





# When Worlds Collide: The Battle of Clontarf

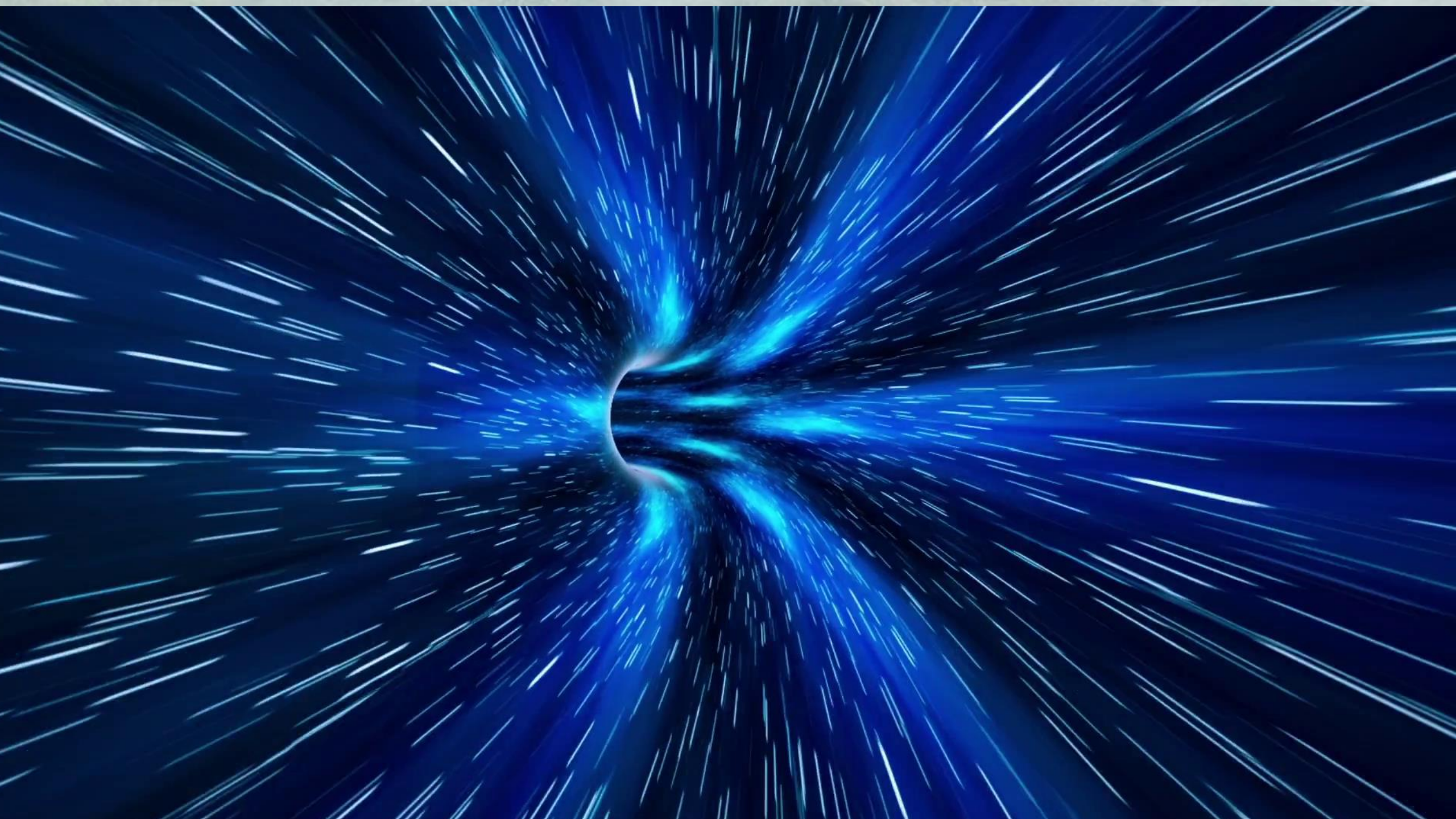
We Are Learning To:

Explore what the Battle of Clontarf was and why it happened.

In the last few lessons, we learned about what life was like in a Viking village. The longer the Vikings stayed, the bigger their towns got. Let's head to one of these towns!













It's the year 1000 and Ireland has changed quite a bit in the last 200 years! The Vikings have stopped raiding monasteries and have settled down in growing towns and settlements near the water all over Ireland.





