

Organising a Viking day

A Viking day at school can be an enjoyable, memorable and educational experience for the students (and teachers and support staff). It needs plenty of planning to run smoothly so if you are considering having a Viking day as part of your coverage of teaching 'Viking raiders and settlers' we hope that these notes will help you have a successful day.

Support from home

You will need support from home for the making of costumes and the making of a Viking meal so a pleasant letter to homes explaining your plans will help start the project moving. You may find that some parents and carers are very enthusiastic and may volunteer ideas and resources.

► **Teachers dress up too.**

▼ **Viking warriors in the local park.**



Costumes

Information about Viking costumes is found in activities 11A to 11C. It would be useful to have two or three basic costumes made by you or the school staff for students who for any reason do not have a costume on the day. Although the Vikings were well known for their violence this aspect of their life is not emphasised in the activities in these *Teacher's Resources* for obvious reasons. In a similar way you may like to discourage students from making swords and shields and bringing them to school. Plastic Viking helmets with horns are sold in fancy dress shops. You must tell the students that Vikings did not have horns on their helmets and they must not be brought to school.

You will also need to consider when the costumes are worn. Do you want them to wear the costumes all day and go out at breaks and lunch-times in them? Do you want them to be worn after morning break, through lunch-time to afternoon break, or do you just want them to be worn in the afternoon?

► **Making scales.**

▼ **Trading conkers.**



Food

The students could make up a Viking lunch box and bring it to school. Here are some suitable foods: chicken legs, ham, beef, smoked fish, cheese, strips of celery and carrot, unsliced wholemeal bread, oat cakes. You may also issue Activity **12c** 'Making Viking hearth cakes' and invite parents and carers to make some at home for the Viking day. Alternatively you may be able to organise for them to be made at school for consumption in line with your school policies and health and safety. Vikings drank beer and wine; the students could drink fruit juice.



▲ Making oat cakes.

Activities on the day

First session

Can you write in runes? (activity **3A**).
Carving with runes (activity **3B**).
Words from Viking times (activity **20A**). The students can look through the words and then try and see how many times some of the words are spoken in conversation during the day.
Riddles (activity **10A**).

Second session

Make some Viking scales (activity **9A**).

▼ Making a Viking village.

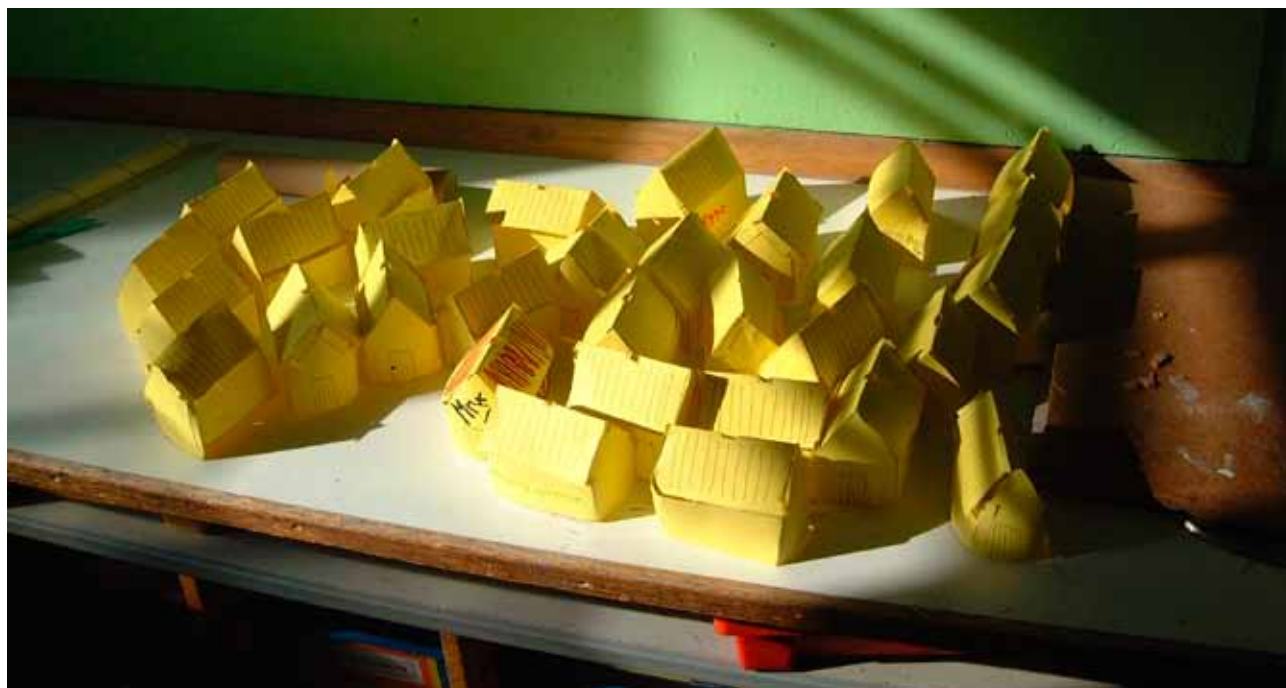
Using Viking scales (activity **9B**).
Afterwards or alternatively you could use Make a Viking timeline (activity **20B**) or Viking raids (Activity **20C**).
Speak Icelandic (activity **8**).

You may like to finish off the morning session with a circle dance (activity **10C**).

The Viking lunch

Afternoon sessions

The students could break into groups and each group work on one of these activities.



Background and photocopiable worksheets



▲ Making longships, houses and masks.

▼ Drawing a Viking settlement.



▼ Drawing a Viking settlement.



▲ Viking weaving.

You may like to enlist the help of support staff and school volunteer helpers to supervise the activities and give general help to the groups of students.

Make a sledge (activity **2c**).

Testing skis (activity **2d**).

Make a Viking house (activity **7**).

Make a longship (activity **13A**).

Do rollers help? (activity **2E**).

You may like to gather the class together and take them in the school hall or playground for the longship activity **13B**.

The day could end with the students sitting on the floor as if in a Viking house and you reading the saga – The sons of Ondott Sealbreath (activities **6A** to **6E**) and inviting some of the students to come out and role play the parts of the characters in the story.

▼ Viking raiding.

