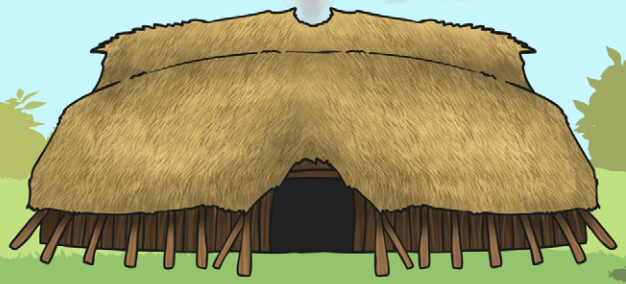

Viking
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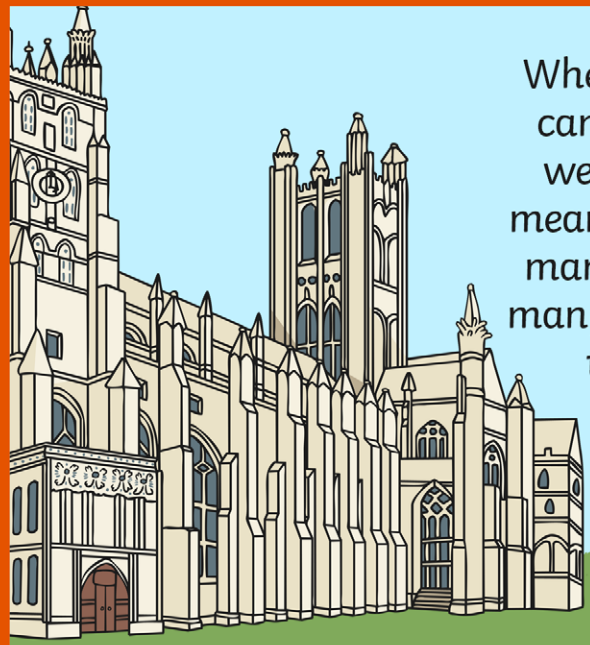

Viking
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Vikings used whatever naturual resources were available to make their houses. Typically this might have been stone or wood for the walls, a thatched (straw) roof and wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) on the inside of the walls to keep in heat.



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When the Vikings first came to Britain they were pagans, which means they worshipped many gods. Over time many Vikings converted to Christianity.

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Most ordinary Vikings wore clothes made from wool or linen. Men wore trousers and tunics which were fastened at the waist with a leather belt. Women wore long sleeved linen dresses under a woollen apron type dress.



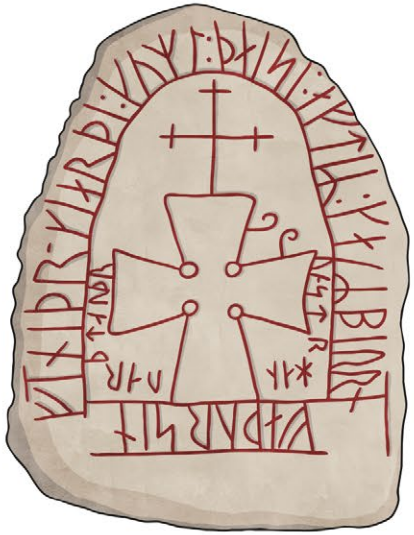
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Viking metal workers made objects from a wide range of different materials, from iron to gold.



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The Vikings wrote using characters from an alphabet called the Futhark.

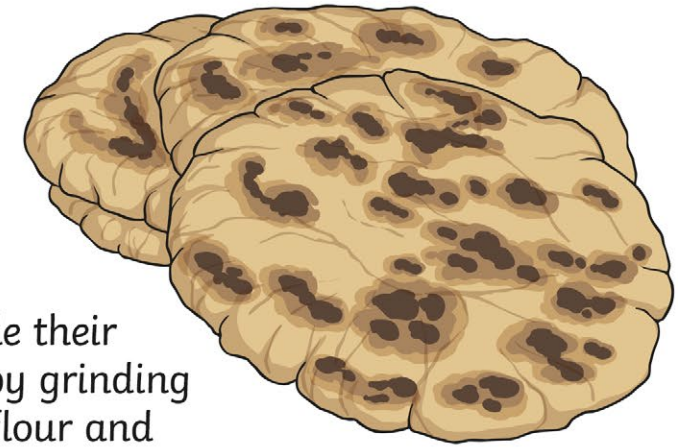


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Jewellery was worn to show off how rich a person was.



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Vikings made their own bread by grinding wheat into flour and then mixing with water to make dough.

