

# Keyword Search

## The Vikings – An Introduction

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following article and write down keywords that you think would help you do more research online through Google, EBSCO, or Wikipedia.

### Introduction

Internet link: for a link to a Web site where you can look at a timeline of Viking history, go to [www.usborne-quicklinks.com](http://www.usborne-quicklinks.com)

Toward the end of the 8th century, bands of ferocious Scandinavian sea raiders, known as Vikings, began to terrorize the people of Europe. *The Viking World* studies the Vikings, describing their homes, their lives, their customs and beliefs. It explores the places they plundered and colonized, and the civilizations they came into contact with.

This book examines the period known as the Viking Age, which started in about 790 and ended in about 1100. It began with the Vikings' first raids in Europe, and came to a close when their aggressive military expeditions ended and the people of Scandinavia settled down to a more peaceful way of life.

### How we know about the Vikings

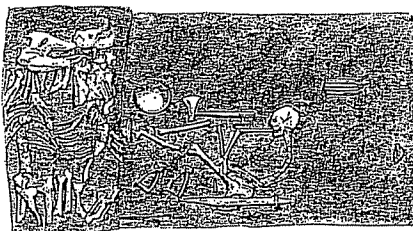
Every year archaeologists make exciting discoveries which add to our knowledge of the Vikings. The information we have is gathered from a variety of sources.

By studying the remains of Viking trading towns, houses and craftsmen's workshops, we can find out about their building methods and the tools they used.

In Viking culture it was customary to bury people with their personal possessions. Weapons, furniture, jewels and clothing have been found in graves. These objects can tell us about the Vikings' daily lives. Objects which come from foreign lands show us

the routes of Viking travels and where they raided and traded.

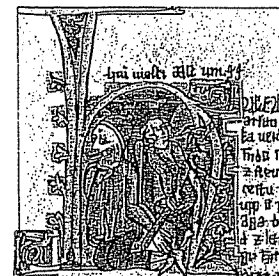
*This picture shows the remains of a Viking surrounded by his grave goods.*



Archaeological finds have provided valuable information about how Viking ships were built and sailed. Well preserved ships have been found in burial mounds and five ships were excavated in Denmark, where they had been sunk to block a narrow fjord.

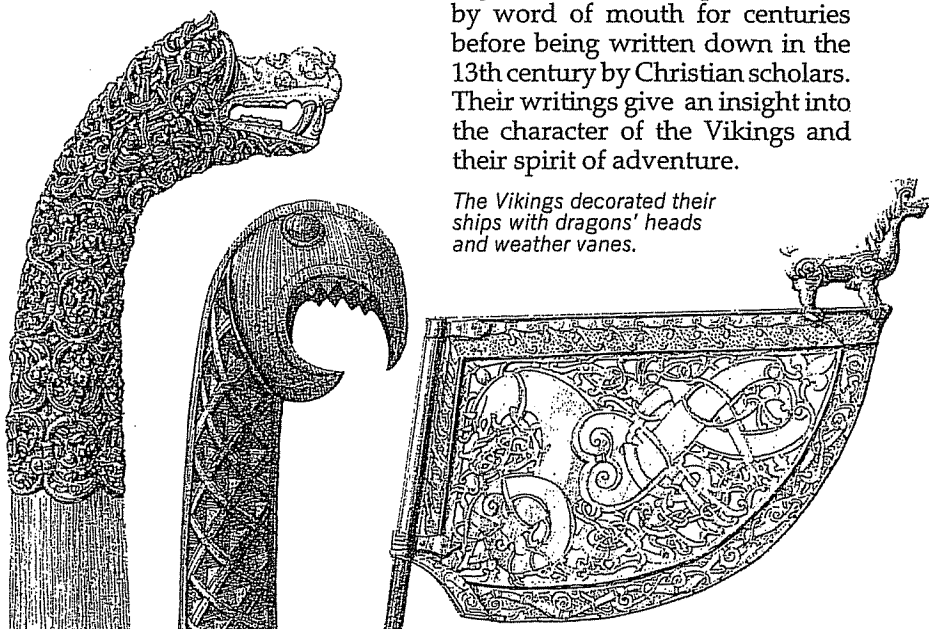
Much of our information about the Vikings comes from accounts written by people who came into contact with them. Some were the victims of Viking raids; others were Arabs or Christians, who did not worship the Vikings' gods. The authors of these accounts are likely, therefore, to have been biased against the men from the north.

*A 13th century manuscript showing a Viking king*



The Vikings told tales of their exploits. A few stories, called sagas, have survived, passed down by word of mouth for centuries before being written down in the 13th century by Christian scholars. Their writings give an insight into the character of the Vikings and their spirit of adventure.

*The Vikings decorated their ships with dragons' heads and weather vanes.*



KEYWORDS:

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Now that you have a basic knowledge of the Vikings, let's see what research you can do with your keywords. Log on to a computer to answer the following questions.

1. Go to Google and type in The Vikings as your search terms.  
How many results did you get? (At the top of the search results in grey)

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What are your top 4 results about?

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Would those results be helpful for your research project? Are they reliable resources of information?

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2. Now use some of your keywords to refine your search results.  
Don't use more than 3-5 words in your search terms and don't write a sentence.  
How many results did you get this time? (At the top of the search results in grey)

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What are your top 4 results about?

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Would those results be helpful for your research project? Are they reliable resources of information?

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3. Using your keywords, find 10 facts that build on your knowledge of Vikings beyond the short article that you read.

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