

Viking Introduce Me

Althing



Vikings meet every year at the Althing to solve problems and make decisions. This is the Althing at Thingvellir in Iceland.

A set of information cards about artefacts, people and animals which can be used in a variety of ways.

Any extra research by the children can add to these.

Bees



Beserker



I am a mad fighter. I get so angry that I fear nothing and even bite my shield.

Viking Introduce Me

This activity is a modified version of Viking Artefacts planned for Year 5.

www.collaborativelearning.org/vikingartefacts.pdf

This activity was planned with Year 3 in mind but it works with older children.

Last updated: March 2021

Webaddress: www.collaborativelearning.org/vikingintroduceme.pdf

**Basic principles behind our talk for learning activities:
Oracy in action – Oracy in curriculum context**

**Build on prior knowledge.
Move from concrete to abstract thinking.
Ensure everyone works with everyone else over a week or so.
Ways to extend social language into curriculum language.
Motivating ways to go over the same knowledge more than once.**

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences worldwide. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. Our online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening . They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Some suggestions for using these cards.

There are more than enough cards so that every one in the class can have a different card. Children or pairs of children could read their card first and then explain/present their item (we encourage them to do this while not looking at their card and only referring to it if they get stuck. See the summary sheet on [transformations](#)) to another child or pair (you may want to select pairs/groups in advance); then the pairs could join another pair and share information. In fours they could then think up one or two questions to ask the class. There may be children in the class who have information about these questions and can provide answers. Questions without answers could be stored up/written down for discussion later on.

Another possibility is to pair the cards in advance and for pairs of children to present their information to the rest of the class.

The idea here is to encourage the sharing of information, the finding of links, formulating questions and building confidence in talking with enough volume and confidence to larger and larger groups. We would strongly discourage moving to writing too soon.

This session could be followed by opportunities to do further research on the items or to research new items. Pairs or groups could then feed back what they have discovered to the rest of the class orally with pictures and diagrams or finally as a poster.

We would like to hear of any other ways in which you have used the cards. During lockdown the cards have provided good opportunities for families to talk and work together.

Viking Introduce Me Cards

Amber	Honey	Althing
Axe	Iron Ingot	Bears
Barley	Knarr	Bees
Blubber	Lamp	Beserker
Bone Carving	Locks and Keys	Cats
Byrding	Longhouse	Dogs
Comb	Longship	Falcons
Carved Dragon	Loom	Geese
Cleaved Oak Planks	Mead	Horses
Cooking Pots	Oats	Merchant
Cowrie Shell	Quernstone	Sheep
Disc Brooch	Runestone	Slave
Dried Fish	Rye	Walrus
Drinking Bowl/Horn	Scales	Whales
Down	Silk	
Fermentation Barrel	Skyr and Mysa	
Fish Trap	Smoked Meat	
Flax	Trousers	
Glass Cup	Whetstone	
Great Wagon	Wine Jar	
Hack Silver	Woodware Treenware	
Hearth		
Helmet		
Hogback Tombstone		

What other items would you like to add?

Amber



I am Amber. I am hard orange resin from trees millions of years ago. Sometimes I have insects in me. Vikings find me on the sea shore and make jewellery from me: necklaces and brooches.

Axes



I am an axe for chopping and cleaving wood.



I am an axe for raiding and fighting.

Barley



I am Barley. I can grow well in cold places. Vikings make beer and bread out of me.

Whale Blubber



I am Whale Blubber, the fat of the whale. Vikings eat me and use me to light lamps. Vikings drive whales on to the beach where they get stuck or stranded.

Bone Carving

We are carved bone pins. We hold clothes together.



We are bones carved into ice skates. Viking tie us to their feet with leather straps.

Byrding



I am a byrding: a small cargo boat. I am light to carry and can float in very shallow water in rivers. Vikings use me to trade between the homelands and the Black Sea. I carry light valuable cargoes. I take amber and furs south and bring spices north.

Comb



Both Viking men and women have long hair so they need a good comb like me. I am made of deer antler. I keep lice away.

Carved Dragon



I am a dragon carved from wood. Vikings place me on the bow of their longship when they go on a raid. I was made by an expert wood carver.

Cleaved Oak Planks



I was a tree trunk and now I am part of a ship. Vikings cleaved me with axe: first in half, then in quarters and then into planks. I am very strong and can bend when the waves hit me.

Cooking Pot



I am a useful pot. Sometimes I am made of iron and sometimes of clay. I stay at home in the longhouse and also go travelling on ships.

Cowrie Shell



i am a shell. I came from the Indian Ocean. Viking use me for trade and decoration.

Disc Brooch



We are disc brooches. Viking use us to fasten their clothing. We are made of brass, copper, tin or silver.

Dried Fish



We are hard to chew, but we last all winter. We give you strength. Raiders and traders take us on their ships.

Drinking Bowl/Horn



I am a drinking bowl. I can hold beer, mead or wine. Vikings pass me around when they have a celebration.



