

Year 4 History Knowledge Organiser: Vikings

Subject Specific Vocabulary

archaeologist

People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.

raids

A sudden armed attack with the aim of causing damage rather than occupying any of the enemy's land.

longhouse

A large hall-like building where many Viking families would live together.

berserkers

Warriors that went to war wearing wolf or bear skins. They were out of control and charged fearlessly. The word 'berserk' came from it.

longship

The narrow boat used by Vikings to raid along coasts.

Odin

One of the most famous Viking Gods known for wisdom.

Scandinavia

The name given to a collection of countries: Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Danelaw

The name given to lands in Britain occupied by the Vikings.

misconception

This means mis-understanding. In Viking terms there were many misunderstandings about the Vikings.

Jorvik

The Viking name for the city of York. York now has a famous Viking museum called Jorvik.



Read all about it



Key knowledge

1. Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and become farmers.
2. The lands that the Vikings occupied were known as Danelaw.
3. No Vikings wore horns in their helmets.
4. Vikings spoke Norse, which had an alphabet made up of runes.
5. Longships were designed to sail in both deep and shallow water so that they could get close to the shore and sail in rivers to get inland.
6. Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries, looting gold.
7. The most important Viking British city was York, or Jorvik as it was known by the Vikings.

Days of the week

The names for most of the days of the week originate from Vikings.

Monday – linked to the moon by the name Mani – Norse for Moon.

Tuesday named after the Viking God of War – Tyr.

Wednesday – named after Odin and known as Woden's Day.

Thursday – named after Thor, the God of thunder.

