

## Riddles

Viking warriors were expected to be good at riddles as well as fighting.

Here are three riddles in the Viking style. What are the answers to them?

1. It is always hungry,  
It must always be fed,  
If it licks your fingers  
they will soon be red.

What is it?  .....

- 2 I am made of metal and can hold a head,  
If my owner loses me in battle, he could soon be dead.

What is it?  .....

3. I have a dragon's head and the graceful body of a swan,  
Through the sea I carry my children safely on and on.

What is it?  .....

This is an example of a present day riddle about a Viking. What is the answer.

4. A Viking did not go to sleep in ten days but he was never tired.

How?  .....

5. What riddles do you know? Tell them to a friend. How many does he or she guess correctly?

6. Make up some riddles of your own and write them down here. Use them in a riddle competition.

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# Riddles

## Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

## Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

## Outcomes

The students:

- Know that Vikings enjoyed riddles.
- Can work out the answers to riddles.
- Can make up their own riddles.

## Using the worksheet

Vikings enjoyed riddles. They were a form of entertainment on dark winter nights. You might like to set the scene of the Vikings sat round a fire in their hut and telling riddles.

## Younger students

Younger students may like to sit in a circle on the carpet and tell the riddles that they know. You could then issue the sheet and let them try the riddles on it. They could then try and make up some riddles and return to the circle on the carpet to tell them.

## Answers

1. Fire.
2. A helmet.
3. A longship.
4. He slept through the night.

## Outcomes

The students:

- Know that Vikings enjoyed riddles.
- Can work out the answers to riddles.
- Can make up their own riddles.

## Older students

The students can work through the sheet on their own and then write their own riddles. They may like to write each riddle on a separate piece of paper and put it in a riddle box. The riddles can be taken out of the box and read by you or students who enjoy performance as an alternative to the students reading out their own riddles.