

Ellie's Viking Voyage: Sorting Fact from Fiction

Learning objective: To identify and categorize key aspects of Viking life, including their settlements, trade, and exploration, using historical evidence.

Ellie the Elephant is helping a museum curator organize their Viking exhibit. Below is a list of statements about the Vikings. Read each statement carefully and sort it into one of the two categories: 'Daily Life & Farming' or 'Exploration & Raiding'.

Word bank: Longship · Longhouse · Trading · Settlement · Navigation · Agriculture · Fjord · Craftsmanship

1. 1. The Vikings built sturdy homes with wooden frames and turf walls. Is this 'Daily Life & Farming' or 'Exploration & Raiding'? (2 marks)

2. 2. Vikings travelled across the North Sea to reach new lands in their shallow-draught longships. Is this 'Daily Life & Farming' or 'Exploration & Raiding'? (2 marks)

3. 3. Viking families grew crops like barley and kept livestock such as sheep and cattle. Is this 'Daily Life & Farming' or 'Exploration & Raiding'? (2 marks)

4. 4. Many Vikings were skilled traders who exchanged goods like wool, furs, and amber for silver and silk. Is this 'Daily Life & Farming' or 'Exploration & Raiding'? (2 marks)

5. 5. Explain why the design of a longship was so important for both exploration and trade. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship arriving at a coastline. Include details such as a striped sail, shields along the side of the boat, and a carved dragon head on the prow.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Viking trader arriving at a new market. Write a list of three items you have brought to sell and three items you hope to trade for. Calculate the total value of your goods in £ (pounds) if each item is worth £5.