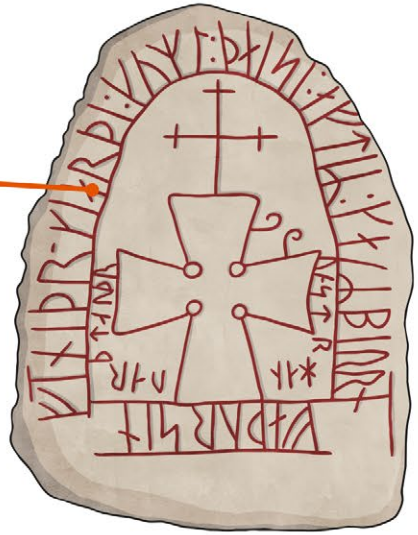
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The Viking's chief god was called Odin and his wife, the goddess of marriage and fertility, was called Frigg.



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The individual letters of the Viking alphabet were called runes. There were 16 runes in total.



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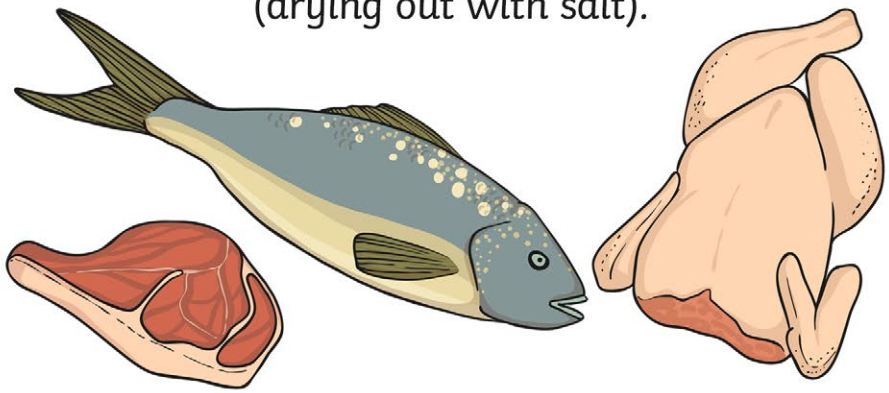
Leather was commonly used by craftsmen to make a wide range of objects such as purses, helmets, saddles for horses and belts.

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Rich Vikings wore clothes made from silk (which the Vikings traded from overseas). They also had furs to wrap around themselves to keep warm.

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The Vikings kept an open fire in their houses to provide heat and a place to cook. They hung meats and fish above the fire to preserve them with the smoke. They also preserved by curing (drying out with salt).



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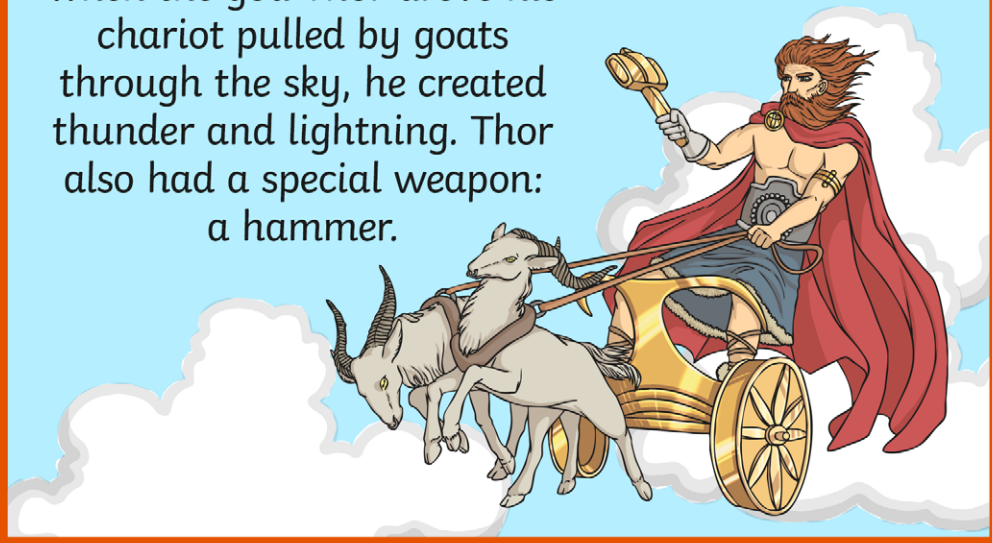
Jewellery makers engraved abstract animal shapes and patterns of interlace (criss-crossing) on brooches and other items, such as handles of swords.





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The Vikings believed that when the god Thor drove his chariot pulled by goats through the sky, he created thunder and lightning. Thor also had a special weapon: a hammer.



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The Vikings used rhyme to tell long stories, known as sagas. Sagas were often told about the adventures of heroic characters fighting dangerous monsters.



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As the Vikings converted to Christianity, their customs and festivals also changed, merging together old and new religions e.g. the pagan festival 'Yuletide' became 'Christmas'.



