Viking Voyagers: History Explorer Challenge

Learning objective: To understand where the Vikings came from, how they travelled, and why they settled in Britain.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Viking Age to provide detailed answers. Use the word bank to help with your spelling.

Ellie the elephant has been reading ancient scrolls about the Vikings! She wants to know if you can help her piece together the history of these famous seafaring people who travelled across the North Sea to Britain.

Word bank: Scandinavia · longship · raid · settlement · Danelaw · longhouse · navigation

1. The Vikings originated from three countries in Scandinavia. Can you name these three countries? (3 marks)

2. Why were Viking longships so successful for travelling across the sea and up rivers? (2 marks)

3. When the Vikings first arrived in Britain, they often carried out raids. What does the word 'raid' mean in this historical context? (2 marks)

4. Vikings didn't just fight; they also farmed and traded. Describe one feature of a traditional Viking longhouse. (2 marks)

5. If a Viking trader sold an iron axe for £4 and a handmade woollen tunic for £6, how much would a customer pay in total? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship on the ocean. Make sure to include the striped sail and the carved dragon head on the front (the prow) of the ship.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Viking explorer. Write three sentences in your diary about your first day arriving on the coast of Britain. What do you see, hear, and smell?