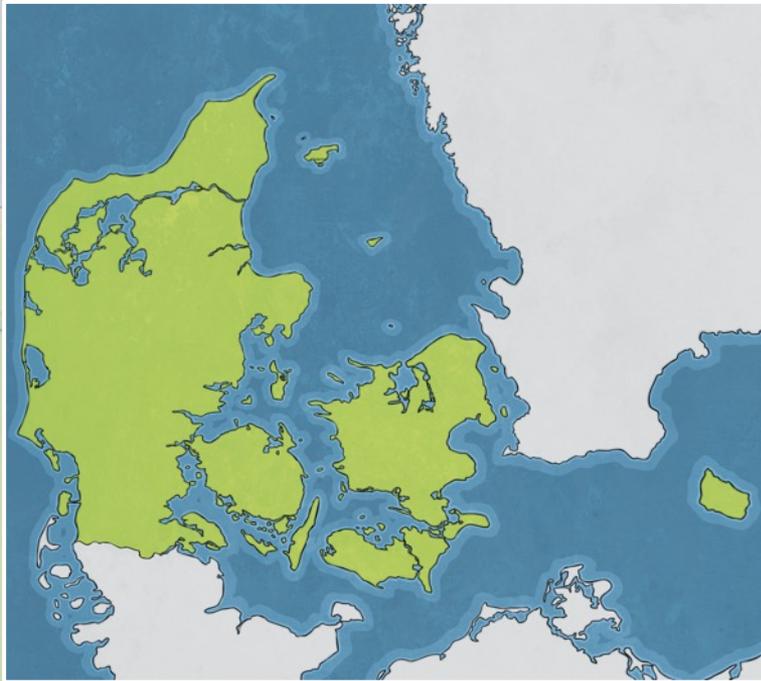


The Vikings



Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were seafaring warriors who came from an area in Northern Europe called Scandinavia.



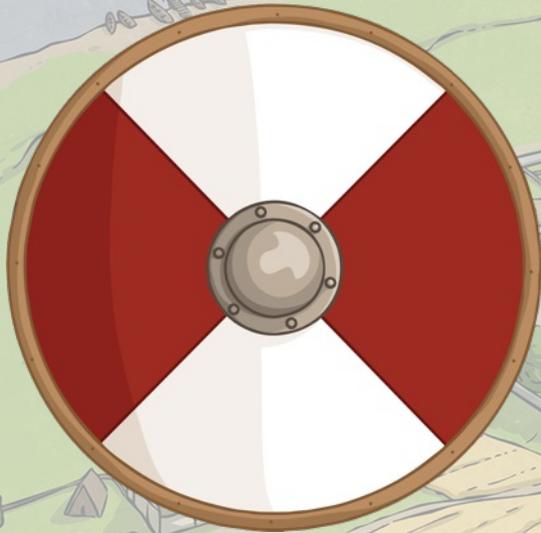
Viking Longships

Vikings travelled in long, swift ships called longships. Viking longships had one large sail which was usually dyed red. When there was no wind, they used oars to propel the ship.



Fierce warriors

The Vikings were fierce warriors. When they went into battle, the Vikings attached large round shields to the side of their ships for protection.



Voyages

On long voyages across the open ocean, Vikings had to sleep on the deck of their ships.

There were no covered rooms below. When it rained they took the sail down and slept under it. The boats could easily travel in shallow water and could even navigate up rivers.



Journey

The Vikings left their homeland because they were looking for better land to farm than the kind of terrain found in Scandinavia.



Battles

Viking warriors used axes, swords, and spears in battle. They wore helmets to protect their heads.



Communities

Viking communities settled near coastlines or rivers. Longhouses made of planks were usually designed with very few openings. There were minimal doors and only a tiny hole in the roof.



Religion

Viking life was heavily influenced by religion and rituals. The Vikings believed in the existence of nine worlds and several gods, including Odin, Thor, Loki, and Freya.



Valhalla

Like the Ancient Greeks, the Vikings believed in the afterlife. Dead bodies were usually cremated. Wealthy and influential people were even cremated in burial ships along with goods they might need in the afterlife.



