IN BRIEF

The Flying Viking is a fun tale that mixes history and fantasy. It is the inspiration for this pack, which is full of facts and activities about the Vikings. Learn all about these brave adventurers and their real-life voyages!

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Learning new words is always fun – and you might discover some words you don't know in the **Glossary** section. Keep it handy when you read this month's tales!
- Have a talk about the characters in 'The Flying Viking', using the questions on the **Class Discussion Sheet** for inspiration. What makes them different, and what do they each contribute to the story?
- Spot the adjectives on the **Reading Comprehension Sheet**, which is all about *lutefisk* – the disgusting food that Ragnar hates!
- How well do you know the story of 'The Flying Viking'? Put the events of the tale in the right order on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**.
- The Vikings loved to retell their favourite stories while sitting around a blazing fire. Even if you don't have a fire to relax by, why don't you try retelling Ragnar's saga (a Viking word for an adventure story) on the **Storyboard** worksheet?
- Most stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. The **What If?** sheet asks you to imagine what would have happened in the story if three things had changed. This could start an interesting discussion about how story structures work.
- Vikings loved to write poems about their journeys! Why not imagine that you have been on a long sea voyage and write about it on the **Write a Norse Poem!** page.
- Write a story about the further adventures of Ragnar, using the colourful **Story Cards**!

Continued on page 2...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- How much did you find out about Ragnar while reading 'The Flying Viking'? Fill in what you know about him on the **Character Sheet: Ragnar** page – and design a cool pattern to go on his shield. What do you think it should be?

- Did you know that many English words come from Old Norse, the language that the Vikings spoke? See if you can match English and Norse words on the **Old New Words!** page. It's a bit of a challenge, but we think you will be surprised how similar English and Norse are!

2. GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEA

- The Vikings were great sailors and explorers, and travelled to many different places. The map on the **Viking Voyages!** page shows some of the journeys that Vikings made. See if you can match the voyages with the descriptions. If necessary, use a map, an atlas or a globe for help.

3. HISTORY LESSON IDEAS

- Vikings were more than just warriors and adventurers! Find out amazing facts about them and their way of life on the **Top Viking Facts!** page. Then, read a book about Vikings and write down a cool fact that you have discovered about them!

- We have learned a lot about Vikings by digging up the mounds where their chiefs and kings were buried. On the **Dig Up the Past!** sheet, see if you can work out which things *don't* belong in a Viking grave...

Continued on page 3...

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4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- Imagine that you are a Viking like Ragnar! Draw what you would look like on the **If I was a Viking...** page. There are pictures of Viking clothing and weapons for inspiration – and don't forget to give yourself a cool *epithet* (Norse nickname) as well!

- A Viking needs a ship to sail around in – and they didn't get much more awesome than a mighty dragon ship or *drakkar*! Turn to the **Colour In a Viking Ship** page and give the vessel a cool colour scheme!

5. PSHE LESSON IDEA

- The Vikings were experts at finding food in the harsh climate of Scandinavia. Find out about what they ate, and see if you can spot the things that wouldn't belong on a Viking dining table – see **The Viking Diet** sheet for details! Why not start a discussion about the foods that we eat. How much is grown where we live, and how much of it comes from other places? Also, how do we preserve food so that it lasts for a long time?

6. SCIENCE LESSON IDEA

- You can't really inflate a balloon with a fire troll belch, because fire trolls don't exist! However, you can use a similar principle to inflate a balloon with hot water. All you need to do this experiment is a balloon, a plastic soft drink bottle, some containers, some ice and some hot tap water. Go to **https://www.learning4kids.net/2015/01/15/hot-air-cold-air-science-activity/** for details!

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Don't know a word in a story? Find out what it means here!

The Peacock's Feathers (Page 6)

- **Spectacular** – amazing-looking
- **Worshipper** – person who prays to a god
- **Bless** – give a special gift
- **Sharply** – in a critical way
- **Sweeping** – long and curving
- **Strutted off** – walked away arrogantly
- **Coolly** – without emotion
- **Fanned out** – spread out
- **Vain** – proud of his looks
- **Marvelled** – looked with admiration
- **Plummeting** – falling

The Sun, The Wind and the Moon (Page 9)

- **Thrilling** – exciting
- **Table manners** – polite way of eating
- **Thoughtful** – considerate
- **Smugly** – in a pleased and selfish way
- **Daintily** – in a neat and polite way
- **Gaze** – look
- **Embarrassment** – a feeling of shame
- **Smirking** – smiling smugly
- **Carelessness** – uncaring attitude
- **Cast** – give out
- **Scorches** – burns