I am a drinking horn. I do the same job as the bowl.

Down



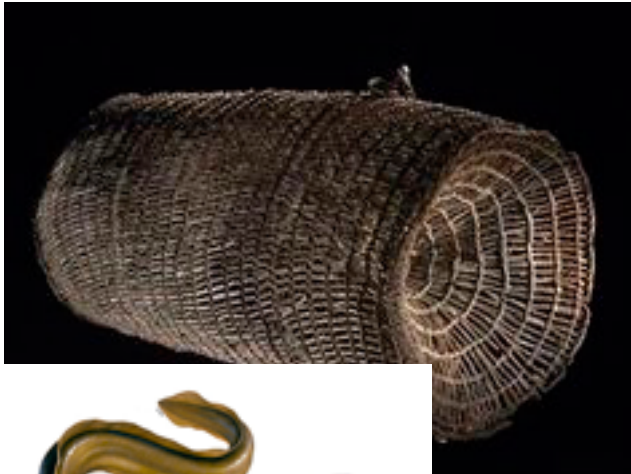
I am very light and come from geese. Lots of us keep you warm when put in pillows.

Fermentation Barrel



I am a very important barrel. Vikings put mysa/ whey in me and then add lamb or fish. Then the meat and fish won't rot and can be eaten all winter.

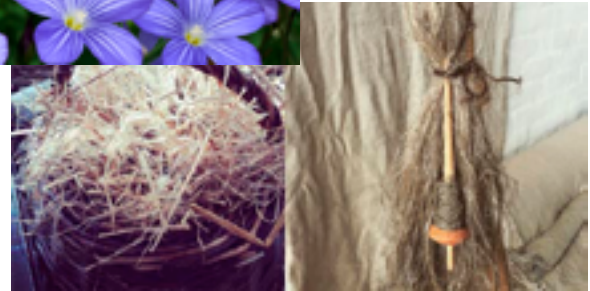
Fish Trap



Eel

I am a fish trap. Vikings use me to catch fish like eels and salmon in rivers.

Flax



I am flax. Vikings grow me to make linen cloth on their looms.

Glass Cup



I am a glass cup. I am like the bowl and horn and am used for drinking. I was made by a Viking.

Great Wagon



I am a group of stars shaped like a wagon or plough. Vikings use me to steer their ships at night.

Hack Silver



I am a hoard of silver. Vikings use me for trade. They always carry scales to weigh me.

Hearth



I am the Hearth in a Viking longhouse. I am in the middle of the main room and my smoke goes out through a hole in the roof. I am used for cooking and keeping warm.

Helmet



I am a Viking helmet. I do not have horns. Vikings never have horned helmets! I am made of leather. I can also be made of metal.

Hogback Tombstone



I am a Viking tombstone. I was put on a Viking grave in the north of England. I have a carving of men fighting on me. My Viking became a Christian, but kept the old ways of carving and decoration.

Honey



Bees make me. Vikings love my sweet flavour. They make mead drink from me.

Iron Ingot



I am an iron ingot. Vikings produce me in Sweden and take me on their ships to trade. I can be made into swords and axes, cooking pots and armour, helmets and shield bosses, chains and nails for ships.

Knarr



I am a knarr. I sail well in rough seas. I can carry heavy cargoes. Vikings use me for trading.

Lamp



I am a lamp. I am made in Viking lands from soft soapstone. I can burn whale blubber or other oil.

Locks and Keys



We are locks and keys. We were made by Vikings in Jorvik. Viking merchants use us to keep their goods safe.

Longhouse



I am a long house in Iceland. I am made of wood and covered with grass turves. A big family and all their animals live here.

Longship



I am a longship. I am sometimes called a dragon ship. I can carry armed men and travel fast. Vikings use me for raiding.

Loom



I am a loom. I stand in the longhouse and go outside in the summer. I and my weaver can make cloth from wool or flax.

Mead



I am mead. I am made from honey and water. I am waiting in this bucket for the feast to begin. Then the Vikings will pass me round and drink me up.

Oats



I am oats. My plant grows well in wet cold places. Vikings make bread and soup from me.

Panpipes



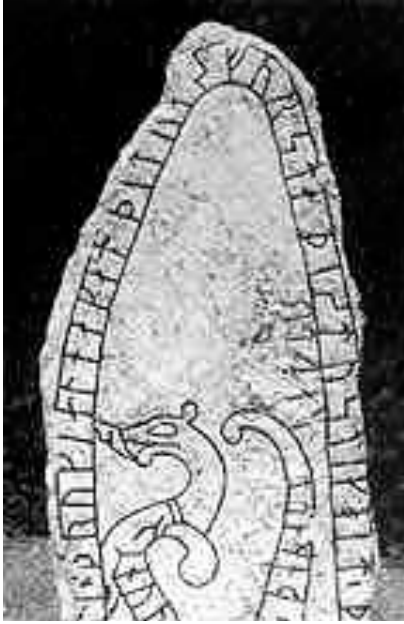
We are panpipes and whistles made from bone. Vikings like making music from us and other instruments.

