

Name _____

Date _____



Vikings

Raiding & Exploring During the Viking Age

It's the 8th century, and here we are just living our lives in the 8th century. Pretty cool. When all of sudden these ships appear on the horizon, and what's that?!

We're the Norse from the North, from the land of the fjords,
Where it's cold and mountainous and farming is a chore.
How are we going to get the goods that we cannot afford?
Let's pillage other villages out on a distant shore.
We build longships with oars—warriors, "All aboard!"
Sail across the North Sea, let's see, there's a port.
Grab your horse! Grab your torch! We've got shields! We've got swords!
Christians have one god, we believe in more.
We've got Odin with his beard and the god of thunder, Thor.
Norse religion celebrates battle heroes and the war.
If we die, we'll be in Valhalla eating a feast
In heaven, sipping from a horn served by a valkyrie.
We start out raiding, not invading, just some hit-and-run attacks.
Surprise them, and then steal their silver, they get none of that.
That's 793, that was easy, so let's run it back.
Viking raids up and down the map, yeah, we're coming back!
Paris isn't on the sea, but it's rich,
Good thing we have a secret weapon with our longships!
We made them wide but not deep, so they'll float in the sea
Or in little shallow rivers where your ships cannot be.
So, we sail down the Seine, attacking Paris for days.
They started paying us ransom just to sail away,
And ay, that's how us Vikings got paid

And conquered the seas of the Viking Age!

That's the war cry!

By the hammer of Thor right!

It's the Viking Age,

From Scandinavia sailing on a Viking raid.

(x2)

So, we would embark from Denmark and Norway

And Sweden, that's Scandinavia, all day.

With sea mastery, we brought a lot of trade

To Europe and the Middle East: goods and slaves.

We raided, but sometimes we would lay down roots

And settle down in the places we had sailed to.

The Great Viking Army conquered much of England.

The French gave us Normandy so we'd stop pillaging.

Time as a Viking was exciting

When we discovered and then colonized Iceland.

When Erik the Red found a land of snow,

He named it Greenland, hoping it would attract some folks.

Erik's son Leif Erikson sailed to North America,

500 years before Columbus got the credit for.

We explored Canada but didn't stay,

And soon the sun set on the Viking Age.

"What brought an end to the Viking raids and sea dominance of the 11th century? European kings built larger armies to defend their land, but most importantly, the Viking people converted to Christianity, which made them less likely to raid other Christians. But their legacy lives on. The English language is full of Norse words thanks to the Vikings."

"Thank you, Vikings."