

The Vikings Have Landed

We Are Learning To:

Explore what life in a Viking village would have been like for people in Ireland

Can you remember the answer to these quick-fire questions from last weeks lesson?



Why did the Vikings leave Scandinavia?



How did the Vikings get to Ireland?

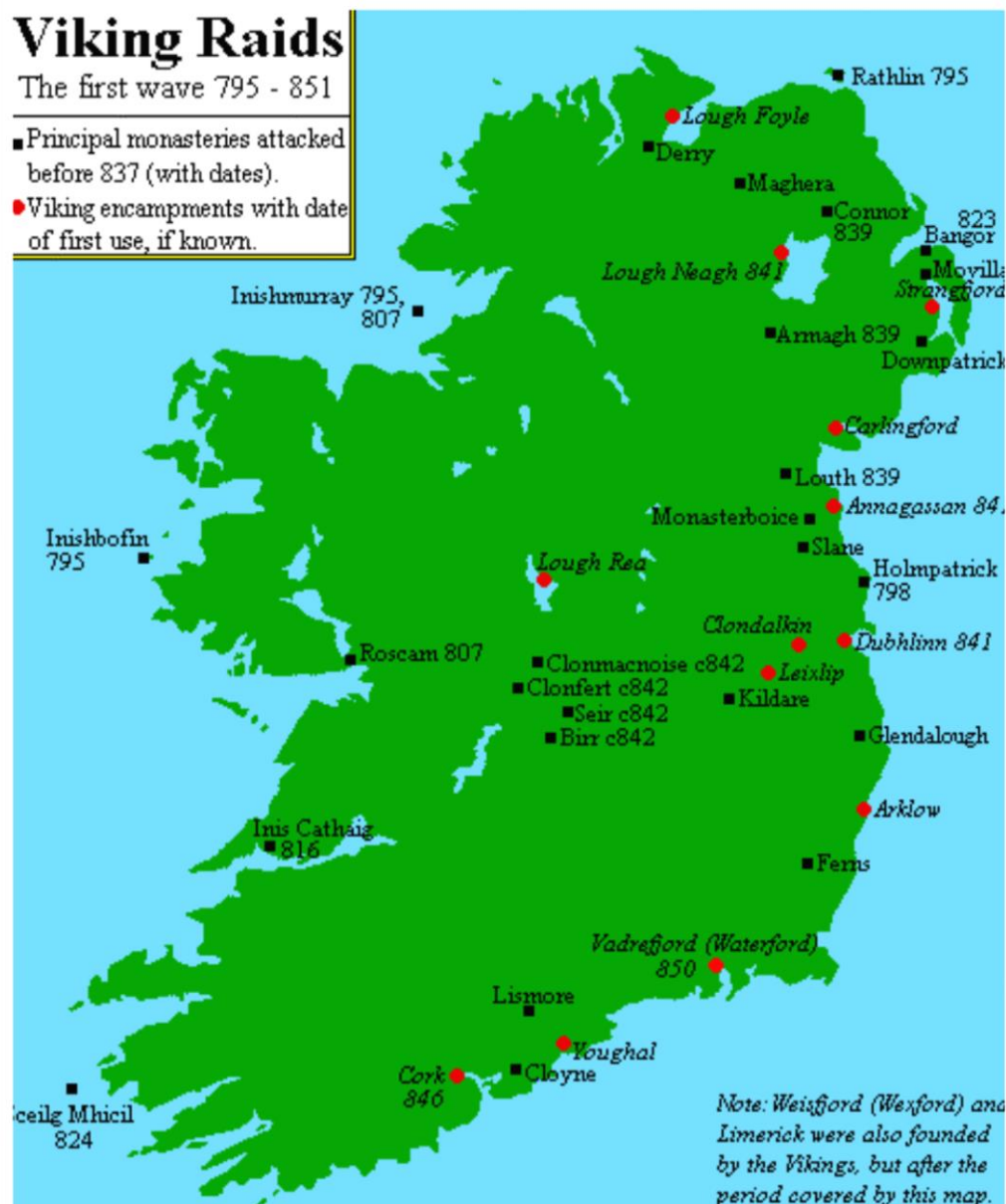


What did the Vikings do when they first got to Ireland?

Viking Raids

The first wave 795 - 851

- Principal monasteries attacked before 837 (with dates).
- Viking encampments with date of first use, if known.



