Voyagers of the North: The Viking Age

Grab your map and set sail—discover the history of the legendary Norse explorers!

- **The Vikings originated from Scandinavia, including modern-day Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, often travelling in shallow-draft longships that could navigate both open seas and narrow rivers.**
- **Many Vikings were not just raiders; they were skilled farmers, craftspeople, and traders who exchanged goods like silver, silk, and spices across vast distances.**
- **In 793 AD, the raid on Lindisfarne monastery in Northumbria is often cited as the beginning of the Viking Age in Britain, shocking the Anglo-Saxon population.**
- **Viking families lived in rectangular longhouses made of wood, wattle, and daub, with a central hearth used for cooking, warmth, and light during the long winter months.**
- **The Danelaw was an area of Northern and Eastern England where Viking laws and customs held sway, significantly influencing the English language and place names we still use today.**

Did you know? Did you know? Vikings did not wear horned helmets! That image was actually created by 19th-century costume designers for opera performances. Real Viking warriors wore simple leather or iron helmets to protect their heads during sea journeys and skirmishes.

Key vocabulary: Longship · Danelaw · Longhouse · Sagas · Raiding · Paganism