

APRIL

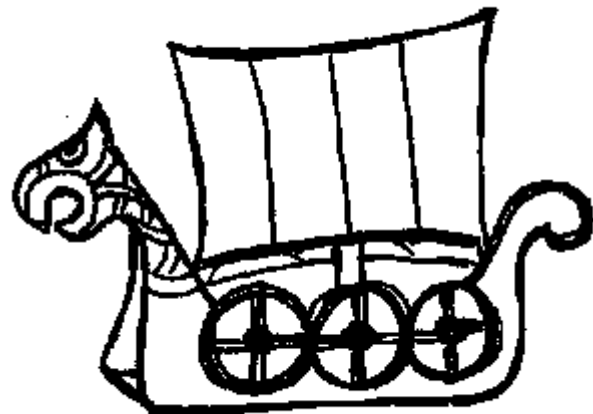
Travel back to the time of Viking explorers who travelled in longships from Scandinavia to far flung parts of the world!

Vikings were farmers, traders and skilled craftsmen but they were also brave explorers and fierce, bloodthirsty raiders! Viking ships sailed along coasts and up rivers to attack towns and monasteries stealing treasures as they went. They sailed to Britain and Ireland, Italy and Arabia, North America and even parts of Russia! They were great shipbuilders and designed different types for different uses. Longships were made of oak wood and decorated with carvings of animals and pictures from myths and legends. The figure head at the front of the ship was carved in the shape of a fierce animal or dragon head and the sails were from the oily, waterproof wool of Viking sheep! Sometimes the warriors fixed their shields to the side of the ship. They gave their ships names like, 'Long Serpent' and 'Wave Walker'. They were a very frightening sight when they landed and the fearsome crew splashed ashore!

Make a Viking longship and the Beavers can pretend to sail to far away countries!

Equipment: card longship for each Beaver (ship, 2 sails, 6 shields), art materials, stapler & staples, glue, lolly sticks, Blutack or Plasticine

- Use the template below to cut a ship shape from thin card - the Beavers could cut it out themselves but may need help to fold the base so that the ship stands up! To make the ship double-sided cut 2 sails (one for each side of the lolly stick mast and 6 shields, 3 for each side of the ship).
- The Beavers can decorate the ship, sail and shields as they like. Many Viking ships had red and white striped sails and shields were made of wood, metal and leather. The Beavers might like to design a picture for their sail perhaps from a Norse myth or legend and create a ferocious mythical creature as a figurehead!
- Staple the two sides of the figurehead together and the two back pieces.
- Attach the shields along the side.
- Stick the sail onto a lolly stick mast and push this firmly into a blob of blutack or Plasticine on the base of the ship.



Viking Longship

