

VIKING EXPLORATION

INFORMATION HANDOUTS

EXPANSION MAP

FILL IN THE MAP

TRUE OR FALSE

WORDSEARCH

WHICH PLACE?



PRIMARY
TOPIC
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EXPLORATION

**Did you know?**

Viking settlers landed in eastern Canada five hundred years before Columbus "discovered" North America.

Vikings sailed by river, ocean and sea to new continents.

Medieval writers wrote stories about Viking travels south through Europe and the Mediterranean Sea. To the west, Vikings settled in Britain, then sailed even further, to the uninhabited land of Iceland and later Greenland and even eastern Canada.

1 SCANDINAVIA

Vikings, or Norsemen, came from Scandinavia. The Viking Age began when Norsemen from Scandinavia raided the British Isles to the east.

The separate kingdoms of Norway, Denmark and Sweden were established when the Viking Age ended in the 11th century.

2 BRITISH ISLES

The Viking Age began with a raid on the monastery of Lindisfarne in the year 793. In the following years, they continued to raid towns, monasteries and cities in England.

The city of York was captured by Vikings in 866. They ruled the city for one hundred years.

After the Vikings were defeated by Alfred of Wessex at the Battle of Eddington in 878, treaties were created which defined the

boundaries between the English kingdom and the Viking Danelaw territory.

Vikings raided the monastery at Iona in 794. The islands of Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney were colonized by Scandinavians for 700 years, between the 8th and 15th centuries.

Viking raided monasteries on Ireland's coasts. They established many towns including Dublin. Viking raiders were driven from Ireland in the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 but settled Vikings continued to trade with the Irish.

3 FRANKISH EMPIRE

When Vikings began raiding coastal towns in West and Middle Francia, the Franks fortified their bridges in an effort to stop Vikings from raiding inland. Nevertheless, in the 9th century the Vikings went deep into Frankish territory and sacked many towns including Paris.

In 911, the king of West Francia gave a territory to the Viking leader Rollo to rule. This territory was called the Duchy of Normandy. The descendants of Rollo and his followers intermarried with the Franks and became the Normans.

Did you know?

Rollo's descendant, William, Duke of Normandy, became the king of England in 1066.

4 ICELAND

The uninhabited island of Iceland was found accidentally by a Viking ship that drifted off course.

The first Vikings settlers arrived around 870. They exported fish, leather and wool.

The Chieftains of Iceland started one of the world's first parliaments, called the Althing.

5 GREENLAND

Eric the Red landed in Greenland in 981, returning in 986 with settlers from Iceland. By the year 1000, there were two settlements in Greenland.

When the warm period ended and Greenland became colder, the Viking farmers became hunters, mainly hunting seal.

After 500 years the Vikings abandoned Greenland, possibly because of conflicts with the native Inuit population.

6 VINLAND

The Viking Leif Eriksson led an expedition from Greenland to Vinland (what is now eastern Canada) at the beginning of the eleventh century in search of timber. They settled there temporarily while they explored the coast, finding plenty of good hunting and fishing, grapes and timber.

The remains of a Viking settlement has been found at L'Anse Aux Meadows in Newfoundland and there is evidence of a Viking Camp on Baffin Island in Northern Canada.

7 RUSSIA

Vikings used waterways to travel from Sweden through Russia to the Byzantine Empire. These Vikings were known as Vangarians or Rus.

The Volga trade route was established by the Vangarians. It connected Northern Europe with the Caspian Sea along the Volga River.

Vangarians traded for leather, wax, skins, slaves and honey along the rivers. There are runestones in Sweden that tell stories of the Vangarians journey through Russia.

8 CONSTANTINOPLE

Vikings traveled all the way from Sweden to Constantinople, a city that we now know as Istanbul in Turkey, to trade for exotic products such as silk, embroidered cloth, wine, fruit, spices, as well as semi-precious stones like carnelian and quartz.

The Viking word for Constantinople was Miklagård which means "The Great City."

There is evidence Vikings traveled further south than Constantinople to Baghdad and possibly even further.

9 MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Vikings sailed south to Spain and into the Mediterranean Sea, raiding coastal cities. They brought slaves from North Africa and brought them back to their homeland.

