

Viking Explorer Fact-File: A Journey with Ellie

Learning objective: To research and record key historical facts about the Viking era, focusing on their origins, daily life, and the reasons for their travels.

Help Ellie the Elephant learn about the past! Use your history books or library resources to complete this fact-file. Write in clear, full sentences and ensure your historical dates and descriptions are accurate for the Grade 4 curriculum.

Word bank: Longship · Scandinavia · Danelaw · Raids · Settlements · Norse · Longhouse · Trade · Exploration · Runes

1. Origins and Geography: Where did the Vikings originate from, and which modern-day countries make up this region? Describe the landscape. (3 marks)

2. The Longship: Why were Viking longships so important to their success? Explain how the design helped them travel both across the sea and up rivers. (3 marks)

3. Daily Life: Describe a typical Viking home (a longhouse). What materials were used to build them and how did families live inside? (2 marks)

4. Reasons for Travel: Vikings were not just raiders; they were also traders and explorers. Give two reasons why they chose to leave their homes to travel to Britain. (2 marks)

5. Legacy: Choose one Viking contribution that still influences life in Britain today (e.g., place names, language, or farming techniques) and explain its importance. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a famous Viking figure, such as Alfred the Great's rival, Guthrum, or the explorer Leif Erikson. Create a short 'Who Am I?' profile for them to share with the class.