



Purpose: To provide the reader with information about a particular topic.

THE VIKINGS

Would you like to learn about the Vikings? Well read on and discover everything you need to know and more.



Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were fierce warriors from Scandinavia and were most powerful in the years 790– 1100CE. They were master ship-builders and their longboats voyaged all the way round Europe and even to the Americas. Some of the voyages were violent raids where gangs of warriors would attack towns and villages along the coast. During raids, they would kill anyone who fought them and carry off treasures and slaves. Other voyages were peaceful as they searched for new lands to trade with and live in.

Did you know that it's actually a myth that Vikings wore horned helmets?



What jobs did they do?

Many Vikings were skilled farmers: they grew oats, barley and wheat. They ground the grain to make flour, porridge and ale; they planted vegetables, and kept animals like cows, sheep, pigs and chickens. Vikings were accomplished at shaping things from wood and craft workers used a machine called a loathe to shape bowls and cups. Other jobs included jewellers who made rings and brooches from precious metals and blacksmiths who turned red-hot iron into tools, knives and swords.

What were Viking homes like?

A Viking house was called a longhouse and had just one room for all the family to share (including with their animals!) They were built from wood or stone and had a thatched or turf roof on top. There was no bathroom: Vikings washed themselves in a wooden bucket or beside a stream. The toilet wasn't very glamorous either and they used a big hole in the ground outside.



Key features



Structural:

- Include a title to tell the reader what it is about
- Use an introduction to draw the reader in
- Include subheadings to organise the information

Language:

- Technical vocabulary: *warriors, voyage, raid*
- Third person: *They* were master builders
- Expanded noun phrases: *Other voyages* were *peaceful*.



Writer's toolbox

Parenthesis:

Parenthesis gives the reader extra information as an aside:

Longhouses had just one room for all the family to share (including with their animals!)

Expanded noun phrases:

Use expanded noun phrases to describe some aspects of Viking life:

*Many Vikings were **skilled** farmers.*

Punctuation:

Remember to use question marks and exclamation marks

Remember to use commas in a list and after fronted adverbials

Vocabulary:

Fierce warriors	Voyage
Raids	Trade
Skilled	Precious
Thatched	Accomplished

Recommended reads

