Vikings: Life and Exploration

Learning objective: To understand the layout and key features of a Viking longship and a typical Viking settlement.

Use your knowledge of Viking history to complete the diagrams below. Ensure your labels are accurate and your drawings reflect the historical features of the Viking Age.

Draw: Create two separate sketches on your page. Sketch 1: A Viking longship on the water. Focus on the shape of the hull, the large square sail, and the carved dragon head at the front (prow). Sketch 2: A cross-section of a Viking longhouse. Include the curved roof, the central fire pit (hearth), and a sleeping bench along the wall. Use a detailed, historical style.

Label words: Longship · Dragon head prow · Clinker-built hull · Steering oar · Longhouse · Thatch roof · Central hearth · Animal pens

Steps:

1. Why was the 'clinker-built' design of the hull important for Viking travel across the North Sea?
2. Label the part of the Viking longhouse where the family would cook their meals and keep warm.
3. Identify one reason why Vikings often chose to build their longhouses near rivers or the coast.
4. Draw an arrow pointing to the 'prow' of the ship. What was the purpose of the decorative carving found

here?

5. List two items you might find inside a Viking longhouse that helped the family survive the winter.