One of the most powerful settlements was the town at Dubh Linn.

Viking Dublin was growing as an important trading town. Viking longboats were coming from Scandinavia and other parts of Europe to sell and buy goods. The town grew as more and more people moved to the town to make a living.



What kind of things do you  
think the traders were buying  
and selling in Viking Dublin?

Think, Pair, Share!







The Vikings traded with people from as far away as Iraq and Turkey!

The bought things like spices, jewels, wine, pottery and silver!

They sold things like honey, wheat, wood, iron and furs!



Dublin also became a famous trading market for one other very valuable thing around the year 1000. What do you think it was?

Think, Pair, Share!

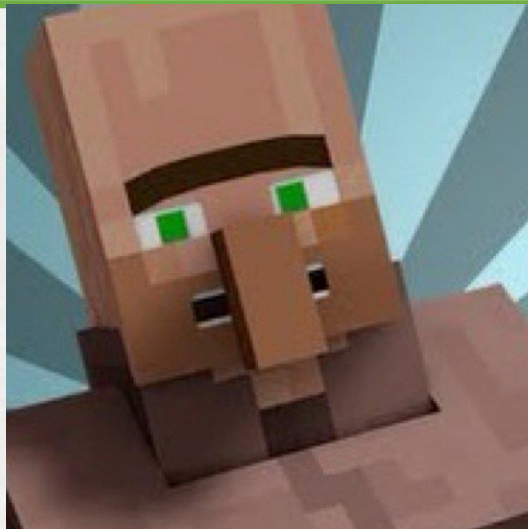








A lot of people really liked the changes that came with the Vikings. They loved living in the Viking towns. A lot of these Celts married Vikings and went to live near the towns.



A lot of other people living in Ireland were not happy with these newcomers and their towns. These other groups of Celts were furious about how powerful and rich the Viking towns were getting.





Do you remember what the problem with the Celt tribes was though? Why would they have found it difficult to kick the Vikings out of Ireland?

Think, Pair, Share!



