

Viking Longships

The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

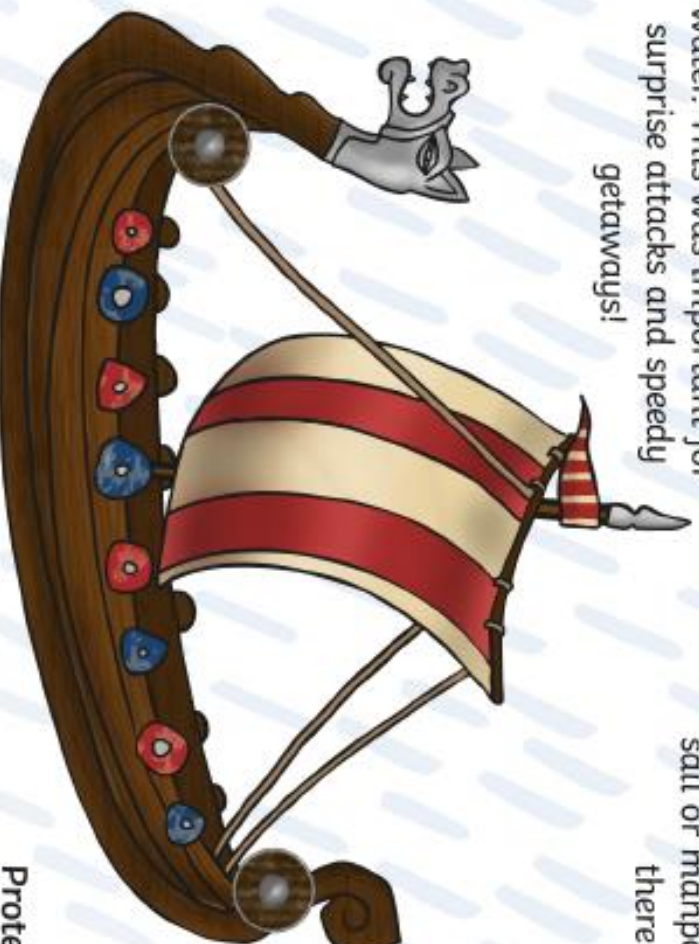
Appearance

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 the deck as there was no shelter on the ships.

Protection

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

Year 3 - History Activity

1. What features of the longship made it travel fast?

2. What was another name for a longship?

3. What two sources of power were used to make the ship move?

4. What would the Vikings do if there was no wind?

5. How were the longships steered?

6. What were the men's shields used for on the longships?

7. What was on the front of the longship and what was it used for?

8. Why was the speed of the longship important for the Vikings?

Year 3 - History Activity

Viking Gods and Goddesses Decoding

ᚠ ᚢ ᚦ ᚡ ᚩ ᚱ ᚷ ᚹ ᚫ ᚴ ᚬ ᚺ

a b c d e f g h i/j k l m

ᚱ ᚴ ᚷ ᚻ ᚾ ᚿ ᚠ ᚢ ᚴ ᚷ ᚹ

n o p q r s t u/v/w x y z

Decode the runes below to reveal the Viking God or Goddess name.

ᚠ ᚹ ᚴ ᚾ ᚴ ᚡ ᚩ ᚠ ᚱ

ᚱ ᚾ ᚩ ᚷ ᚷ ᚠ

ᚱ ᚴ ᚾ ᚿ ᚩ ᚠ ᚩ

Extra Challenge Zone

Choose one of these Gods or Goddesses. Use your researching skills to find out an interesting fact about them.

A black and white line drawing of a knight in armor, standing and holding a large shield. The knight is wearing a surcoat with a cross and a sword is visible at his waist.

Elder Futhark Runes																								
f	u	th	a	r	c-k	g	w	h	n	i	j	ae	p	z	s	t	b	e	m	l	ng	o	d	
																								

Use the runes to write your name.

Use the runes to write a secret message to your friend.