to prove that he wasn’t he went exploring himself, well, with his crew.

He had heard a story of an unknown land, from a merchant whose ship had been blown off course during a storm. Leif with his crew set off to find this unknown island. Well, it didn’t take long. They found wild grapes growing there which is why they called it Vinland. Actually, they had reached an island just off Newfoundland. This, we know because on the most Northerly tip on the island St Pierre and Miquelon, just off the coast of Newfoundland is L'Anse aux Meadows, an archaeological site. Archaeologists have learnt that here there was a Norse settlement dating back to the 10th Century, it is now a World Heritage Site.

He saw no future in North America, so he left!

However, Leif left, as it appears he didn’t get on with the local North American Indians (*known as Skraelings*). He also never fully realised the size of the landmass he’d found. But he is still called Leif the Lucky!

Make history fun, To help your children understand this important moment in British history we've written a musical

The Lucky Viking

The Story of Leif the Lucky

which tells this incredible story and has twelve amazing original songs that your children will walk round the school singing. Just go to go to <https://bit.ly/31oqell>



Other interesting sites:

<http://www.thewayofthepirates.com/types-of-pirates/viking-pirates/>

<https://scandinaviafacts.com/were-the-vikings-pirates/>

<https://www.pirateshipvallarta.com/blog/pirate-stories/the-history-of-viking-pirates>

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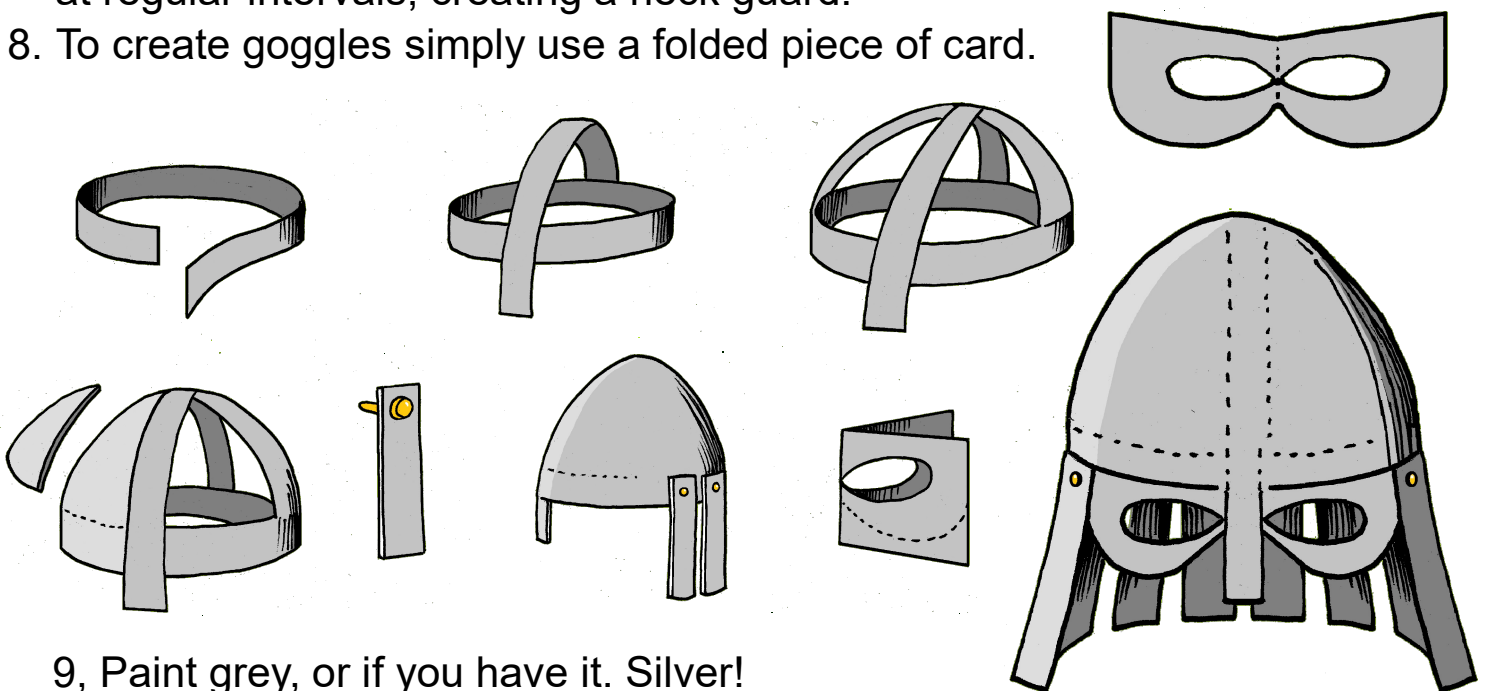
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2 lesson. CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

VIKING HELMET

1. Cut out a long strip of cereal box card and measure until it fits around the head, creating a simple crown. Fix with a strip of masking tape, ensuring the laminated side is facing inwards.
2. With another strip, create a curved bridge from the back to the front of the crown shape overlapping at the front to create a nose guard.
3. Create a bridge from one side of the crown to the other side with another strip of card.
4. Cut out four triangles of cereal box card roughly the same size as the four holes.
5. Using masking tape fill in the four holes.
6. Cut out some smaller strips of card and make a small hole with the point of a pair of scissors. Press through a paper fastener.
7. Attach the strips of card to the back of the helmet with the paper fasteners at regular intervals, creating a neck guard.
8. To create goggles simply use a folded piece of card.



9, Paint grey, or if you have it. Silver!