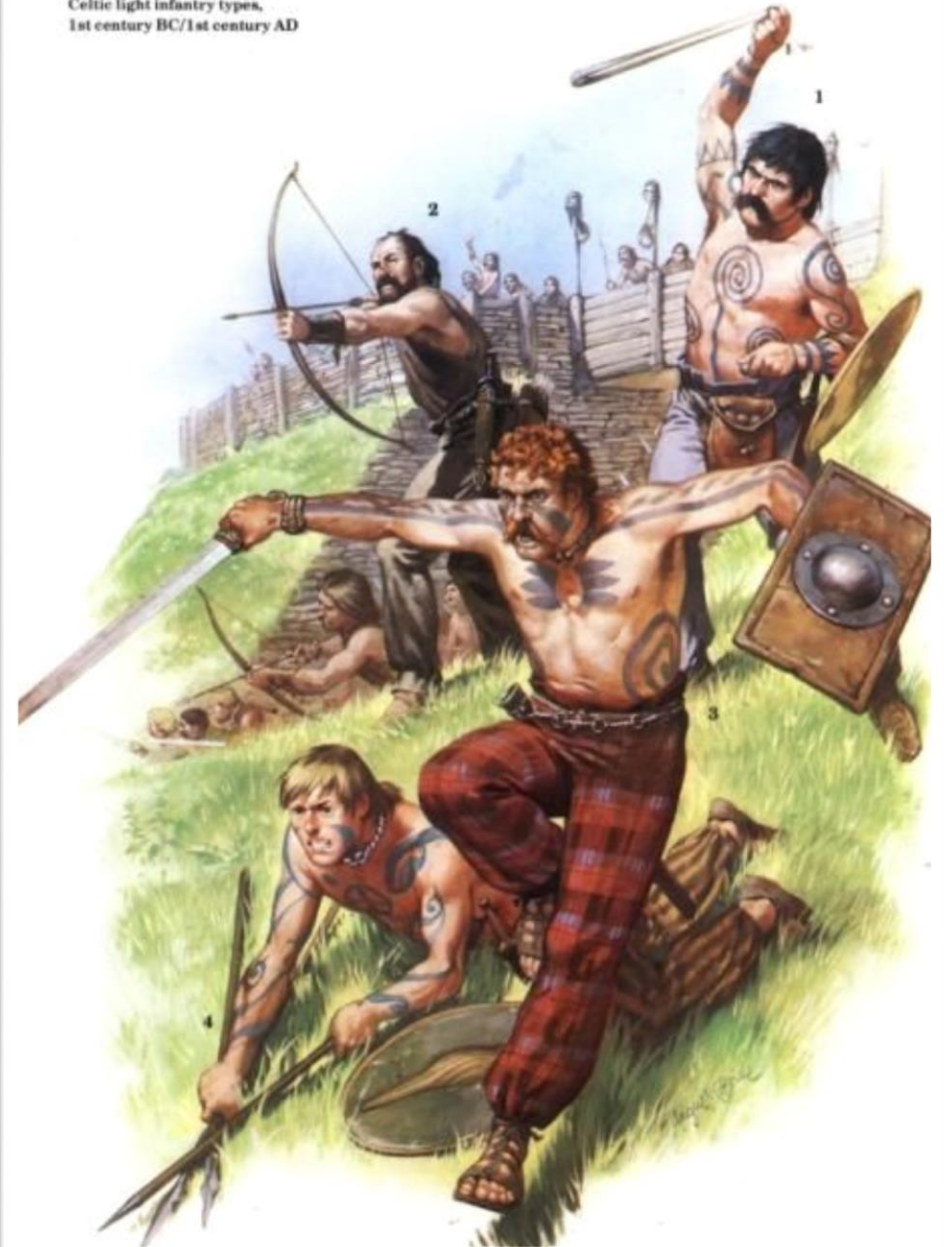


The Celts were broken into lots of small tribes and armies. Each different tribe had their own leader and clann.

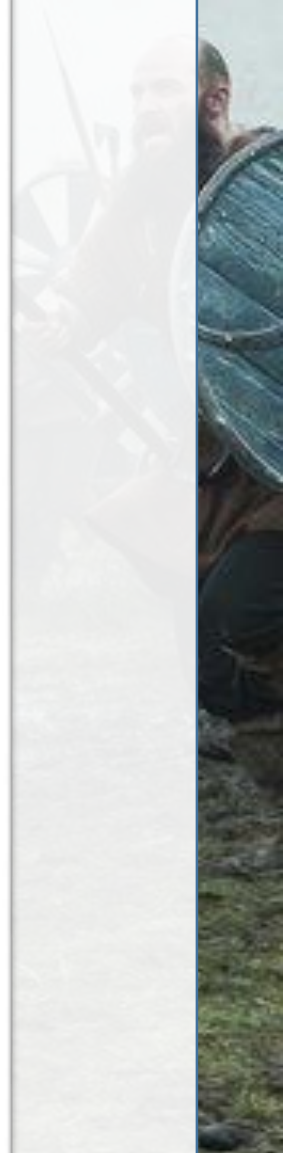
These different tribes spent most of their time attacking each other so it was pretty much impossible for them to join teams and attack the Vikings!

That all changed when one man came onto the scene...

Celtic light infantry types,  
1st century BC/1st century AD











Brian Ború was one of those who did not like what he was seeing in Viking Dublin.

Ború was a powerful chieftain from the province of Munster. He made it clear from early on that he was not happy with the power the Vikings had in Dublin by starting a small war in Limerick.

He started to work on forming an army. He brought lots of different tribes, both Celts and Norsemen, together into one big army.



First Ború's army took over his home province of Munster.