The Happy Woman (Page 12)

- **Servants** – people who do things for others
- **Snorted** – blew out of her nose
- **Fades** – gets faint and disappears
- **Fascinated** – amazed
- **Joyful** – happy
- **Declared** – said in a forceful way
- **Herd** – group of animals
- **Ragged** – worn out and damaged

The Flying Viking (Page 16)

- **Seasick** – ill from movement of a boat
- **Oar** – device used for rowing
- **Gagged** – almost vomited
- **Was concerned** – thought
- **Tumbling** – falling and rolling
- **Submerged** – underwater
- **Waterlogged** – wet and full of water
- **Salvaged** – recovered from a wreck
- **Wrecked** – badly damaged
- **Crevice** – small hole
- **Driftwood** – sticks washed up on a beach
- **Gingerly** – carefully
- **Frizzled** – slightly burnt
- **Sturdy** – strong
- **Gesturing** – signalling with hands

The Golden Blackbird (Page 22)

- **Inn** – old-style hotel
- **Inherit** – get after a parent has died
- **Shrugged** – gestured to show indifference
- **Cheerily** – in a happy way
- **Downhearted** – depressed
- **Bounding down** – leaping or running down
- **Foolish** – stupid and silly

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

- **Paddling** – gently swimming
- **Mischievous** – trouble-causing
- **Honour** – privilege
- **Innkeeper** – hotel-owner
- **Fierce temper** – angry attitude
- **Sickness** – illness

The Great Dance (Page 31)

- **Collage** – piece of art made from pictures or other objects stuck together
- **Historical** – from the past
- **Cabinet** – kind of cupboard
- **Absorbed in** – focused on
- **Risky** – dangerous
- **Swirling** – moving round and round
- **Ballroom** – big room for dancing
- **Spies** – people who secretly find things out and report them
- **Scientific research** – experiments done in a well-organised way

If Life Gives You Apples... (Page 36)

- **Waggle** – wave back and forth
- **Orchard** – grove of fruit trees
- **Nook and cranny** – corner and little space
- **At their wits' end** – upset and not sure what to do
- **Triggering** – setting off
- **Bushels** – large tubs
- **Delectably** – deliciously

The Dream of Oengus (Page 38)

- **Handsomest** – best-looking
- **Fateful** – serious and important
- **Haunted** – disturbed and worried
- **Healer** – doctor
- **Messengers** – message-carriers
- **Captivity** – imprisonment
- **Shimmering** – shining

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

the power of difference! In this month's story, there are three very different characters with different strengths and abilities. How do they differ from each other?

1. The characters in this story all have different talents! What do you think Ragnar was good at, and how did this help him and his mum to escape from the volcanic island?

2. Gunilla is very strong and good at fixing things – but can you think of another way that she helped her son when he needed it?

3. The fire troll seemed to be a very strange creature when Ragnar and Gunilla first met him. However, they still befriended him – why was this a good thing?

4. 'The Flying Viking' features characters that are very different from each other – do you think the story would be better or worse if all the characters in it were similar to each other instead?

DESCRIBE MUM!

Which three words would you choose to describe what Ragnar's mum, Gunilla, is like?

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Answers: 1. Ragnar was good at coming up with ideas -– including the design for the balloon that they escaped on. 2. She supported Ragnar and comforted him when he was upset. 3. Their new friend's ability to burp hot gas gave Ragnar the idea of building the balloon they used to escape the island. 4. The story would probably be less interesting if the characters were similar. Different characters can contribute to the story in different ways and have interesting discussions and arguments with each other. If everybody was similar, the story would get boring! **Describe Mum!** – Possible words include *strong, practical, dependable* and *tough*.

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

This month's extract is about Ragnar's least favourite food – lutefisk! Spot the adjectives, and try to describe the food you hate the most!

> Ragnar's face turned a little greener, and he gagged. His mum said lutefisk was good for growing boys and tasted quite nice once you got used to it. But as far as Ragnar was concerned, it was just gross! The preserved fish smelled nasty and felt like jelly when he put it in his mouth!

1. In the first sentence, there are two words that are used to mean 'a small amount'. Can you figure out what they are, and then use them in a sentence?

2. In the second sentence, a word is used to slightly change the meaning of an *adjective* (describing word). What word is it? (Clue: it begins with a 'q'.) Can you use it in a sentence?

3. In the last sentence of the extract, we find out what lutefisk smells and feels like. Think of a food that you hate – can you describe its smell, taste and texture?

