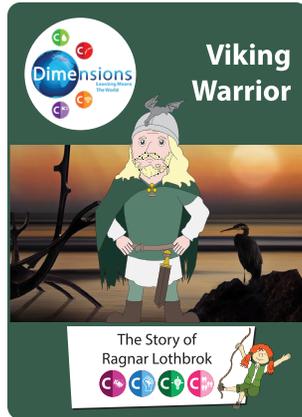


Adventurers - Viking Warrior

What
I
Should
Know

Dimensions
CURRICULUM



Overview

"Viking Warrior" is a competency-based thematic unit with a history focus, telling the legendary story of Ragnar Lothbrok. He is a Viking "sea lord" who, according to his very famous saga, invaded the ancient Kingdom of Frankia and then the British Isles over 1000 years ago. He is known for wearing "hairy trousers", which protected him on his adventures.

Under Occupation

The Romans, Saxons and Vikings invaded and occupied Britain:-

Romans: 43 AD – 410 AD

Saxons: 410 AD – 1066 AD

Vikings: 793 AD – 1066 AD

Where in the World?

The Vikings came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They invaded many countries in Northern Europe, using their excellent ships and fierce soldiers, often carrying out raids on busy ports and wealthy areas. After raiding, some Vikings settled in the new country and stayed for a long time.

In Britain, the Vikings settled along the north east coast of England and the east coast of Ireland.

Legacy

The Vikings left many legacies in Britain, such as combs, skis, shipbuilding, language e.g. place names -by, -thorpe, -borough, -toft, games e.g. chess, sagas and stories, jewellery

Ragnar Lothbrok

Historians think that Ragnar Lothbrok's saga is a mixture of a few different Viking soldiers.

His saga says that he was the son of the King of Denmark and he was very handsome and powerful, an excellent soldier and sailor.

One of the most famous stories about him says that the Earl of the city, who was being terrorised by a giant snake, called upon Ragnar for help. If he could kill the snake, he could marry the Earl's daughter, Thora. The snake's blood was poisonous, so Ragnar made himself a pair of trousers and a cloak out of hair or fur and covered them in pitch. His "armour" worked by protecting him and he defeated the snake and married Thora. Ragnar's story is not unusual in the Viking age. Historians have to use evidence to decide which of the Viking warriors, kings and queens were actually real people. Their names became confused and mixed up amongst different tales and it can take a lot of work to sort out who is who. What does set the Vikings apart from other historic groups is their use of names to describe who they were.



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Vocabulary

Coward	a person who does not have the courage to face something difficult
Invasion	to enter as an army by force
Legacy	something handed down from the past
Longship	a long, narrow warship, powered by both oar and sail with many rowers, used by the Vikings
Pitch	sticky, black substance
Raid	to make a sudden attack to steal or take something
Saga	a long and often complicated story of heroic deeds
Settlement	a place where people live
Jorvik	the Viking kingdom around York (in north eastern England)

Concept Flow

- To know and be able to retell the life story of Ragnar Lothbrok
- To know the chronology of invaders and settlers in Britain
- To understand that Viking sagas were often written down many years after the events had possibly happened and, therefore, may contain more fiction than fact
- To understand that evidence from the Viking period was passed from person to person verbally, leading to inaccuracies and omissions
- To understand why the Vikings invaded Britain
- To understand the way in which the past impacts on the present
- To understand the importance of courage, commitment, creativity and community

My Notes / Questions