

Raiders, Traders and Explorers

Learn about the fearless seafarers who left Scandinavia and traveled thousands of miles in search of new lands.

BY ANYA BRITZIUS

The legacy of the Vikings plays a significant role in Scandinavian culture. To conquer new lands, these Norse warriors traveled west across dangerous seas to northern and central Europe, eventually landing in North America. One of the most famous explorers of all time is Leif Erikson, who was the first European to reach North America in 1002 AD. Some Vikings became farmers, craftsmen and traders, bringing with them Norse culture. Gather the young people in your life and learn about these brave explorers.



To see Family Matters pages from previous issues, go to sonsofnorway.com, log in and select "Cultural Programming" then "Family Matters."

Activities for Young People



PRESCHOOL Read and Color

Sit down with little ones and read a children's book about Vikings, such

as "The Last Viking" by Norman Jorgensen and James Foley or "Vikings" by Stephanie Turnbull. Print out coloring pages of Vikings and long ships at coloring.ws/norway.htm.

EXPAND IT: Make an easy Viking costume and let their imagination fly! Check out hgtv.com and search for "Viking costume."

TEENAGERS

Write Like a Viking

The Vikings developed a way of writing that used marks or letters called runes. Check out the Runic Alphabet, known as Futhark, online and write messages for others to decode.

EXPAND IT: Create a quiz about Viking facts and history, and sit down with the family to test their knowledge. Get started with fun facts at ngkids.co.uk and search for "Vikings."



ELEMENTARY AGES

Make a Ship

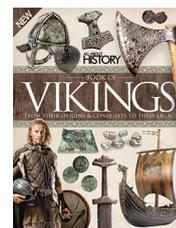
The Vikings were expert woodworkers and famous for their

long, slender "dragonships" that carried warriors and cargo across the seas. Get crafty and help kids make their own Viking ship. Go to crayola.com/crafts/sail-with-the-vikings!-craft/.

EXPAND IT: Get online with your child to learn about Viking life, settlements and trading routes and play interactive games at bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings.

Fun Fact:
The name "Viking" means "pirate raid" in the Old Norse language.

LEARN MORE



"All About History: Book of Vikings"
imagineshop.co.uk

"Vikings Sticker Book"
by Fiona Watt and Paul Nicholls
amazon.com

Make a longship from a cereal box
weandus.ie/files/vikingship.pdf



"Vikings of Legend and Lore Paper Dolls"
by Kiri Østergaard Leonard
amazon.com