

Learning Plan for 15<sup>th</sup> October

In the morning we will be completing a reading comprehension paper as an assessment. The papers are on the website and children should aim to complete the three star paper without adult help. If these could be brought back to school when the children return, this would be helpful.

We will be swimming after playtime.

In the afternoon, we will be completing a history lesson on why the Vikings settled in this country. Here is the information we will be looking at and the links to the videos.

## The Viking Settlers

Why did they decide to stay, and how did they live?

### Lesson 5



Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0QnGvI3rJo>

## What were Viking villages like?

The Vikings and their families mostly lived in small villages that were near the coast.

Despite their reputation as brave warriors and terrifying raiders, the Vikings spent most of their time **farming and fishing**.

The Vikings grew wheat to make bread and beer, and raised animals such as sheep, pigs and cattle. The seas were very important for Viking life and **fishing** provided a big part of the Viking diet.

Living near the sea had other benefits. The Vikings were excellent sailors and it was easier for them to travel by boat than by land. This was very important as the Vikings also often had to travel great distances to trade.



A recreation of what a Viking longhouse would have looked like

## What was it like in a Viking home?

In countries like Norway, Viking homes were usually built from wood.

They had **thick walls made from wood and mud** and the **roofs were layered with thick turfs of grass** or thatched with branches and reeds.

In Scotland, the houses were often built from stone because there were less trees and wood was harder to come by.

The common name for Viking homes was **longhouses** as they were rectangular in shape. Most homes would be quite small as only the wealthy could afford big homes.

There were no toilets or running water and in the winter Viking families shared



A modern recreation of what the inside of a Viking house would look like

## What was life like?

Life in Viking villages was shaped by the seasons and everyone had a role to play making sure there was enough food to eat.

During the summer months, male Vikings would form **raiding parties** and sail across the sea to raid settlements, or monasteries such as **Iona** and **Lindisfarne** to carry off all the gold and treasure they could get their hands on.

While the men were raiding, it was the women and children who looked after the farming.

Crops had to be planted, watered, and harvested, animals had to be looked after before they were killed and butchered, and fish had to be smoked or salted to preserve them so they had food to eat over the winter.



A favourite Viking delicacy was rotten shark meat. Shark flesh was left to dry and go off for four months to create a stinky dish called hákarl.

## The Viking Settlers

### What was it like to be a woman in Viking times?

1. They could carry weapons.
2. Her first marriage was arranged (but she could pick her next husband.)
3. They travelled on Viking ships.
4. The lady was in charge of the household finances.
5. She had more freedom and power than women in the rest of Europe during the Viking age.
6. It was shameful for a man to harm a Viking woman.
7. Women were sometimes buried with keys as a symbol of their status in the home.
8. They did the jobs of men while they were away raiding.
9. A Viking woman could divorce her husband.
10. Viking women could be merchants.

Watch this video <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z939mp3/articles/zj67qp3>

Create a diagram like the one below and use the information to fill it in

