

# The Vikings are coming!

## HANDS ON HISTORY THE VIKINGS

The Vikings came from three countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'.

The Viking age in European history was about AD 700 to 1100. During this time many Vikings travelled to other countries, such as Britain and Ireland. Some went to fight and steal treasure. Others settled in new lands as farmers, craftsmen or traders.





# Make a Viking longship

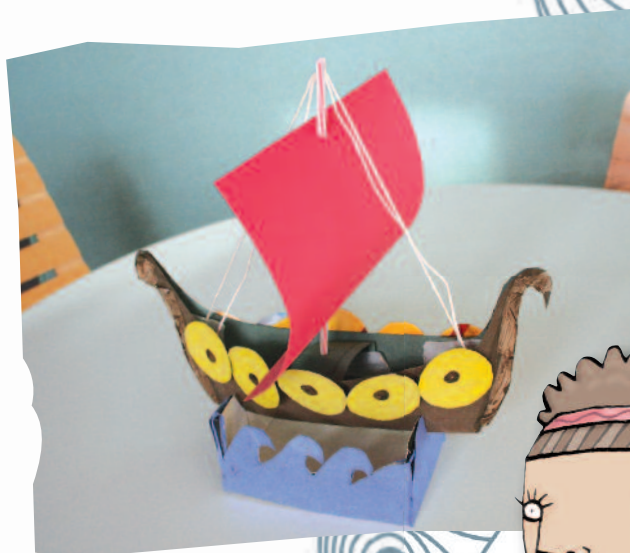


The Vikings built fast ships for raiding and war. These ships were called 'dragon-ships' or 'longships'. Viking longships could sail in shallow water, so they could travel up rivers as well as across the sea. In a raid, a ship could be pulled up on a beach, the Vikings could jump out and start fighting, and then make a quick getaway if they were chased.

A longship had room for between 40 and 60 men and they slept and ate on deck. There was some space below deck for stores, but no cabins. A ship carried everything needed at sea - drinking water, dried meat and fish to eat, tools and weapons, and furs to keep warm.

## You will need

- Card at least 30cm x 20cm in size (large empty cereal boxes work well)
- A small cardboard box (for example an empty teabag box)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Coloured pens or paints
- Sticky tack
- Drinking straws
- Glue
- Fine string or thread (optional)
- Coloured paper (optional)



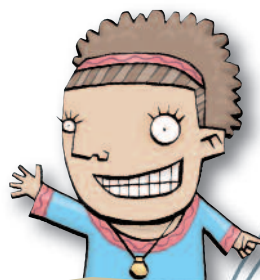
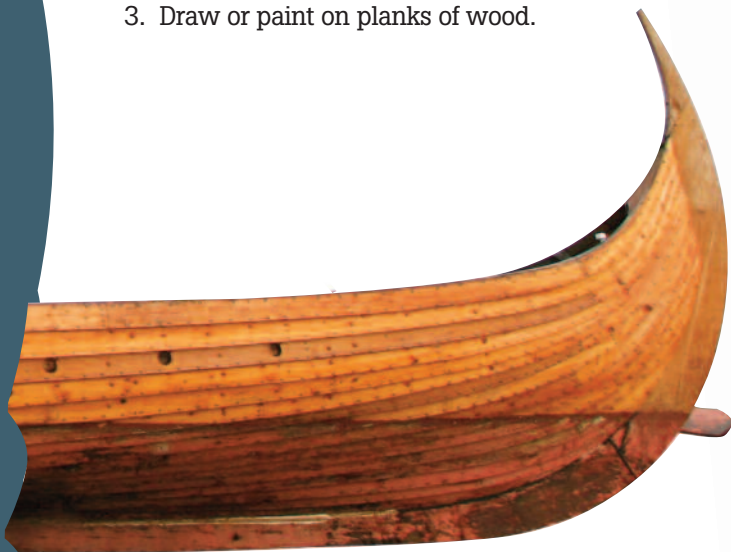
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## Instructions

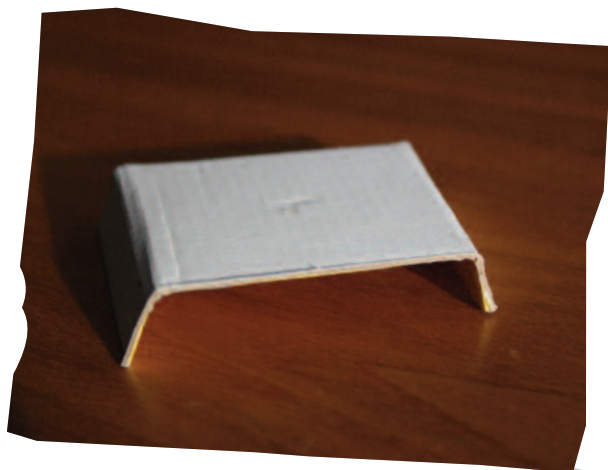
1. Cut out the hull template on page 6. Use it as a stencil by drawing around the shape onto your card.
2. Fold the shape in half and stick the two ends together to create the hull of your ship. Use masking tape so that you can paint over it later.
3. Draw or paint on planks of wood.



### Mona's top fact

The hull, or frame, of a Viking ship was 'clinker-built' meaning it was made from overlapping planks of wood. This made them light, so they were fast, and also strong, so they could survive the rough seas.

