

# The Vikings





The Vikings were people who lived over one thousand years ago in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

The Vikings came from the three countries of Scandinavia:  
Denmark, Norway and Sweden.





The Vikings were ancient Scandinavian members of the marine campaigns from the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

In the Nordic countries they were called the Vikings; in Russia they were known as the Vikings too, and in Western Europe — the Normans.



Most Vikings lived on farms in houses made of wood, stone or blocks of turf.



Viking men were craftsmen or traders.  
Viking women did all the household jobs.



Viking children did not go to school. They helped at home and learnt from stories.

Women baked bread. They looked after the children, made the family's clothes and cooked the meals. On the farm, women milked the cows and made cheese.







Most Viking were boat-builders and potters, leather-workers and smiths. Most Viking men knew how to handle a boat. And most could fight if they had to protect the family



Vikings wore clothes made of cloth,  
leather and fur.



The Vikings were great sailors who travelled all over Europe in long ships.

**The Vikings were great explorers and travellers.**

Viking ships reached Britain, France, Spain, Italy and North Africa.

Traders made long journeys through Russia, reaching Constantinople in modern-day Turkey.

Some merchants travelled to Baghdad in Iraq.



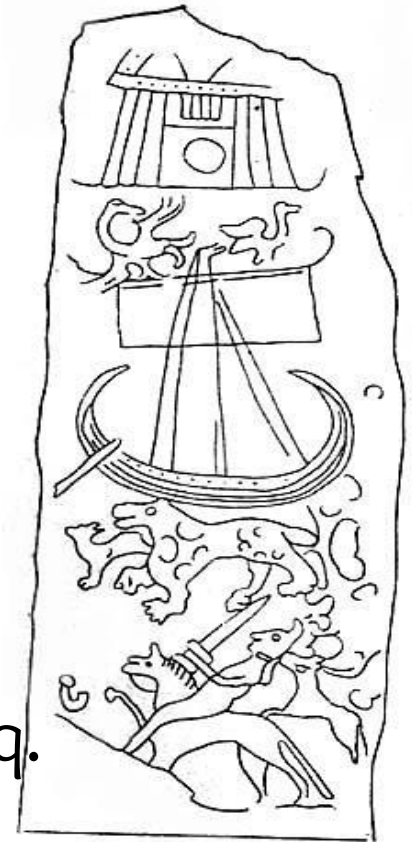
The Oseberg ship was found in 1904 and is now in a museum in Oslo, Norway

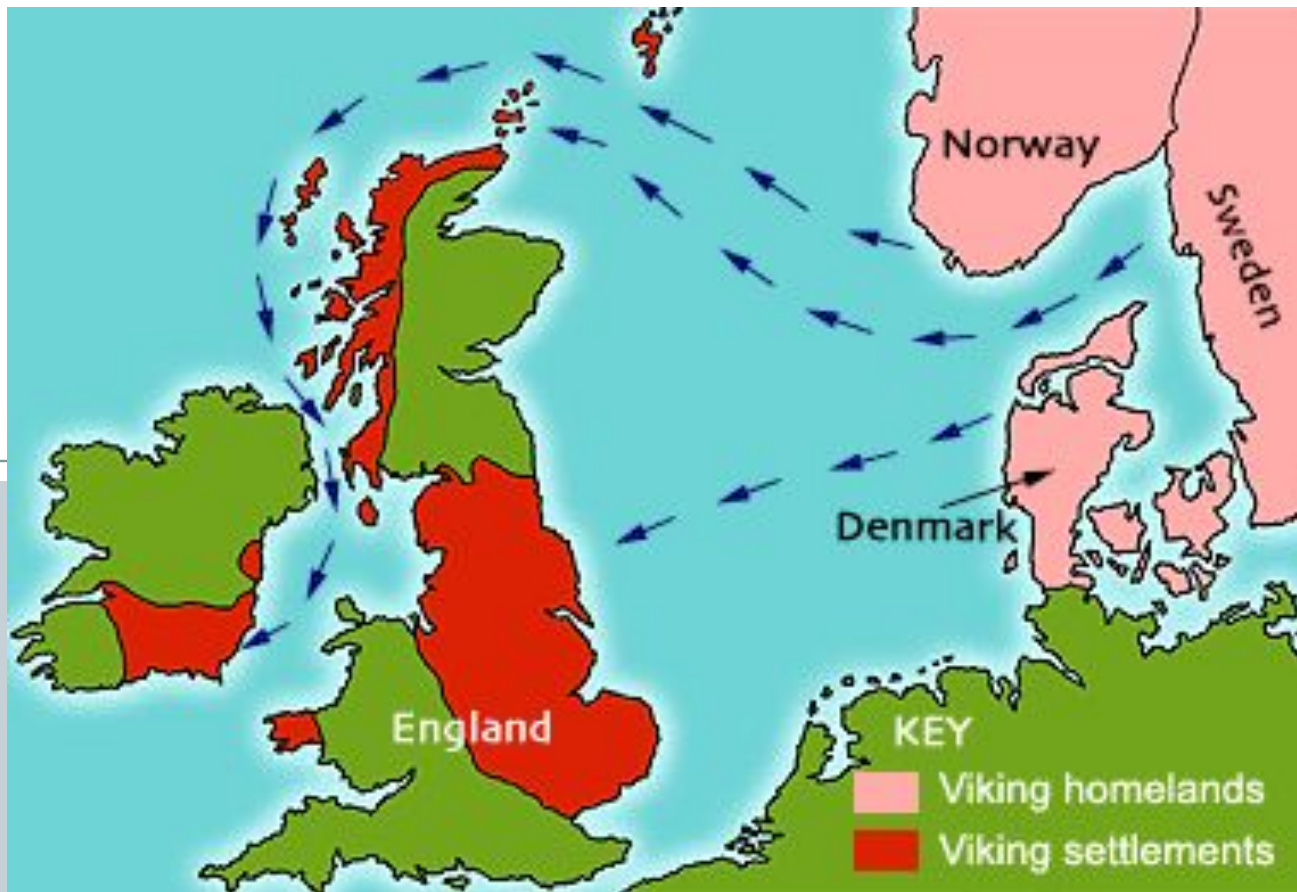
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The Vikings came to England in search of treasure and wealth in 865.



