

Who Were the Vikings?

Week 13 • Monday • Explorers of the North

This Week's Goals

This week you will learn:

- Who the Vikings were and where they lived
- How their amazing longships worked
- How Vikings found their way across the sea
- The Viking words and ideas we still use today

Reading Time

Over a thousand years ago, in the cold lands of the north called **Scandinavia**, lived the **Vikings**. Today those lands are the countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

The Vikings were farmers, traders, and amazing sailors. Their homeland had long winters and rocky soil, so many Vikings sailed away to trade, explore, and sometimes raid other lands.

Vikings were some of the greatest **explorers** the world has ever seen. They sailed to England, France, and Russia. They even crossed the huge Atlantic Ocean and reached North America — about 500 years before Columbus! This week, we will sail with the Vikings.

Reading Questions

1. Where did the Vikings come from?

2. Name two jobs Vikings had besides sailing.

3. Why did many Vikings sail away from home?

4. What big ocean did the Vikings cross?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

Viking

Scandinavia

explorer

trade

raid

sailor

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ Vikings came from the warm lands of the south.
- ☐ Norway, Sweden, and Denmark are in Scandinavia.
- ☐ Vikings were farmers and traders as well as sailors.
- ☐ Vikings never left their homeland.
- ☐ Vikings reached North America before Columbus.
- ☐ Viking lands had long, cold winters.

Draw a Viking

Draw a Viking sailor standing by the sea in the cold north. Add mountains, snow, and a ship in the water.



Fill in the Blanks

Vikings

Scandinavia

explorers

ocean

trade

winters

1. The _____ lived in the cold north over a thousand years ago.
2. Their homeland was called _____.
3. Viking lands had long, cold _____.
4. Many Vikings sailed away to _____ and explore.
5. Vikings were great _____ who found new lands.
6. They crossed the Atlantic _____ to reach North America.

Think About It

1. Would you have sailed away with the Vikings or stayed home to farm? Why?

2. What would be the scariest part of sailing across a huge ocean long ago?

Coming Up Next

Tomorrow we will climb aboard a Viking longship and find out how these amazing boats could sail across oceans AND up shallow rivers!