

Viking Voyagers: A Historical Report

Learning objective: To research and construct a balanced report on Viking life, comparing their reputation as raiders with their skills as settlers and traders.

Use this scaffold to structure your report. Ensure you use historical vocabulary and refer to the evidence you have gathered. Ellie the elephant has provided some key themes to help you organise your research.

While many people immediately think of fierce raiders when they hear the word 'Viking', the reality of their civilisation was far more complex and fascinating.

Word bank: furthermore · contrary to popular belief · settlement · longship · expedition · consequently · in addition · nevertheless · archaeological evidence · thriving

1. Introduction: Define who the Vikings were and explain why they began travelling across the sea. Start by saying: The Viking Age began when... (2 marks)

2. The Longship: Describe the design of their ships and why these were crucial for exploration. Explain why: The design of the longship was a brilliant piece of engineering because... (3 marks)

3. Settlement and Daily Life: Describe how Vikings lived when they were not raiding. Justify your answer by discussing their farming or crafts: Beyond their reputation as warriors, the Vikings were skilled at... (3 marks)

4. Trade and Culture: Compare and contrast Viking trade networks with their raiding activities. How did they benefit from these connections? You could argue that... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the legacy of the Vikings in Britain. What might happen if the Vikings had never arrived in Britain? Conclude by stating: Ultimately, the influence of the Vikings on British history is... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a Viking hoard. Write a short diary entry explaining what the items (such as silver arm-rings or everyday tools) tell us about the person who owned them. Justify your theories using historical evidence.