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Viking Longships Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.

Don't forget - The spellings that you might need could either be in the question or within the text.

1. What was the purpose of the carved figure head at the front?

2. How did the shape of the longship help it to travel quickly?

3. Why was the speed of the longship important for Vikings?

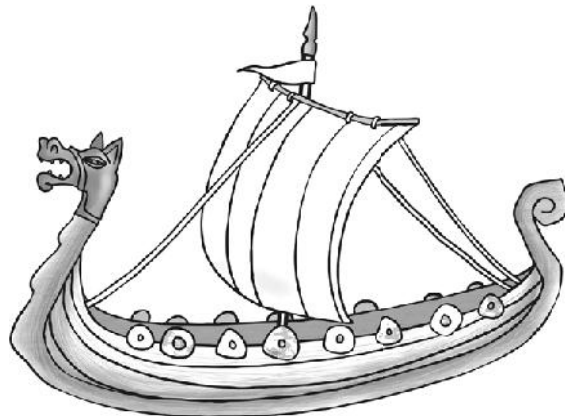
4. What is the stern of the ship and what happens there?

5. Do you think wool is the preferred material used for sails on modern boats today? Why/why not?

6. What was the purpose of the shields on the side of the ship?

7. Why was all eating and sleeping done on deck?

8. How would you evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Viking longship as a method of transportation? Give reasons for your answer.



Viking Longships

The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

Appearance

The front end of the ship would have a carved figure head to scare off enemies and be intimidating.



Speed

They were long and narrow for travelling quickly through the water. This was important for surprise attacks and speedy getaways!



Room

A typical longship would have enough room to fit around 50 - 60 people inside. Eating and sleeping were done on deck.

Power

The ships were powered by wind in a wool sail or manpower by rowing with oars if there wasn't any wind available.

Steering

One man would steer the ship by using a big steering oar at the back (stern) of the ship.



Protection

The Viking men's shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both men and women during battles.

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Viking Longships Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.

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1. What is another name for a Viking longship?

2. Give two sources of power used to make the longship move:

- _____
- _____

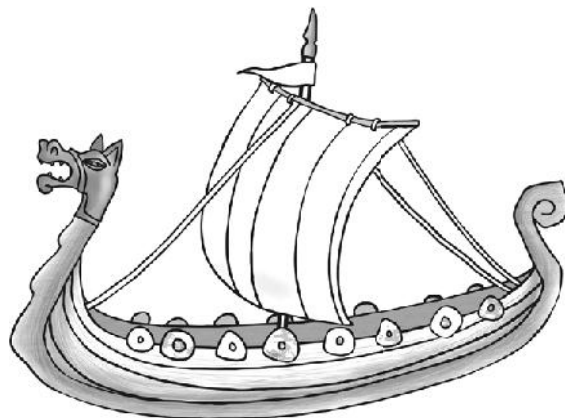
3. Why were they designed to be long and narrow?

4. How many people could fit in a longship?

5. How was a longship steered?

6. How would you compare Viking longships with a modern day ferry?

7. What question would you most like to ask if you could interview a Viking from the past about a longship?



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Viking Longships Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.

Don't forget - The spellings that you might need could either be in the question or within the text.

1. What features of the longship made it travel fast?

2. What was another name for a longship?

3. What two sources of power were used to make the ship move?

4. What would the Vikings do if there was no wind?

5. How were the longships steered?

6. What were the men's shields used for on the longships?

7. What was on the front of the longship and what was it used for?

8. Why was the speed of the longship important for the Vikings?