Note: Weisford (Wexford) and Limerick were also founded by the Vikings, but after the period covered by this map.

This map was created for The Ireland Story. It may be used elsewhere provided a link is given to www.irelandstory.com. the site is non-profit and the image is unmodified.

Once the Vikings realised how much treasures there was in monasteries and how easy it was to take, they started looking for more and more places to attack.

The Vikings started to think of Ireland as their new home. They started to think about where they would make their villages.

Life in Ireland was good for the Vikings. So they started setting up villages in places their longboats could get to, along the coast or along rivers! One of these villages was called Dubh Linn. They set this village up near a small lake of dark coloured water. There was nothing there when they arrived.



Life in the Viking village depended on who you were. Not every Viking was a fierce warrior who attacked monasteries. Life in the village was a lot calmer. If you were not a warrior, you had a job to do in the village. Some of these jobs involved special skills.



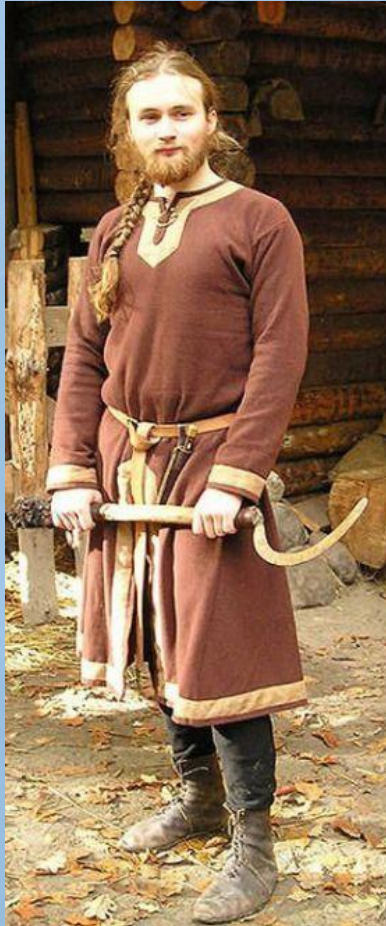
What jobs do you think Viking villagers would have done?

Think, Pair, Share!



You might have had one of these jobs!

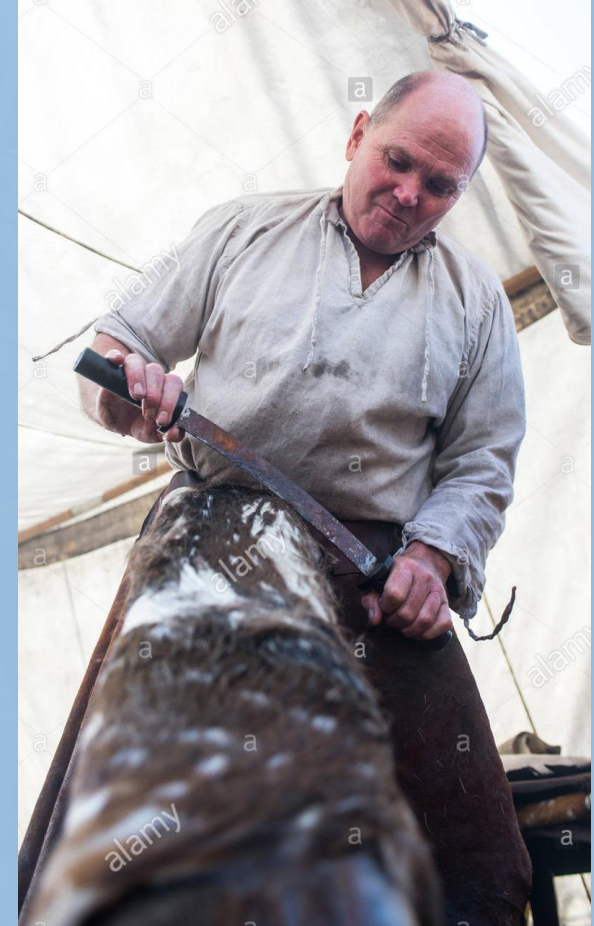
A Farmer



A Blacksmith



A Tanner



Take a look at some of the Viking village jobs down below. With a partner, try figure out what that job involved:

Herdsman

Tanner

Carpenter



Weaver

Blacksmith

Farmer

If you were very lucky, you might have been the village chieftain!

Vikings had leaders just like the Celts. Every village had a chieftain, who was in charge of making decision about everything of importance.