They destroyed monasteries and killed many monks to get to their gold.





The Vikings were great warriors.  
They used spears and shields in battle.



**Chain mail**





They captured most of the north of England. The only part not won was Wessex.





They had their own alphabet called 'runes'.  
These symbols were carved onto stone.



## Viking weapons

The Vikings fought using long swords and axes.

A good sword was handed down from father to son.

Most used a round wooden shield for protection.

On their heads, they wore helmets made of leather or iron.



This photo shows that the Vikings went horse riding and hunting.



The Vikings had their own religion and their own gods.





The most popular God was Thor.  
Thor ruled the skies, storms and thunder.

The Vikings also worshipped other different gods.

There were three that were especially important.  
**Odin** - the leader of the gods - god of knowledge and war

**Frey** - god of agriculture and fertility

**Freya** - goddess of love and beauty

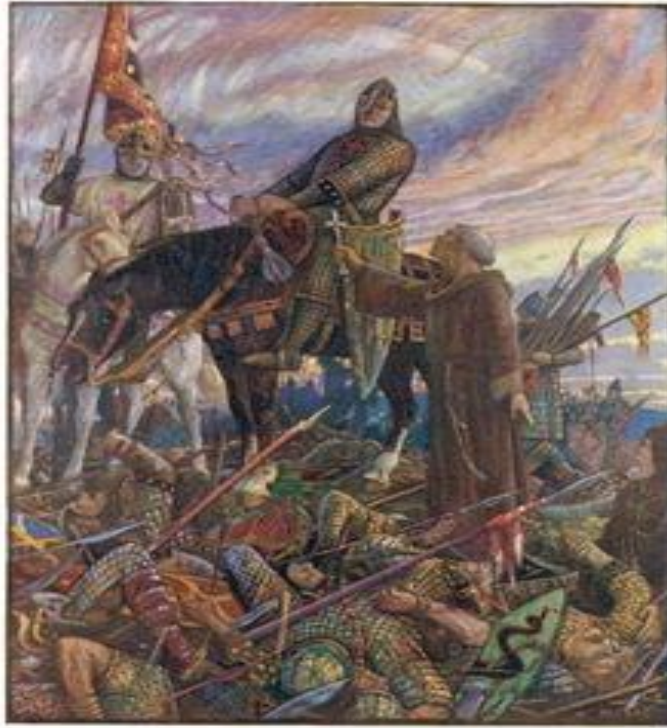




The Vikings bought and sold things using coins, which were measured by weight.



Eric Bloodaxe was the King of the Viking city of Jorvik.  
This is one of his silver coins.



William the Conqueror won England in 1066, ending the Viking era in England.



York – or *Jorvik* – was the main Viking town and still has a museums of Viking's history.