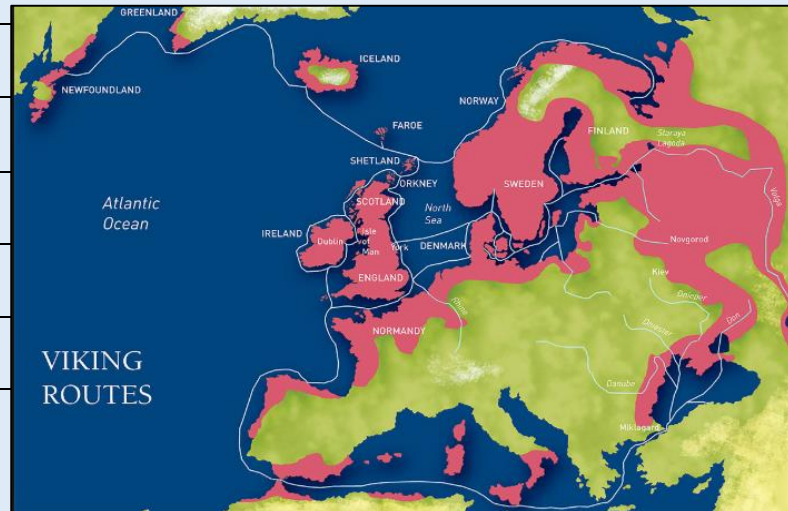


Diagram – Map of Viking Routes

Map of Viking Routes

The Vikings came from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The time between 787AD and 1050AD is known as the time of the Vikings. Initially, they settled in northern Scotland and eastern England, also establishing the city of Dublin in Ireland. Around 1000AD, some Vikings settled in North America, but did not stay long. They also travelled to southern Spain and Russia, and traded as far as Turkey.



Movement - migration and invasion

Life in the Viking Times

Scandinavia		The Vikings descended from all over Scandinavia (now Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark). The terrain of Scandinavia was not great for farming, so Vikings left their homeland in search of more fertile lands.	Where? Northern Europe	Key Fact: The Vikings were also known by the name 'Norsemen.'
Viking Longships		The Vikings had advanced sailing and navigational skills for the time. They were aided by their longboats, which were long, narrow wooden vessels. These could be sailed in both deep and shallow water.	When? The longship first appeared in the 9 th Century	Key Fact: The methods used in building longships are still used today!
Norse Runes		The Vikings spoke in a language called Norse, and had their own alphabet system (futhark) made up of symbols called Runes. The original futhark had 24 letters, although this was later expanded. Runes were regarded as sacred.	How? Vikings would scribe on wood, bone and stone.	Key Fact: The word 'futhark' comes from the first 6 letters of the Viking alphabet.
Danelaw		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	Where? North and East England	Key Fact: The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
Jorvik		The Vikings invaded York and renamed it Jorvik. Here, a settlement was formed, which reigned prosperously for over 100 years, until Eric Bloodaxe was expelled in 954 AD.	Where? York, UK	Key Fact: Many streets in York end in 'gate', the Viking word for 'street.'
Viking Homes		Vikings lived in long rectangular houses made with upright timbers. They used woven sticks, covered with mud, to keep out the rain. They were often one room, with a central fire.	How? Smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.	Key Fact: Animals and people often lived at different ends of the same building.
Weapons		According to custom, Vikings were permitted (and encouraged) to carry a weapon at all times. Weapons included bow and arrows, spears, knives, swords, axes and slings.	How? Bow and arrows were made from yew, ash, or elm.	Key Fact: Grand, well-finished weapons were seen as a sign of wealth and prestige amongst Vikings.
Life for Children		In old Norse society, formal schooling for children did not exist. Boys worked on farms from a young age, and girls contributed to housework. Many died young.	What? Viking children played with wooden toys.	Key Fact: Some Vikings who could not support their babies left them out to die.
Food		Vikings ate whatever food they could grow, hunt, or make, for example leeks, nuts, berries, bread, porridge, spinach, deer, boar, trout, chicken, eggs, sheep and pigs.	How? Vikings grew grains to make a number of foods.	Key Fact: Vikings also ate honey from bees.
Clothes		The Vikings were skillful weavers, and women and children often made clothes for their families. They could also use natural dyes from plants to give colour. Men wore tunics and trousers, whilst women wore long dresses.	How? Most clothes were made from wool and animal skins	Key Fact: Vikings fastened their clothes with belts and brooches.

Famous Viking Leaders and Explorers



Erik the Red (950AD-1003AD)

Erik Thorvaldsson, known as Erik the Red, was a Norse explorer, famed for having founded the first settlement in Greenland. Before this, he was exiled from Iceland (around 980), reportedly for a number of violent conflicts and murders. Erik's nickname was reportedly coined as a result of his dark, flowing red hair and beard, in conjunction with his volatile temperament. Erik eventually returned to Iceland, in 986, forming a colony.

Leif Erikson (970AD-1020AD)

Leif Erikson was a Norse explorer from Iceland. The son of Erik the Red, Leif was the first European known to have set foot on continental America – hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus. He reportedly established a settlement at 'Vinland', what is now the northern tip of Newfoundland in Canada. He was reportedly a wise, strong, and considerate man, in contrast to his father's more brash, brazen personality.



Bjorn Ironside (777BC-859AD)

Bjorn Ironside was another son of the legendary Ragnar Lodbrok, who is believed to have been the King of Sweden at some point in the 9th Century. He led numerous successful raids across Europe, mostly famously in France and across the Mediterranean Sea. He is known for founding the house of Munso, who ruled for many generations in Sweden.

Eric Bloodaxe (885AD-954AD)

Eric Haraldsson, nicknamed Eric Bloodaxe, was a 10th Century Norwegian ruler. He is thought to have had short reigns as both the King of Norway and twice as the King of Northumberland (c.947-948 and 952-954). He is said to have taken part in bloody raids across Europe from the age of just 12, quickly learning that violence was the best way to establish himself as distinguished Viking.



1. The Vikings came from	Start	End
Scotland and Ireland		
Norway and Sweden		
Iceland and Austria		
Russia		

2. Viking ships	Start	End
Were made from steel		
Were powered by oars and sails		
Had a figurehead		
Had one central mast		

3. Viking warriors	Start	End
Carried rectangular shields		
Wore helmets with horns		
Gave their swords names		
Covered themselves in armour		

4. Viking houses	Start	End
Were made from bricks		
Had slate roofs		
Were circular		
Were rectangular		

5. Some Viking warriors were called	Start	End
Crazy men		
Wild wolves		
Berserkers		
insane		

6. Viking women	Start	End
Had to wear trousers		
Had to have short hair		
Had to fight in battles		
Looked after the finances		

7. The Vikings began their attacks on Britain in	Start	End
AD 787		
AD 754		
AD 877		
AD 834		

8. Vikings attacked the monastery on	Start	End
Iona		
Anglesey		
The Isle of Man		
Lindisfarne		

9. Vikings were	Start	End
Vicious warriors and nothing else		
Farmers		
Traders		
Metal workers		