Voyagers of the North: The Vikings

Grab your map and set sail! Join Ellie the Elephant on an expedition to uncover the secrets of the Viking Age.

- **The Vikings originally came from Scandinavia, which includes the countries we now know as Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.**
- **They were famous for building 'longships', which were long, narrow, and flexible boats designed to travel across the sea and up shallow rivers.**
- **Many Vikings were skilled farmers who grew crops like barley and oats, and kept animals such as cows, sheep, and pigs.**
- **Viking families lived in large, rectangular buildings called longhouses, made from wood, stone, or turf with a central fire for cooking and warmth.**
- **Vikings were talented craftspeople who made beautiful jewellery, intricate wood carvings, and strong iron tools.**
- **While some Vikings were raiders, many others were peaceful traders who travelled long distances to exchange goods like furs, amber, and honey.**

Did you know? Did you know? Vikings did not wear helmets with horns on them! This was an idea invented by artists much later. In reality, Viking warriors wore simple iron or leather helmets to protect their heads in battle.

Key vocabulary: Longship · Scandinavia · Settlement · Raider · Longhouse · Norse