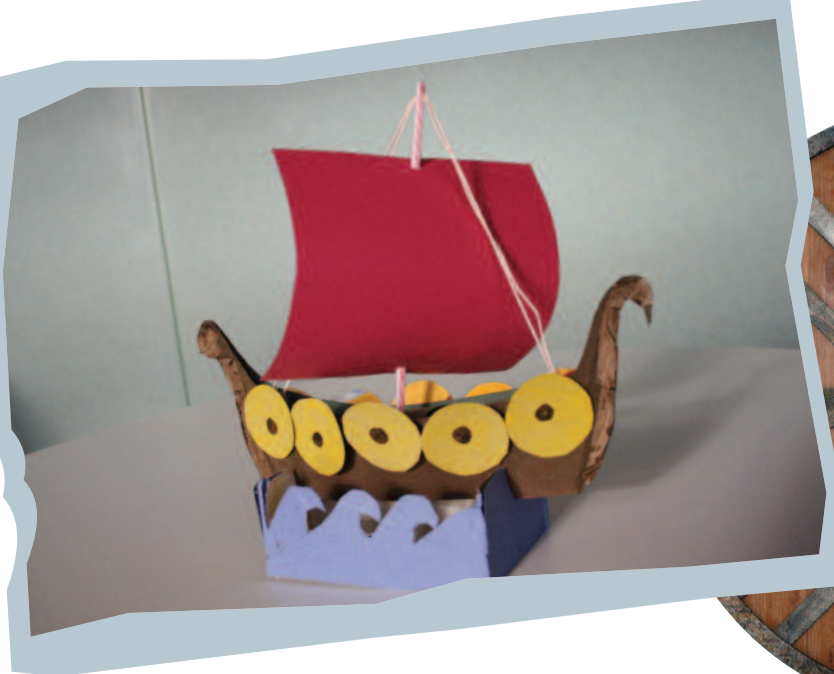
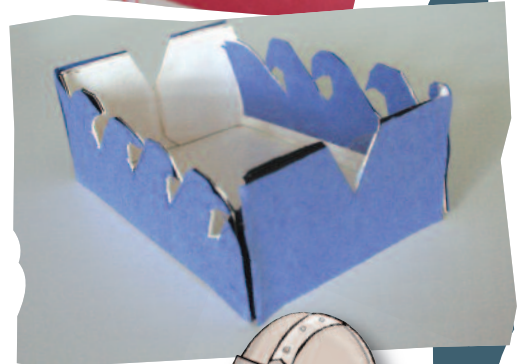
4. Cut out a 7cm x 4cm rectangle of card and fold down 1cm at either end to make a seat for your boat.
5. Make a hole in the centre of the card, by carefully pushing a sharp pencil through into some sticky tack. Fix the seat to the middle of the hull using masking tape.





6. To make the sail, cut out a 15cm x 15cm piece of paper and add a hole at the top and the bottom – a hole punch is really useful here. Use your paints or coloured pens to decorate it on both sides. Alternatively you can cut a piece of coloured paper to size. It's believed that Viking sails may have been plain or striped.
7. Push a straw through the two holes in the sail to make the mast, then push the mast through the hole in the seat. Use some sticky tack under the seat to secure it.
8. Cut out the shield template on page 6 and use it as a stencil to create ten shields out of card. Decorate them and stick them to your boat, five on each side.
9. To make a stand for your ship, take your small box and cut it down to around 5cm in height. Cover it in blue paper, or paint it blue, and cut wave shapes in the two longer sides of the box.
10. Cut out small triangular slots at the top of either end of the box. Rest the hull of your finished ship in the two slots.

**You're now ready for your Viking voyage!**



### Added extras

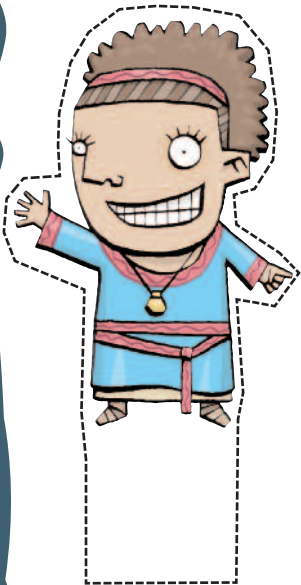
**Add some sail ropes** – cut two lengths of string or thread (around 50cm each depending on the height of your mast). Cut a slit in the top of your mast and wedge in the pieces of string. Stick the ends at the four corners on the inside of the ship.

**Add some characters** – cut out Eric and Mona on their own Viking adventure and add them to your longship.

**Create a figurehead** – Viking longships also had carved figureheads in the shape of scary animals. These were removable, and would have been added as the boat came to port at enemy shores. Make your own to add to your ship with the Hands on History 'Make a longship figurehead' activity.



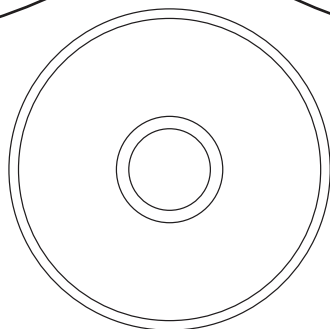
Hull template



Mona



Eric



Shield template