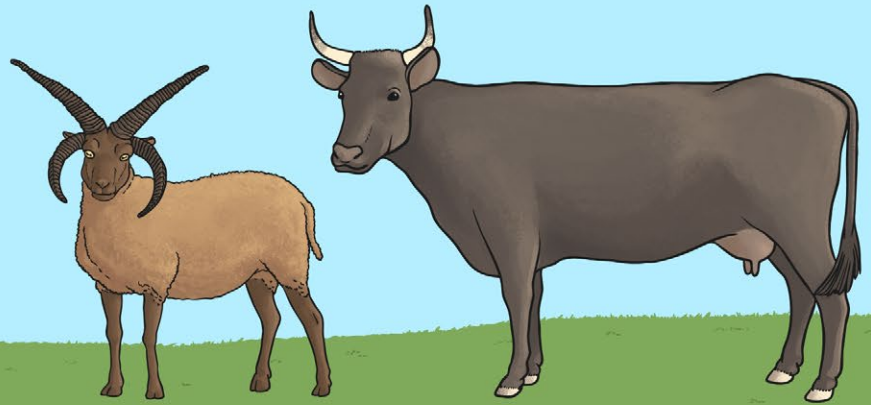
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Excavation of Viking graves has shown the Viking women wore two brooches, one on each side of the chest. These were probably used to hold up their dresses.



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Most Vikings lived on farms where they grew their own crops, such as oats and wheat. They also kept farm animals, such as cows, pigs and sheep which provided milk, wool and meat.



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The Vikings loved to make up riddles by skillfully choosing words to describe a thing or object without saying its name.

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Bone and antler were commonly used by skilled craftsmen to make objects such as combs and handles for knives.



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Viking runes were only made of straight lines as these were much easier to carve into stone and rock.



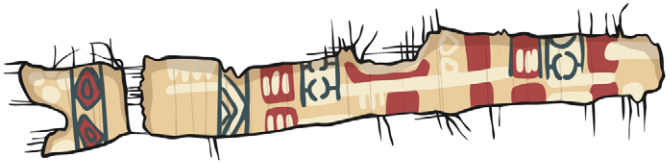
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Vikings ate from wooden bowls or plates using a spiky knife. Forks were not invented until much later in history.



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The Vikings made dyes from plants to create different colours for their clothes e.g. red cloth was made by using a plant called madder.





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Some Vikings drank beer from horns which had been scraped out.



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Fortune tellers were very popular in Viking times. Runes were carved on small stones and the fortune teller would pull these out of a bag one at a time, reading the future as each rune was revealed.

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Woodworkers could carve very intricate patterns into wood. Churches built by the Vikings were often made of wood and featured beautifully carved scenes and interior decor.



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The Vikings believed that Odin lived in Valhalla. This was a type of heaven where warriors who had died bravely in battle would go.

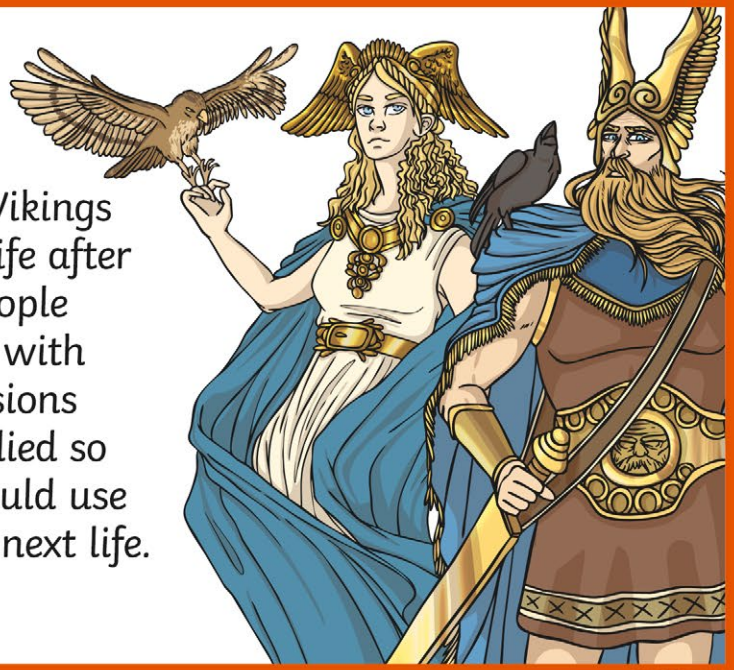
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Jorvik (York) was an important manufacturing centre and many craftsmen worked on the streets producing a range of items. Coppergate (a place in the city of York) means 'street of the cup-maker'.



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The Pagan Vikings believed in life after death, so people were buried with their possessions when they died so that they could use them in the next life.



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Vikings often wore cloaks to keep warm in colder weather. These were made from wool or linen and sometimes leather.

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