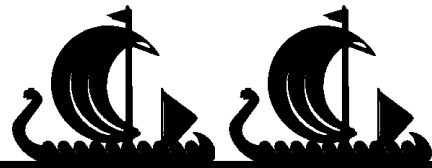


Yikes! Vikings!



Springboard:

Students should study the “Viking Timeline” and answer the question.
(Vikings were expert sailors and fierce fighters. They spent much time exploring, fighting, and establishing settlements and kingdoms.)

Objective: The student will be able to describe the Vikings’ role in medieval European history.

Materials: Viking Timeline (Springboard handouts or transparency and S.S.L. page 38)
“From the Fury of the Northmen...” (transparency)
Viking Vignettes (handouts or S.S.L. page 43)

Terms to know: **Scandinavia** – cultural and historic northern European region (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark; sometimes Finland and Iceland are included)

Procedure:

- After discussing the Springboard, explain that in this lesson students will learn about the role the Vikings played in medieval Europe.
- Display the “From the Fury of the Northmen...” transparency and read the primary sources together. Have students speculate as to the effect the Viking raids had on Europeans of the time. *(Europeans reacted with fear and panic. You could note comparisons between Europeans being fearful of swift, unexpected, and fierce Viking attacks with modern fears about terrorism.)* Then explain that the quotations on the transparency are from real primary sources, but in this lesson students will be making up similar “quotations.”
- Hand out copies of “Viking Vignettes (*pronounced Vin yets'*)” and review the instructions. Students should then work individually, in pairs, or small groups to research three topics of interest about the Vikings: their attacks, ships, weapons, culture, exploration, settlements, family roles, etc. They should then compose “quotations,” one about each of the three topics they examine. Explain that the “quotations” can be written by victims or Vikings, but the perspective of each should reflect the views its source would have expressed. Also emphasize that the “quotations” need not be long. A sentence or short paragraph for each topic is sufficient.
- Have students share their vignettes and discuss.
- **EXTENSION:** Have students explore the seas on a Viking voyage and tour a cyber museum about the Vikings at the Smithsonian Institute website @ www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/start.html.





VIKING timeline



- 789 - Vikings begin attacks in Europe.
- 793 - Lindisfarne Monastery in England pillaged by Vikings.
- 840 - Viking settlers found city of Dublin, Ireland.
- 860 - Vikings attack Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey); Vikings discover Iceland.
- 862 - Kingdom of Novgorod, Russia founded by the Viking, Ulrich.
- 866 - Vikings establish kingdom in York, England.
- 870 - Vikings establish settlements in Iceland.
- 871 - Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex; stops Vikings' advance in England.
- 879 - Viking Rurik establishes Kiev as center of his Russian kingdom.
- 886 - Alfred signs treaty to divide England with the Danes.
- 900 - Series of Viking raids along Mediterranean coast begin.
- 911 - Viking chief Rollo granted land by the Franks and establishes Kingdom of Normandy in France.
- 941 - Vikings attack Constantinople again.
- 956 - Eric Bloodaxe, last Viking king of York, dies.
- 981 - Viking leader Erik the Red discovers Greenland.
- 991 - Æthelred II bribes Vikings to stop attacks on England.
- 995 - Olav I conquers Norway; proclaims it a Christian kingdom.
- 1000 - Christianity reaches Greenland and Iceland; Leif Eriksson, son of Erik the Red, explores North American coast; Olav I dies; Norway ruled by the Danes.
- 1002 - Irishman Brian Boru defeats Vikings to become king of Ireland.
- 1009 - Vikings attack London; destroy London Bridge and sail up Thames River.
- 1010 - Viking explorer Thorfinn Karlsefni establishes unsuccessful settlement in North America.
- 1013 - Danes conquer England; Æthelred flees to Normandy.
- 1015 - Vikings abandon Vinland settlement on the North American coast.
- 1016 - Olav II regains Norway from the Danes.
- 1016 - Danes under Knut rule England.
- 1024 - Christianity becomes official religion of Vikings.
- 1028 - Knut, king of England and Denmark, conquers Norway.
- 1042 - Edward the Confessor rules England with the support of Danes.
- 1050 - City of Oslo founded in Norway.
- 1066 - Harold Godwinson, king of England, defeats Harald Hardrada, king of Norway, at Battle of Stamford Bridge
- 1066 - William Duke of Normandy defeats Saxon King Harold at Battle of Hastings.

**WRITE ONE OR TWO SENTENCES
TO SUMMARIZE THE VIKINGS'
INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.**

"FROM THE FURY OF THE NORTHMEN, Oh LORD, DELIVER US!"

"Lo, it is nearly 350 years that we and our fathers have inhabited this most lovely land (*in Southern England*), and never before has such terror appeared in Britain as we have now suffered from a pagan race, nor was it thought that such an inroad from the sea could be made. Behold the church of St Cuthbert spattered with the blood of the priests of God, despoiled of all its ornaments; a place more venerable than all in Britain is given as a prey to pagan peoples..."

From a letter by Alcuin (8th century scholar) to Æthelred, king of Northumbria

"When I was with you, the closeness of your love would give me great joy... Now that I am away from you, the distress of your suffering fills me daily with deep grief. When heathens desecrated God's sanctuaries and poured the blood of saints within the compass of the altar, destroyed the house of our hope, (*the Vikings*) trampled the bodies of saints in God's temple like animal dung in the street... "It was unthinkable that such a holy place should suffer attack from foreign heathens... The work of angels were looted and taken home by Vikings. ... What security is there for the churches of Britain if St. Cuthbert with so great a throng of saints will not defend his own?"

From a letter by Alcuin to Higbald, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 8th century

"The Northmen with a hundred ships entered the Seine on the twentieth of March and, after ravaging first one bank and then the other, came without meeting any resistance to Paris. Charles (*the Bald*) resolved to hold out against them; but seeing the impossibility of gaining a victory, he made with them a certain agreement and by a gift of 7,000 livres (*coins*) he bought them off from advancing farther and persuaded them (*to leave*). The king of the Northmen then advanced with six hundred vessels along the course of the River Elbe to attack Louis of Germany."

From The Annals of St. Bertin on the Northmen in the land of the Franks, 9th century

"The barbarians renewed the peace, with a fraudulent intention, and more hostages than were demanded were given, for they promised to withdraw their forces from the territories... After ravaging the kingdom of Mercia, they drove out all the freemen; and after a changeable course they erected their huts at the town of Gloucester. Therefore, in the course of this year, this vile rabble broke their treaty with the West Angles, although it had been ratified by a firm oath; and they took up their winter quarters at Chippenham, but their cavalry rode over the necks of many of the people, so that the inhabitants had no place of safety from their tyranny..."

From The Chronicle of Ethelwerd, written by a descendant of the brother of King Alfred the Great, 10th century

VIKING VIGNETTES



A vignette is short piece of writing (or music, acting, etc.) describing the characteristics of something or someone. Research **THREE** topics from the lesson or other Viking-related subject of interest, and make up a "quotation" that might have been written at the time about each. Be sure to include information about each quote's "source" or "author."

TOPIC: _____

"QUOTATION": _____

"SOURCE" _____

TOPIC: _____

"QUOTATION": _____

"SOURCE" _____

TOPIC: _____

"QUOTATION": _____

"SOURCE" _____