

Viking Voyagers: A History Challenge with Ellie

Learning objective: To consolidate knowledge regarding Viking life, settlements, and their impact on Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Join Ellie the Elephant on an archaeological adventure! Read the questions carefully and use your historical enquiry skills to answer. For multiple-choice questions, select the correct letter.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Longship, 4.A, 5.False, 6.B, 7.Danelaw, 8.True, 9.C, 10.A.

Word bank: Longship · Danelaw · Lindisfarne · Settlement · Raiding · Runes · Fjord · Pagan

1. 1. In which year did the famous raid on the monastery at Lindisfarne take place? A) 790 AD B) 890 AD C) 793 AD* D) 800 AD (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Viking longships were designed with a shallow draught, allowing them to travel up narrow rivers as well as across the sea. (1 mark)

3. 3. What was the specific name given to the iconic Viking ship used for both trade and exploration? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these was a primary occupation for most Vikings in their home lands? A) Farming* B) Gold mining C) Professional racing D) Architecture (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: All Vikings wore helmets with large horns attached to them during battle. (1 mark)

6. 6. Who was the famous Anglo-Saxon King who successfully defended Wessex against the Great Heathen Army? A) Edward the Confessor B) Alfred the Great* C) Athelstan D) Harold Godwinson (1 mark)

7. 7. What was the name of the region in Northern and Eastern England that was under Viking law? (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The Vikings used a system of writing called runes, often carved into stone or wood. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which of these items would a Viking merchant likely trade for silver or silk? A) Plastic tools B) Modern currency C) Fur and amber* D) Electricity (1 mark)

10. 10. What does the word 'Viking' actually mean in Old Norse? A) To go on an expedition* B) To fight a war C) To build a house D) To sail a boat (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship arriving at a coastline. Include details like the dragon-head prow, the striped sail, and a shield rack along the side of the boat.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the Vikings were able to travel so far from their homelands compared to other civilisations at the time. 2. Compare and contrast the daily life of a Viking farmer with that of an Anglo-Saxon farmer. 3. Justify your answer: Was the Viking arrival in Britain more beneficial or destructive for the people living there? 4. What might have happened to British culture if the Vikings had never settled in the Danelaw? 5. If you were an archaeologist discovering a Viking grave, what three items would you hope to find and why? 6. Research and describe the role of women in Viking society; how does this compare to the roles of women in other historical periods?