



Teacher Resource

Viking Exhibition

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:


1. Think of at least three words to describe Vikings.
2. Where did Vikings live in Europe?
3. What influence did Vikings have on England?
4. Describe the objects in the Viking exhibition at the SA Museum. What do they tell you about Vikings?
5. What was surprising about the BTN story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Before watching

Before watching the BTN Viking Exhibition story students will discuss in small groups what they already know about Vikings and the Viking age.

- What do you already know about Vikings? Record your ideas on a mind map.
- When did Vikings exist?
- Where did Vikings live?
- What did people living in the Viking Age look like?
- How did they live their lives?
- What mysteries or myths have you heard about the Vikings?



What do you know about Vikings?

After watching

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions after watching the BTN story:

- What did you learn from the BTN story?
- What SURPRISED you about what you saw in the story?
- Think of three questions you have about the story.
- What more do you want to learn about Vikings and the Viking Age?



EPISODE 11

6 May 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop their historical knowledge and understanding of the Viking Age.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5/6

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

HASS – Year 7

Apply a methodology to locate and collect relevant information and data from a range of primary sources and secondary sources.

History – Year 8

The way of life in Viking society (social, cultural, economic and political features) and the roles and relationships of different groups in society.

Significant developments and/or cultural achievements that led to Viking expansion, including weapons and shipbuilding, and the extent of their trade.

Viking conquests and relationships with subject peoples, including the perspectives of monks, changes in the way of life of the English, and the Norman invasion.

The role of a significant individual in the expansion of Viking settlement and influence, such as Erik the Red or Leif Ericson.

Activity: Glossary

Students will watch the BTN Viking Exhibition story and summarise the story in their own words. Students will watch the story again and listen carefully, circling each of the following words as they hear them and recording any unfamiliar words.

VIKING AGE	NORSEMAN	SEAFARERS
SAXON	SCANDINAVIA	HISTORIAN

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). Further activities for students:

- Study the etymology of the word *Viking*. What does the word Viking mean and where does it come from?
- What are [Viking runes](#)? Create your name using the Viking's runic alphabet. Write a message about Vikings using Viking runes. Ask a classmate to decipher your message.
- Who were the Jarls, Karls and Thralls? Describe them and their place in the Viking social hierarchy.

Activity: Inquiry Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Viking Exhibition story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- How did the climate and geography of Scandinavia shape Viking society and way of life?
- What was the Viking social structure? Explore the roles of the three main classes – the Jarls, Karls and Thralls.
- What were the cultural practices of the Vikings?
- What are some myths about Vikings? How have these myths been created? Give examples.
- What role did significant individuals have in the expansion of the Viking settlement? Choose an individual to research in depth.
- What were the reasons for the decline of Viking culture?

Activity: Source Analysis

Students will analyse a collection of primary sources associated with the life and history of the Vikings. They will choose one of the following primary sources from the SA Museum “Treasures of the Viking Age” exhibition and write an analysis of the object. Refer to this SA Museum [education resource](#) for a range of primary sources. To learn more about the Galloway Hoard watch this SA Museum [animation](#) (YouTube).



The Galloway Hoard animation
(Source: [SA Museum](#))

Source Analysis – Inquiry questions

- How do you know it’s a primary source? Give one reason.
- What category of source does this object belong to? (For example, is it an artefact, a document).
- Describe the object. What is it made from? What symbols or patterns do you notice?
- What do you think the markings on the object are?
- What is the purpose of the object?
- What is the objects origin?
- What do these objects tell you about how the Vikings lived and what they believed?
- How is the object useful to historians?
- Write 2 questions that could help guide further research into this object and its history?



Treasures of the Viking Age
(Source: [SA Museum](#))



Treasures of the Viking Age
(Source: [SA Museum](#))



Treasures of the Viking Age
(Source: [SA Museum](#))



Treasures of the Viking Age
(Source: [SA Museum](#))

Activity: Act Like an Historian

Provide your students with the opportunity to think and act as historians. Students will investigate in more depth some questions they have about the Viking Age. Students can take notes as they watch the BTN Viking Exhibition story or download the transcript after watching the story to guide them through the activity. Students will use the following as a guide, or students can write their own inquiry question.

- Write a summary about Vikings, which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- Create a timeline highlighting key events during the Viking Age. Include a title, date, and description for each event.
- Find one primary source and one secondary source which helps you understand more about the Viking age. Respond to the questions below for each source you find. Share and compare your findings with your classmates.

- What is it?
- Who wrote it or made it?
- When was it written or made?
- Where was it written or made?
- How was it written or made?
- Why was it written or made?
- What evidence does this source contribute to my research?

Activity: Historical Exploration

After watching the BTN Viking Exhibition story ask students to think about what they found interesting, or what they are curious about. In pairs, students will work together to try and uncover more about the Vikings and the Viking age.

Students can use the steps below to guide them as they uncover the mystery of the Viking age.

1. What are you curious about? Write down all the questions you have about Vikings.
2. Do as much research as you can to help answer some of your questions. 'Visit' a range of different places during your research phase, collecting as many clues as you can along the way. Possible places for research could include the library, a museum (real or virtual), or the internet.
3. Choose 1 or 2 significant pieces of evidence that you have collected during your research. Try and choose one primary source and one secondary source of information. Write a summary about each piece of information which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?
4. Consider interviewing an expert to learn more and take your research further.



Activity – Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Design

Design and create your own Viking shield or sword. What will it be made from? What shape will it be? What colour/s will it be? Include Viking runes in your design.

Children's Book

Write and illustrate a children's book or comic which is set during the Viking age. Alternatively, design the front cover of a book set during the Viking age.

True or False?

Create a true or false quiz about Vikings and test your classmates. Alternatively, create a word find or crossword.

Minecraft creation

Create a Viking building or structure using Minecraft. Make it as historically as accurate as you can.

Useful Websites

- [Treasures of the Viking Age](#) – SA Museum
- [Cameron's Viking Village](#) – BTN
- [Viking Myths](#) – BTN
- [Vikings](#) – BBC Bitesize
- [Who were the Vikings and where did they come from?](#) – BBC Bitesize
- [Vicious Vikings](#) – Horrible Histories
- [Follow the Vikings](#) – Council of Europe
- [10 Facts about the Vikings](#) – National Geographic Kids