COMPARE IT!

The word 'greener' in the extract is a *comparative*, which is used to compare one thing to another. You can make a comparative by adding *-er* to the end of a normal one- or two-syllable adjective.

Can you make comparatives from these words?

SMALL _____

TIGHT _____

NARROW _____

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Answers: 1. *a little*. 2. *quite*. **Compare it** *Smaller, tighter, narrower.*

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

The epic story of Ragnar's adventure has been jumbled up! Write a number after each event to show which order they should be read in!

Gunilla and Ragnar do their best to save as much as they can from their ruined ship – including food and the front half of the hull.	
In a crack in the rock, Ragnar spots a fiery little creature. It seems friendly, so he waves at it. He realises it must be a fire troll.	
He then feeds the fire troll a piece of lutefisk, and the creature lets out an enormous burp of hot gas. This gives Ragnar an idea.	
Gunilla tries to steer the ship to safety, but it crashes into the rocky shore. The hull breaks in half and is flooded by the ocean waves.	
As the wind blows their balloon westward towards Greenland, Gunilla congratulates Ragnar for being the first 'flying Viking'.	
Ragnar is upset about being stranded on a deserted island, but his mother hugs him and says they should look around.	
He sews a big envelope out of the ship's sail, and his mother ties it to the ship. They ask the fire troll to climb into their iron cauldron.	
The troll's great belch fills the envelope, which lifts the front half of the ship into the air, with Ragnar, Gunilla and the fire troll aboard.	
Ragnar offers the fire troll a piece of wood. It turns to ash when the troll touches it. The troll eats the ash, and enjoys it!	
When everything is ready, Ragnar feeds the troll another piece of lutefisk, which makes it belch!	
Ragnar and his mother Gunilla are sailing to Greenland. A storm hits their ship, and they are blown towards a tiny volcanic island.	

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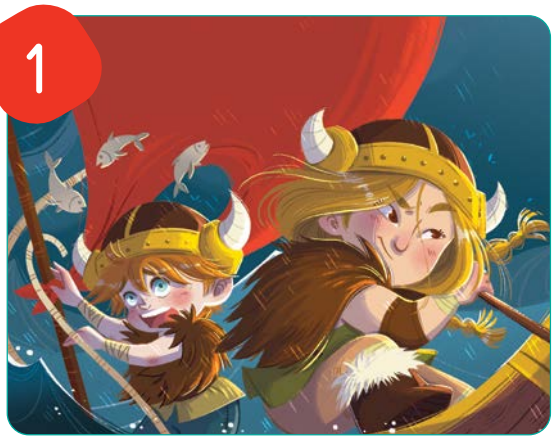
STORYBOARD

Can you retell the story of Ragnar and his adventure in your own words? Write in what happened in the story under the illustrations below.

1



2

3

4

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WHAT IF?

Almost all stories have a set-up (at the beginning), a problem or challenge (in the middle) and a resolution (at the end). How do you think the story would have turned out if these things had changed?

1. SET-UP: What do you think would have happened if Ragnar had been sailing with his wise old grandfather instead of his mother? Would it have made a difference?

2. CHALLENGE: What about if Ragnar and his mum had been shipwrecked on a forest-covered island with plants and animals? What might they have done differently? Would they decide to stay?

3. RESOLUTION: Imagine that Ragnar and Gunilla had not met the fire troll, but had encountered a sea serpent instead. How could they have escaped the island instead? Do you think the sea serpent would like lutefisk?

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WRITE A NORSE POEM!

Vikings loved to listen to poems about great adventures! See if you can write your own twelve-line poem about going on a journey across the sea. Don't worry if it doesn't rhyme! See the list below for words you might like to use.

SOME WORDS TO USE!

Try to describe the experience of what it would be like to be on a sailing voyage. Here are some words you could use:

STORMY WAVES CHILL SPRAY SPLASH

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STORY CARDS

What do you think happened to Ragnar after he arrived in Iceland? Cut out these cards and use them to make up a new adventure – just pull out a card to find out who or what will show up in your story next!