The chieftains had a good life! They always had plenty of food, warm clothes and of course the biggest house in the village.



What jobs do you
think Viking women
would have done?

Think, Pair, Share!



If you were a woman you could be one of these...

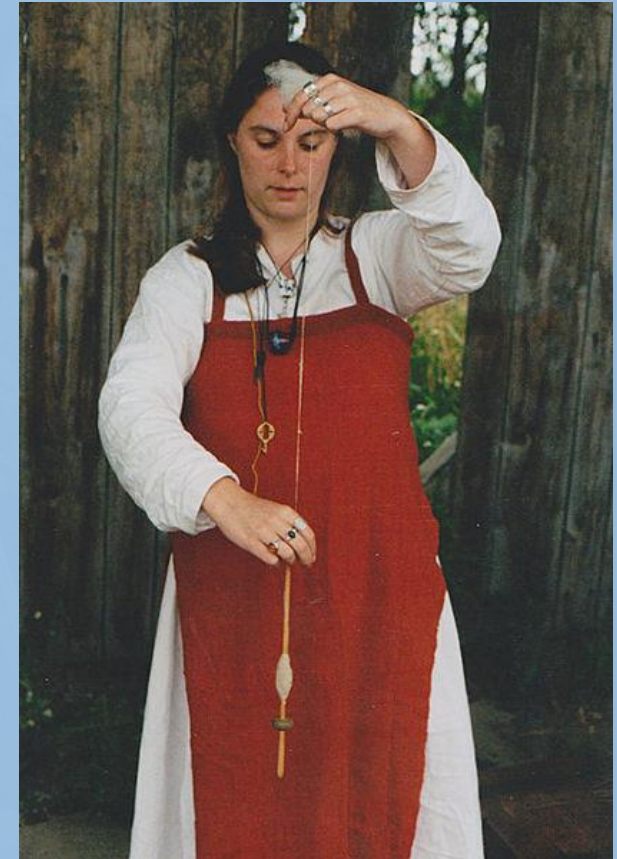
A Housewife



A Housewife



A Housewife



It was rare for women in Viking villages to be warriors. Most of the time the women in the village stayed at home and took care of the children. They were also in charge of making new clothes for the village and of cooking the meals.



Children did not go to school. Instead they learned the skills they would need when they were grown up from the adults of the village. If your father was a warrior, you were taught how to shoot a bow and hunt. If your mother was a clothes-maker, you were taught how to sew!



Some Vikings learned how to read and write. They used a special alphabet called 'runes'. The Vikings didn't use paper and pen to write with runes. Instead they carved them into wood or stones.



What do you think
they would mark with
runes?

Think, Pair, Share!



Are any of the Viking Rune letters the same or similar to our letters?

MARTIN

ᚠ	ᚢ	ᚦ	ᚨ	ᚫ	ᚱ	ᚴ	ᚷ	ᚹ	ᚻ	ᚾ	ᚿ	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
ᚠ	ᚦ	ᚫ	ᚱ	ᚴ	ᚷ	ᚹ	ᚻ	ᚾ	ᚿ	ᚰ	ᚳ	ᚴ
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Only the rich and more important Vikings learned how to read and write with runes. The poor farmers and villagers had no free time to be reading or writing!

The Vikings brought their language with them from Scandinavia. Some of the words they used made it into our language!



Words We Got From Vikings

They	There	Freckle	Window	Troll
Then	Skirt	Skull	Skin	Knife

The language of the Vikings was called Old Norse. However, they called it "donsk tunga" or Danish tongue. Even the names of some of days come from Old Norse. Tuesday comes from 'Thor's Day'. Friday is named after the Norse Goddess 'Freja'!

It wasn't all work in the Viking Villages though! The Vikings also knew how to have a bit of fun! One way they did this was by playing board games. A popular Viking game was called "Hnefatafl".



This game is like a simple game of chess. There are two teams, the attackers and the defenders. The attackers are trying to capture the King. The defenders are trying to get the King to safety.



Activity Time

We're going to travel back in time to visit a Viking chieftain's home. The chieftain is going to show you how to read and write Viking runes. He will also teach you how to play the Viking board game of 'Hnefatafl'!



Village Activities

Two Stations:

- 1) Hnefatafl - Making and playing the Ancient Viking board game.
- 2) Rune Writing - Decoding and making secret messages in Viking Runes

