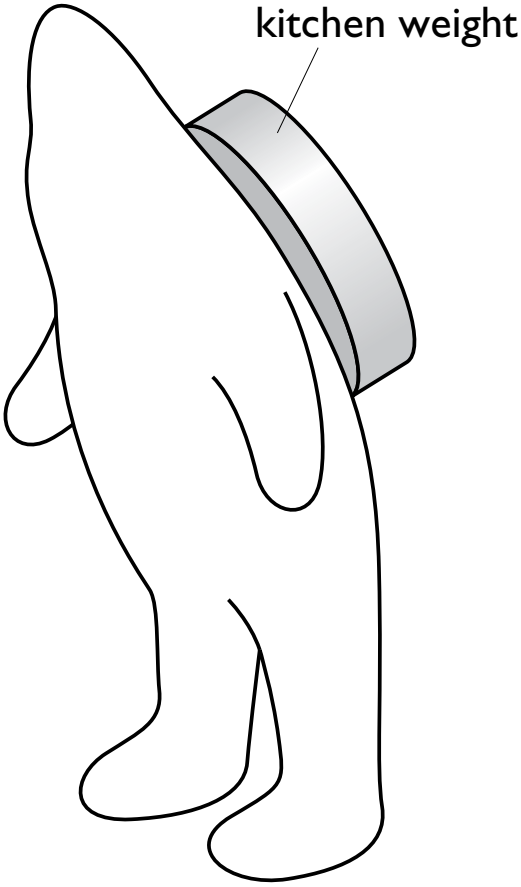
2 D

Name:..... Form:.....

Based on **pages 6 and 7** of *Viking raiders and settlers*

Testing skis

Vikings used skis to travel over land in winter. They could shoot along the ice quickly, but did the skis help them in powdered snow? When people walk in powdered snow they sink into it. This makes it slow and tiring to move. When archaeologists have some questions about how people lived in the past, they perform experiments to help them find answers. This experiment is to find out if skis stopped Vikings sinking into powered snow.



1. Make a Viking figure out of Plasticine. He should be shaped as the figure shows and be about 8 cm tall and have feet about 2 cm long and 1 cm wide.

2. Bend the figure forward a little and attach a load to his back.

3. Fill a dish with plain flour, stir it up a little with a lolly stick to make it like powdered snow.

4. Gently smooth the surface of the flour with the lolly stick.

5. Carefully place two lolly sticks next to each other like a pair of skis on top of the flour in one half of the bowl.

6. Carefully lower your Viking into the flour in the other half of the bowl and let him stand there a moment.

7. Carefully lift up your Viking and place him in the centre of the skis for a moment.

8. Carefully lift up your Viking and remove the skis.

9. Compare the depth of the holes made by the Viking's feet and his skis. Do the skis stop the Viking sinking into snow?

2 D

Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 6 and 7** of *Viking raiders and settlers*

Testing skis

Age range

- Mainly for years 3/4 (SP4/5) but can be used with years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet, lolly sticks, plain flour, soup bowls (make sure they are wide enough for the lolly sticks to be placed in them without touching the sides), lump of Plasticine about 3 to 4 cm in diameter, a weight. You may like to put newspaper on the tables to collect flour which may spill from the bowls.

Using the worksheet

In this activity the students can learn how an experiment can be used to provide information about the Viking way of life. Archaeologists use experiments in their work to help understand the past. Skis are a fast means of transport over snow and ice but do they sink into powdery snow? The students should find that the model Viking does not sink as low into the powdery snow when he is on his skis and that he will be able to move over the snow surface.

Younger students

You may like the students to work in pairs. It is important that they take care. They do not need to measure the depth of the depressions in the snow but simply compare them by observation.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Use simple materials with care.
- Perform a fair test and draw a conclusion.
- Appreciate how skis helped Vikings move over the snow.

Older students

This activity is probably more appropriate for younger students. However some older students may wish to try it as part of an extension to their work.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Use simple materials with care.
- Perform a fair test and draw a conclusion.
- Appreciate how skis helped Vikings move over the snow.