RAGNAR

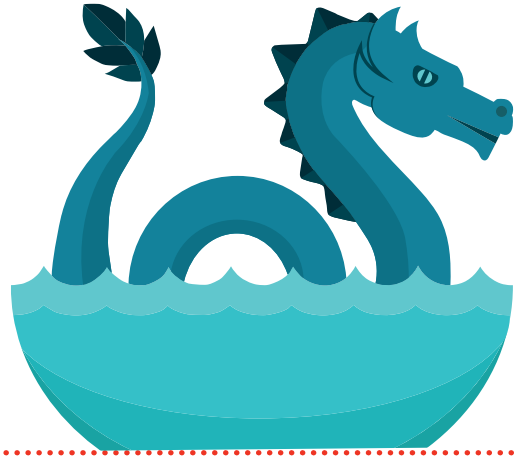
GUNILLA

BALLOON

RAGNAR'S DAD

FIRE TROLL

SEA SERPENT



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CHARACTER SHEET: RAGNAR

What do you know about the hero of 'The Flying Viking'? See if you can answer all of the questions on this sheet!

Write down four words that describe what Ragnar is like!

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is one thing that Ragnar likes very much?

_____

What does he NOT like?

_____

What problem does Ragnar face in the story, and how does he deal with it?

Vikings often painted designs on their shields. What do YOU think Ragnar would put on his?

What two words would Ragnar use to describe Gunilla and the fire troll in the story?

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OLD NEW WORDS!

Many words in English come from Old Norse, the language spoken by the Vikings. Can you match the Norse words with their English meanings by drawing a line between them? Do you know the meanings of them all?

OLD NORSE	ENGLISH
A. Klippa	1. Bag
B. Kalla	2. Seat
C. Baggin	3. Lad
D. Sæti	4. Clip
E. Lauss	5. Scrape
F. Veikr	6. Call
G. Ladd	7. Weak
H. Skrapa	8. Loose

WEEKDAY WORDS!

Did you know that some of the days of the week are named after Norse gods? Can you figure out which days are named after Woden, Thor, Tiw and Frigg?

Woden _____ **Thor** _____

Tiw _____ **Freya** _____

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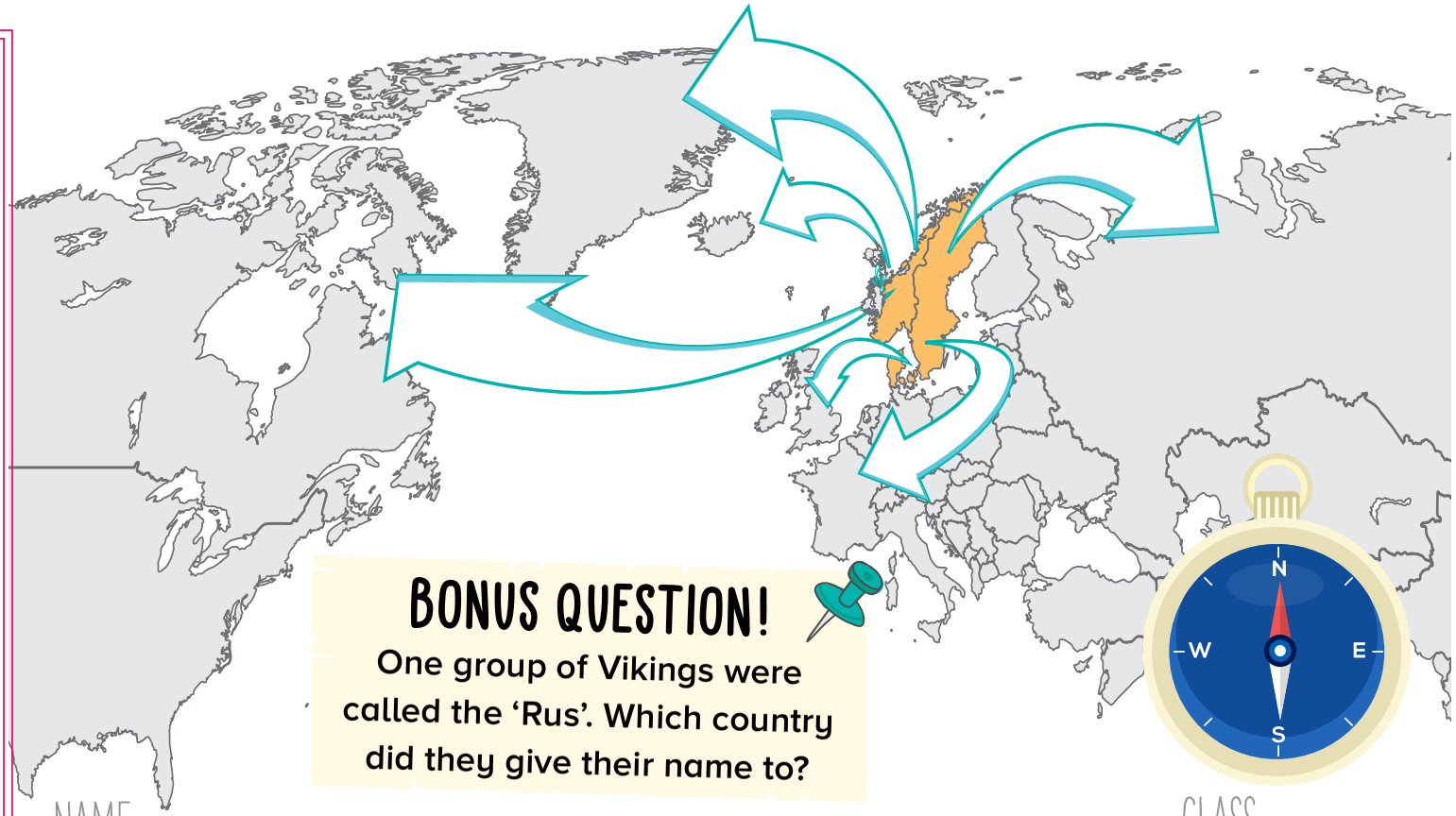
Answers: A. 4, B. 6, C. 1, D. 2, E. 8, F. 7, G. 3, H. 5.