Quernstone



I am a stone for grinding grain into flour. I am hard stone from a volcano. I come from central Europe and Vikings brought me back from there.

Runestone



I am a runestone. Vikings carved letters and pictures on me. I celebrate a person or event.

Rye



I am rye. Vikings grow me to make dry bread that will not go mouldy. I travel with them on their ships.

Scales



We are scales. Vikings carry us on their ships. They use us to weigh silver when they trade.

Silk



i am silk. I have travelled many hundreds of miles from China. Vikings like adding a little silk to their wool and flax clothes.

Skyr and Mysa



I am skyr. I am like yoghurt or cream cheese. Vikings make me from sheep, goat or cow milk. They use the liquid (mysa) that runs out of me to preserve meat or fish.

Smoked Meat



We were sheep. Now we are being smoked to preserve us. Vikings eat smoked meat in the winter and take us on voyages.

Trousers



We are trousers made of hand woven wool. We take a long time to make but we keep our owner very warm.

Whetstones



We are whetstones made by Vikings. We keep knives very sharp. Vikings make us in Sweden and trade us for other things.

Wine Jar



I am a wine jar. I carried wine from the Rhineland to Viking lands. Only rich people can afford to drink my wine. I am empty now, so may carry other drinks.

Woodware



We are wooden bowls and cups from Jorvik. We were used for eating, drinking and serving food.

Althing



Vikings meet every year at the Althing to solve problems and make decisions. This is the Althing at Thingvellir in Iceland.

Bears



Us bears are usually wild and will eat you if they can catch you. Vikings sometimes catch young bears and make them into pets.

Bees



Vikings love honey and make homes for us bees out of straw. They use our honey to make mead and for cooking.

Beserker



I am a mad fighter. I get so angry that I fear nothing and even bite my shield.

Cats



Vikings like cats and take us on their ships. We cats make sure the mice don't eat the food on the ship and in the longhouse.

Dogs



We are big dogs. We help Vikings to hunt animals in the forest. We help to catch deer, elks and foxes.

Falcons



I am a bird of prey. I help Vikings catch other birds for food. Vikings take us all the way to the Black Sea and Baghdad to trade.

Geese



We are geese. We provide food to eat and also down and feathers to help Vikings keep warm in the winter.

Horses



Vikings use us horses to travel and carry things. They usually fought on foot. They took small horses to Iceland.

Merchant



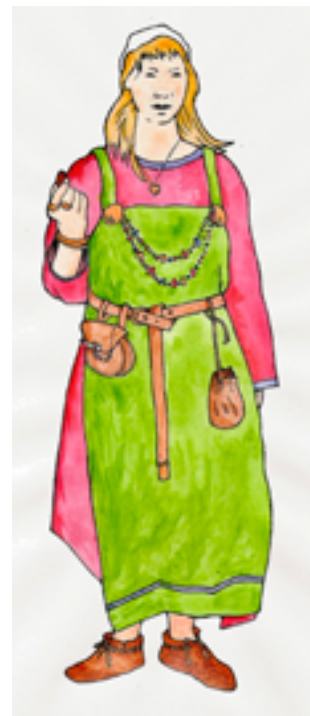
i am a Viking merchant. I travel by knarr and byrthing, by river and sea. I travel many hundreds of miles. I bring goods to markets in Jorvik in England and Hedeby in Denmark.

Sheep



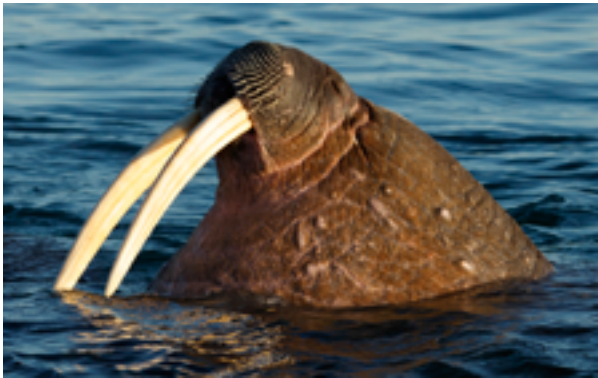
We are tough sheep with long coats. Vikings use our meat, our wool and our milk.

Slave



I am a slave in a Viking household. I was brought back from a raid. I spend most of my time at the loom weaving wool and flax.

Walrus



I am a walrus. I live near Greenland.
I have to watch out for Vikings.
They want to catch me. They make
waterproof coats from my skin but
above all they want my tusks. They
get a lot of silver for tusks when
they trade.

Whales



I am a whale. I live near Norway. I
have to watch out for Vikings. They
want to catch me. They drive me
onto the beach.

Reindeer

Seals