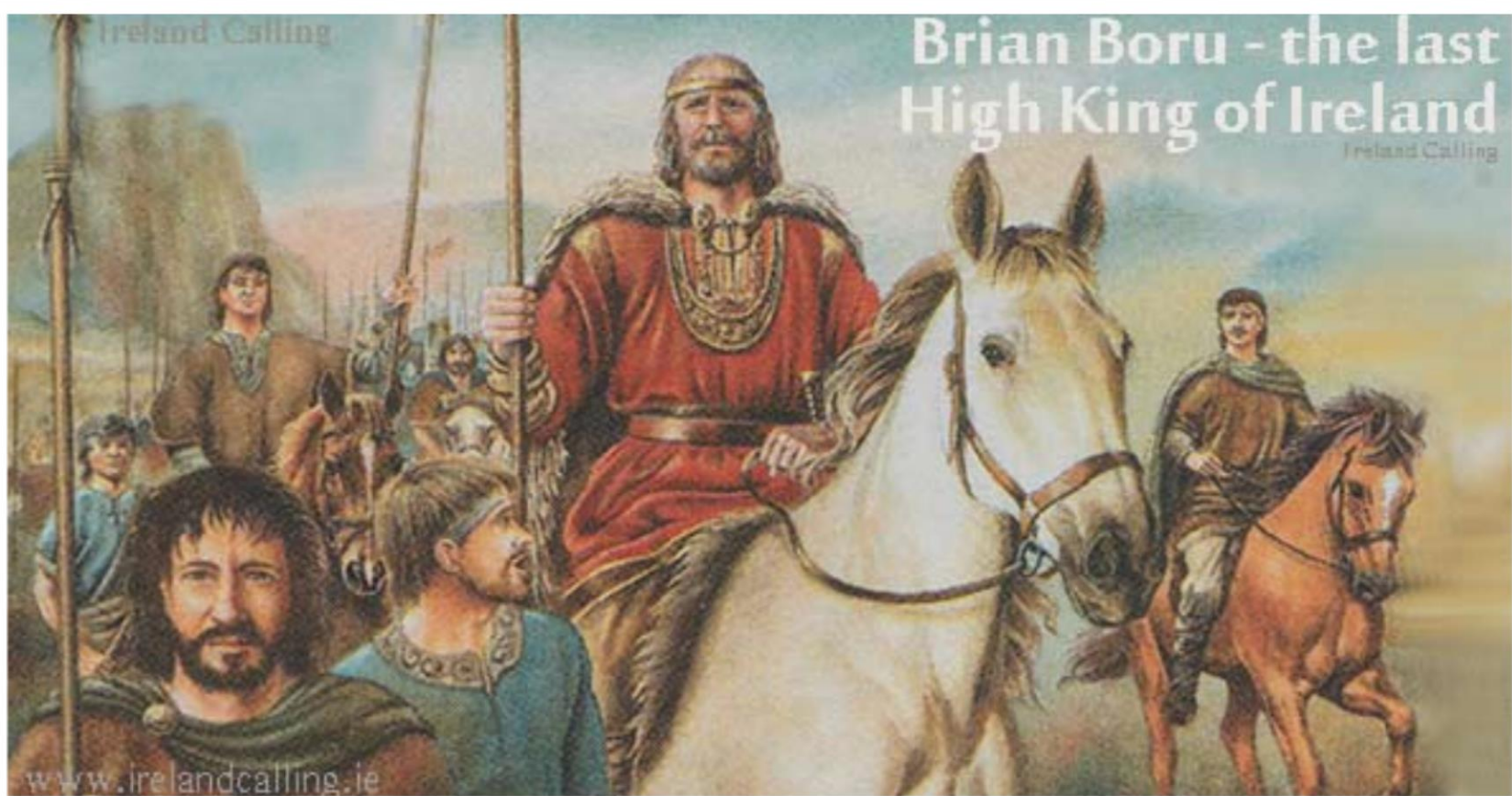
Ború cleverly, used the Viking's weapons against them. His army fought with armour and shields just like the Vikings.

After he captured the whole of Munster, he set his eyes on Leinster.

It didn't take long for Ború's army to defeat the Leinster armies. He was heading straight for Dublin.







Ború was doing such a good job at leading the tribes to victory that he was named the High King of Ireland in 1002. This was a big deal because it meant the different Celt clans had one common leader for the first time!



The Viking King Sitric of Dublin was getting VERY worried. He sent word to Vikings in Iceland, Britain and the Isle of Man to come help him. Soon, a huge fleet of Viking longships arrived in Dublin bay, filled with fierce warriors ready for battle.





# The Battle of Clontarf, 1014







The Vikings were defeated. Viking rule in Ireland had come to an end. Any remaining Viking warriors escaped by longship.

Brian Ború would not live to see this new Ireland though. As the Vikings retreated, one warrior called Brodir killed Ború and ended any hope of a United Ireland.





Any Vikings who still remained in Ireland settled down to a peaceful life. You can still see the traces of these peaceful Vikings in some of the surnames popular in Ireland

If your surname is any of the following, you have some Norse blood in you!

- Reynolds ("Son of Ragnall")
- Doyle ("Dark Foreigner")
- O'Loughlin ("Viking")
- Higgins ("Viking")
- McKeever ("Son of Ivar")





And so we close a chapter in Irish history!

The Vikings played a really important role in the history of our country. They started some of our biggest towns and cities, including our capital Dublin.

They brought new technology and opened Ireland up to trade with the world.

It is fair to say that we have a lot to thank to Vikings for! Even if they weren't perfect...