Weekday Words! Woden – Wednesday, Tiw – Tuesday, Thor – Thursday, Frigg – Friday.

VIKING VOYAGES!

The Vikings were great sailors, and travelled to distant lands! Read the list of the journeys that they went on, and then colour in the arrows that show each journey in the matching colour.

1. The Danes sailed west to Britain – and many decided to stay!
2. Swedish Vikings went east and then sailed down Russian rivers to conquer Kiev.
3. Some Vikings went north and west to the chilly land of Iceland.
4. Others sailed further west and discovered Greenland.
5. Even further west, they came to Newfoundland, just off North America.
6. The Vikings also sailed to France and conquered Normandy.



BONUS QUESTION!

One group of Vikings were called the 'Rus'. Which country did they give their name to?

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Answers: . **Bonus Question!** The Rus gave their name to Russia.

TOP VIKING FACTS!

Vikings are famous for being fierce raiders and great sailors – but check out this sheet for things you might *not* know about them!

A 'Viking' was a Scandinavian warrior or adventurer who sailed off to raid other countries. People would say that they were '**going viking**'!

The Vikings came from **Scandinavia**, the part of Europe that is now Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Much of Scandinavia is covered with **mountains and forests**. This is not good land for farming, so many Vikings went looking for nicer places to live!

Vikings loved to go **skiing**! It was a fun way to get around in winter, when everything was covered in snow!

Viking women had more freedom than many other women of their time! They could inherit property, ask for a divorce, and reclaim their dowries if their marriages ended.

Vikings liked to **keep clean**! They usually bathed once a week and used combs, toothpicks and even ear-spoons to stay neat and tidy!

The Vikings were fierce and loyal fighters! The Roman emperor in the city of Byzantium even hired Viking guards called '**Varangians**', because he knew they would not betray him.

The Vikings' ships were their secret weapons! They could cross oceans, but could also be sailed up rivers and carried over land, which was useful for surprising enemies!

FIND A FACT!