In 860 the Viking Hastein sailed a fleet of 62 ships to the Mediterranean and sacked several cities in Spain, conquering the city of Seville.

In the 11th century Vikings fought as mercenaries in Southern Italy.

VIKING EXPANSION MAP



Did you know?

Vikings navigated the Atlantic Ocean without using a compass! Instead they used the position of the sun, moon and stars, landmarks, and wildlife patterns to find their way.

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FILL IN THE BLANKS

was discovered by Erik the _____ in 981.

The Chieftains of _____ started one of the world's first parliaments, called the _____.

The islands of Hebrides, Shetland and _____ were colonized by Vikings between the 8th and 15th centuries.

In 878, treaties defined the boundaries between the English kingdom and the Viking _____ territory.

The Viking Leif Eriksson led an expedition from Greenland to _____ at the beginning of the eleventh century.

Viking raiders were driven from _____ in the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

In 911 the Duchy of _____ was created from part of West Francia for the Viking leader Rollo.

The Volga trade route through Russia connected Northern Europe with the _____ Sea.

The Viking word for _____ was Miklagård which means "The Great City."

Vikings sailors didn't have a compass. Name one way they navigated across the Atlantic.

TRUE OR FALSE

- 1 Vikings navigated using a compass. T F
- 2 The Duchy of Normandy was created for Vikings in the Frankish Empire. T F
- 3 Vikings came from Scandinavia. T F
- 4 Vikings never sailed as far as the Mediterranean. T F
- 5 Vikings abandoned Greenland after 1000 years. T F
- 6 Iceland was found by Vikings by accident. T F
- 7 Vikings established many towns, including Dublin in Ireland. T F
- 8 The Viking Age began with a raid on Wessex. T F
- 8 The Viking word for Constantinople was Miklagård. T F

WORDSEARCH

P D E N M A R K C R E L U N V
 G G N S G D U E U B R N Y E I
 R D K W E S S E X R O D R A N
 E N I V S I S E I R E I M O L
 E S C Y N C I A N D P E L B A
 N E E C O Y A P A M A G M A N
 L G L E R R I R E C R E L G D
 A I A I W N K H D R I E K H U
 N U N M A N S D I O S S I D B
 D L D K Y I A V D A N E L A W
 I C P U K E K C P L E A V D E
 V L I N O R M A N D Y S X E C
 R G A S U I V G L S W E D E N
 I R I R E L A N D U B L I N O
 F C O N S T A N T I N O P L E

BAGHDAD
 CONSTANTINOPLE
 DANELAW
 DENMARK

DUBLIN
 FRANKISH EMPIRE
 GREENLAND
 ICELAND

NORMANDY
 NORWAY
 PARIS
 RUSSIA

SWEDEN
 VINLAND
 WESSEX
 YORK

WHICH PLACE?

- 1 In which country were Vikings known as Vangarians?
- 2 Which land was abandoned because of conflicts with the native Inuit population?
- 3 Which city in Ireland was founded by Vikings?
- 4 Which city, now called Istanbul, did Vikings visit to trade for exotic products such as silk?
- 5 Which city did the Viking Hastein sack in Spain in 860?
- 6 In which country was the world's first parliament, called the Althing, started?
- 7 The Duchy of Normandy was created from a part of which area?
- 8 Where did Leif Eriksson sail at the beginning of the 11th century in search of timber?
- 9 In which country was the Battle of Clontarf in 1014?



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TRUE OR FALSE

GREENLAND was discovered by Erik the RED in 981.

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G G N S
R D K
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In which country were Viking

Vikings navigated using a compass.

T F

Vikings in the Frankish Empire.

T F

T F

T F

over 1000 years.

T F

T F

T F

The Viking Age began with a raid on vves.

T F

The Viking word for Constantinople was Miklogård.

T F

includes
Answer sheets

Vikings sailors didn't have a way they navigated across the sea. **POSITION OF THE SUN, STARS, LANDMARKS, PATTERNS**

Vikings were **IRE** the Clont

BAGHDAD
CONSTANTINOPLE
DANELAW
DENMARK

West Francia

Where did Leif Eriksson sail

Vinland

In which country was the Bann

Ireland