

Voyagers of the North: The Viking Age

Set sail with Ellie the Elephant to uncover the secrets of the sea-faring Norse explorers!

- The Vikings originated from Scandinavia and used ingenious clinker-built longships to navigate both deep oceans and shallow rivers, allowing them to trade and explore across Europe.
- Viking society was structured into three distinct social classes: the Jarls (nobles), the Karls (free farmers and craftspeople), and the Thralls (enslaved people).
- Many Vikings were skilled farmers who grew barley, oats, and wheat, and kept livestock such as sheep, goats, and cattle to provide wool, milk, and meat.
- Viking artisans were master craftspeople, creating intricate jewellery from silver and gold, as well as decorative wood carvings inspired by mythological beasts.
- The Danelaw was a historical territory in Northern and Eastern England where Viking laws and customs dominated, significantly influencing the English language and place names we use today.

Did you know? Did you know? Vikings did not wear horned helmets into battle! This is a common myth invented by costume designers in the 19th century. Real Viking warriors wore practical iron or leather caps to protect their heads during skirmishes.

Key vocabulary: Longship · Danelaw · Sagas · Raids · Settlements · Runes · Longhouse