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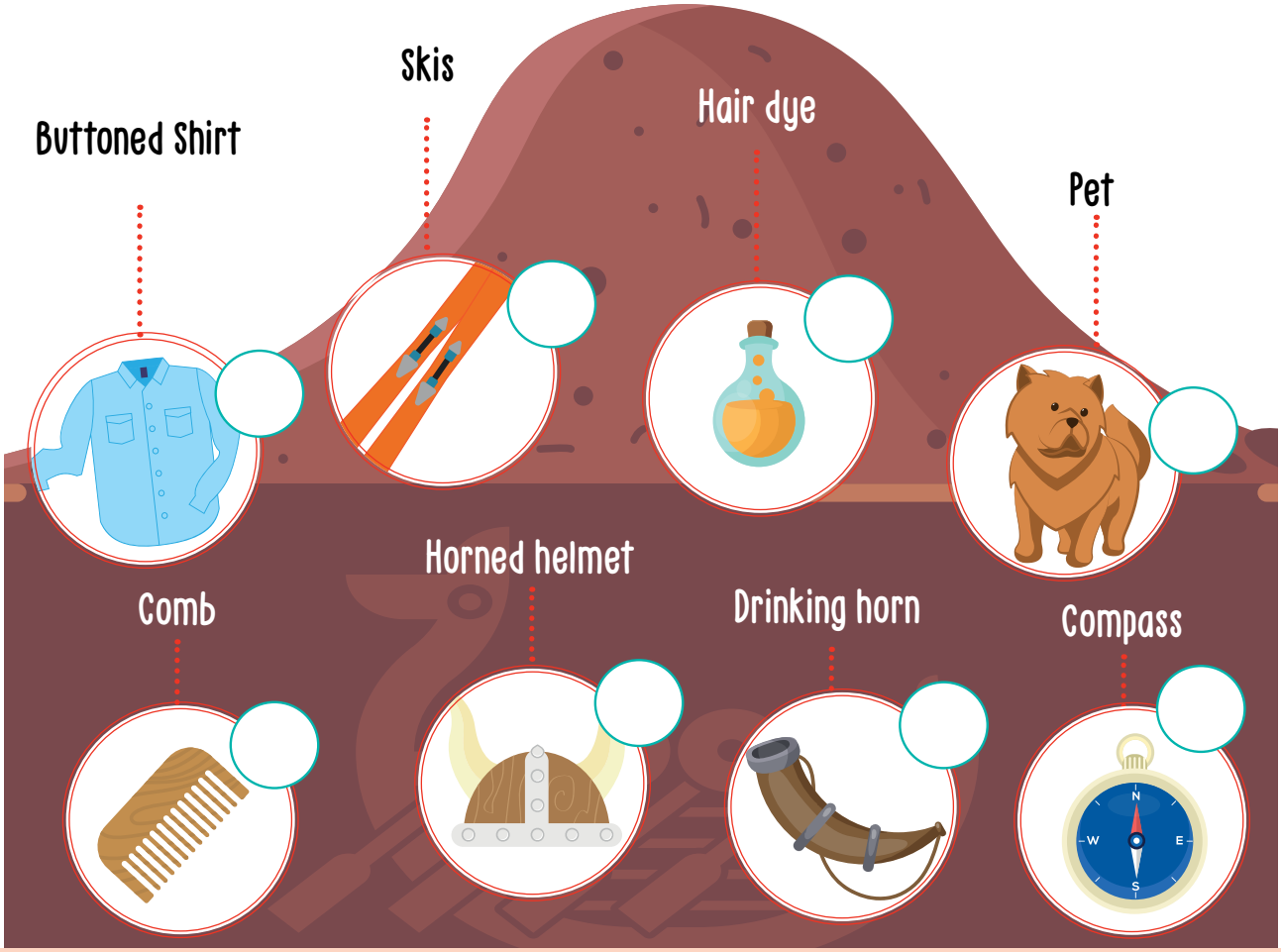
DIG UP THE PAST!

Vikings were often buried with their treasured possessions. Imagine that you have found a Viking grave – but somebody has put in some things that a Viking wouldn't have owned! Can you tick the three things don't belong?



VIKING THINGS EXPLAINED!

PET: Some Vikings were buried with their dogs or horses!
COMB: They liked to keep clean and even had nit combs to keep lice away.
HAIR DYE: They used a chemical called lye to make their hair and beards blond!
DRINKING HORN: Vikings liked to drink out of these!
SKIS: Vikings liked to ski for fun, and also for practical reasons!

DID YOU KNOW? In real life, Vikings never wore horned helmets! Artists began drawing horned helmets on Vikings in the 19th century because they thought they looked cool.

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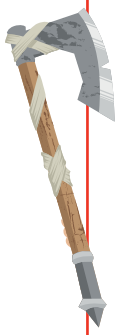
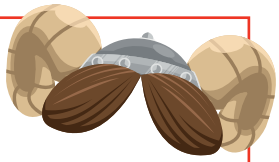
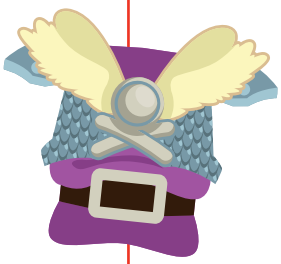
Answers: . Vikings didn't have horned helmets, buttoned shirts (because they hadn't invented buttons) or compasses, which weren't invented yet.

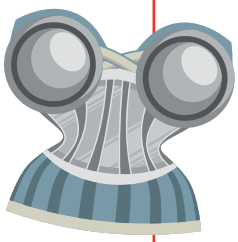


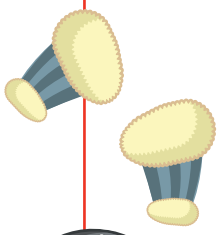


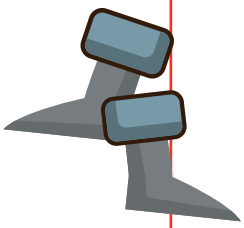
IF I WAS A VIKING...

