

Viking Life with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify and describe key features of a Viking longship and settlement, understanding how Vikings travelled and lived.

Follow the drawing prompt to create your Viking scene. Use the word bank to label your diagram and answer the questions below to show what you have learned about Viking life.

Draw: In the centre of your page, draw a large Viking longship floating on the water in a narrow fjord (a deep, narrow sea inlet between high cliffs). Make sure to draw a fierce dragon head at the front of the ship. On the grassy bank next to the water, draw a Viking longhouse—a long, rectangular building with a curved, thatched roof. Add a few circular shields hanging along the side of the longship. Use clear, bold lines and label your drawing using the words provided in the word bank.



Label words: Longship · Dragon Head · Steering Oar · Longhouse · Thatch Roof · Fjord · Shield

Steps:

1. Why did the Vikings carve a dragon head onto the front of their ships? Think about what this might represent.
2. The Viking longhouse was often made of wood and earth. Why was a 'thatch roof' useful for people living in the UK climate?

3. Ellie the Elephant is curious: Why were Viking longships designed to be flat-bottomed? Hint: Think about where they travelled.
4. Label your drawing of the longhouse. List two items you might find inside a Viking home.
5. If you were a Viking explorer, why would you choose to settle near a fjord or a river?