

Viking Longships

Week 13 • Tuesday • The Fastest Ships of Their Time

Reading Time

The Vikings' secret weapon was not a sword — it was a ship! The **longship** was long, narrow, and fast. It had a big square **sail** to catch the wind and rows of **oars** so sailors could row when the wind stopped.

The front of the ship, called the **prow**, was often carved like a dragon's head to scare away enemies and sea monsters!

Here is the clever part: longships could sail on the deep, stormy ocean, but they could also float in very shallow water. That meant Vikings could sail right up rivers and land on beaches. No other ships of that time could do both. That is how the Vikings traveled so far!

Reading Questions

1. What two things moved the longship through the water?

2. What was carved on the prow of many longships?

3. What made longships different from other ships of their time?

4. Why was a dragon head carved on the front?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

longship

sail

oars

prow

shallow

voyage

Longship Parts and Jobs

Match each part to its job. Write the letter: A (catches wind), B (scares enemies), C (rows the ship), D (steers the ship).

Part	Job (A, B, C, or D)
Square sail	
Dragon prow	
Oars	
Rudder	

True or False

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

- ☐ Longships were slow and heavy.
- ☐ A longship had both a sail and oars.
- ☐ Longships could sail in shallow rivers.
- ☐ The prow is the back of the ship.
- ☐ Vikings could land their ships right on beaches.
- ☐ The dragon head was meant to scare enemies.

Draw a Longship

Draw a Viking longship. Include the dragon prow, the big square sail, oars, and shields along the side.



Fill in the Blanks

longship sail oars prow shallow rivers

1. The Viking ship was called a _____.
2. The square _____ caught the wind.
3. Sailors pulled the _____ when there was no wind.
4. The dragon head was carved on the _____.
5. Longships could float in _____ water.
6. That let Vikings sail up _____ and land on beaches.

Think About It

1. Longships were good at TWO things: deep oceans and shallow rivers. What is something that is useful because it can do two jobs?

2. If you had a longship, where would you sail first?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
The parts of a longship	YES / NOT YET
Why longships were special	YES / NOT YET
How Vikings traveled so far	YES / NOT YET