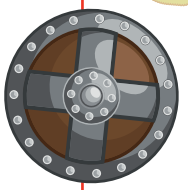
Imagine that you are a Viking – what would you wear, and what would you carry? Draw a picture of yourself as a Viking, using the clothing and other things on this page for inspiration!











WHAT IS YOUR VIKING NAME?

Vikings had a first name, followed by an epithet (a nickname). For example, there were kings called Harald Fairhair and Harald Bluetooth. One Viking chief was even called Ragnar Hairy-Britches because he wore furry trousers! Come up with your own fun epithet and add it to your name.

MY VIKING NAME IS: _____ _____

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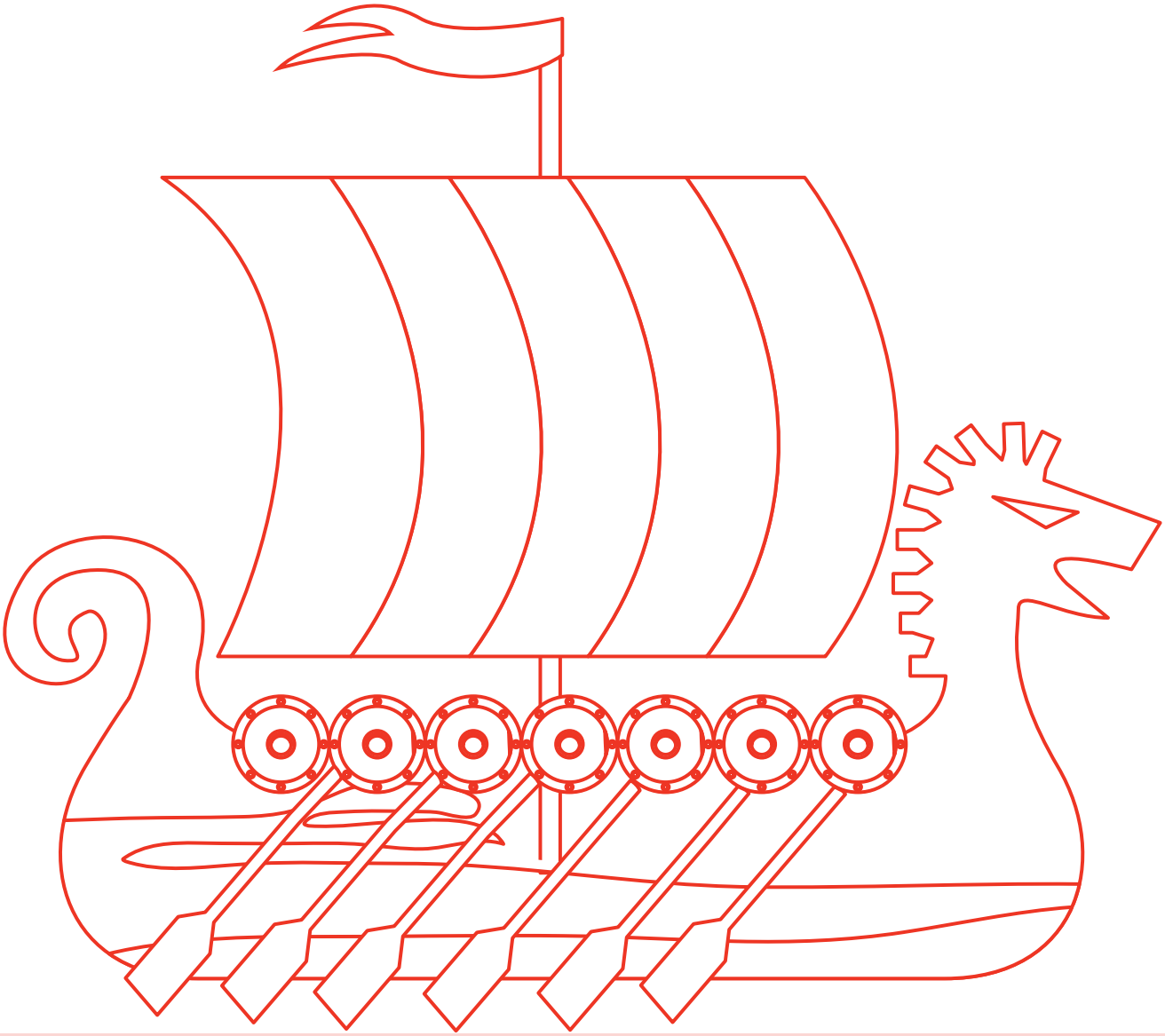
COLOUR IN A VIKING SHIP

The Vikings were famous for their wooden longships, which could sail across the oceans. The biggest ships had dragons' heads on the front, and were called *drakkars*, or 'dragon ships'. Colour in your own Viking vessel!



