

Viking Life: Designing a Longship

Learning objective: To understand the construction and purpose of a Viking longship as part of Year 5 History studies on Viking exploration and trade.

Use your knowledge of Viking history to complete the drawing below. Ensure your labels are clear and placed next to the correct parts of the ship.

Draw: Draw a Viking longship in the centre of the page. The style should be clear and diagrammatic, like a historical illustration. Include a long, shallow, curved wooden hull, a large square sail with vertical stripes, a wooden mast, a steering oar at the back, and round shields overlapping along the top edge of the hull. Add a carved dragon head at the front of the ship.



Label words: Dragon-head prow · Clinker-built hull · Steering oar · Striped sail · Mast · Shields

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw the longship hull using a curved shape. Why was the 'clinker-built' overlapping wooden plank design important for Viking travel?
2. Step 2: Draw a tall mast and a sail. Why did the Vikings often use striped patterns for their sails?
3. Step 3: Draw a fierce dragon head at the front (prow). What was the superstitious purpose of this design?
4. Step 4: Draw shields along the side of the ship. How did this protect the crew during a voyage?

5. Step 5: Label your drawing using the words from the word bank provided.