DID YOU KNOW?

Ships were very important to Vikings, and some great rulers were even buried in them! When a ship was covered with earth, it made a big burial mound. We have learned a lot about the Vikings and their ships by digging up these mounds and examining the treasures within...

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THE VIKING DIET

Scandinavia was a wild and rugged land in Viking times. Vikings farmed, fished, hunted and gathered any food they could find, and often preserved it to eat during the long, cold winters. Pickled and smoked foods are still very popular in Scandinavia!

NUTS AND BERRIES

There were tasty treats in the forest if you knew where to look! Raspberries, bilberries, plums, wild apples, hazelnuts and walnuts were favourites.

MEAT AND FISH

Vikings kept cows, pigs and chickens for their meat. Chickens laid eggs, and cows gave milk that could be made into butter and cheese. Wild animals like deer were hunted for meat, and of course fish were caught from the sea. Vikings were experts at drying, smoking, salting or pickling fish so it would last longer. Fish preserved with a chemical called lye turned into stinky, jellylike lutefisk!

MEAD AND BEER

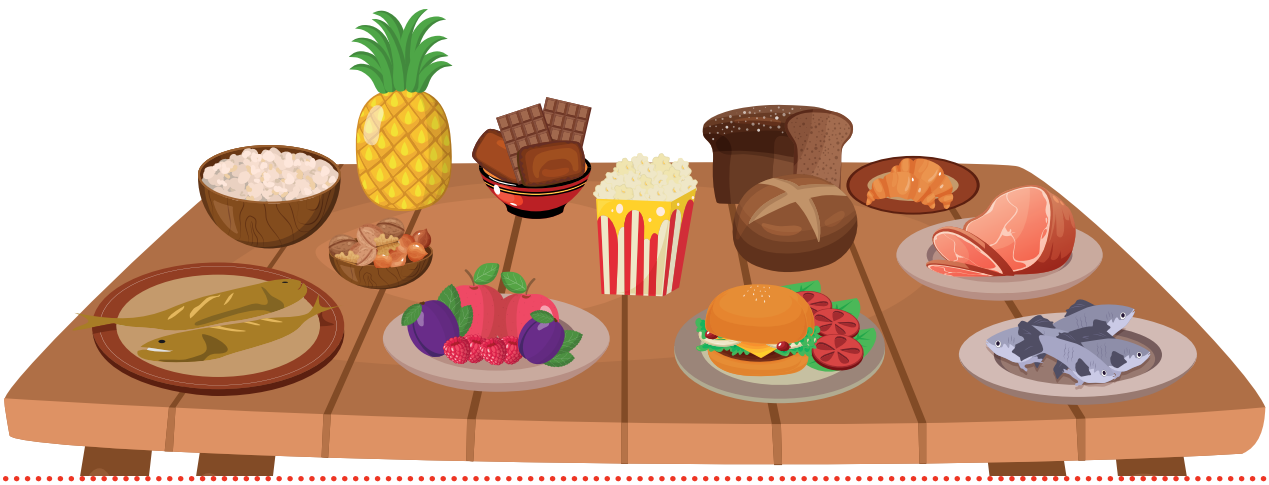
Vikings used barley to brew beer, and also made a drink called mead from honey and spices. These were safer to drink than water in medieval times!

BREAD AND GRAINS

Vikings ate a lot of bread, but Scandinavia was too cold to grow much wheat. That's why they grew lots of rye and barley, as well as oats and millet. Dark rye bread was the most common bread for most people. Barley, oats or buckwheat was used to make a kind of porridge that was healthy and filling!

A FEAST FIT FOR A VIKING!

Now you know what they ate in those times, can you circle the dishes that would NOT have been part of a Viking meal? Why were these foods not part of their diet?



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Answers: . A Feast Fit for a Viking! – Vikings didn't have popcorn, chocolate or pineapples, because these came from the Americas and Vikings never encountered them. Hamburgers were invented hundreds of years after the Viking age.