

WEEK 10: HISTORY



Read the article about the Vikings that follows this homework assignment.

Answer these questions on notebook paper.

- Write complete sentences.
 - Start each sentence with a capital letter.
 - Capitalize every proper name.
1. What did Vikings do, besides raid villages?
 2. What is a *thrall*?
 3. How many warriors could a longship carry?
 4. What were the Vikings' homes like?
 5. Explain why you would or would not have liked to live with the Vikings.

Read the article about Medieval Russia that follows the Viking article.

1. When did Swedish Vikings conquer Russia?
2. Why did the monks Cyril and Methodius invent an alphabet?
3. How did Prince Vladimir change Russia?
4. How did Ivan III change Russia?
5. How did Ivan IV change Russia?

Writing

Pretend you live in the time of the Vikings. Write 5 sentences that tell about your life. Use at least 3 different noun decorations that we practiced in class on Friday. Underline each decoration you use.

Here's the link to the video about Viking life that we watched:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPtns0OAEIE>

VIKING EXPANSION

The ravaging of heathens destroyed God's church at Lindisfarne, with much plunder and slaughter.

The Vikings (the "heathens" written about above) were robbers who came by sea – pirates. This quotation is from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, a history of England put together in the 9th century. This entry is for 793. Many people had every reason to be frightened of these "wolves to be feared" as their warships sailed from their homelands in Scandinavia.

Vikings at home

Vikings were actually several different peoples who lived in what we now know as Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Many people think of them today just as warlike raiders. Not all Vikings were like that. They were farmers, great traders and town builders. Their artists and craftspeople produced beautiful objects.

The search for new lands

Many Vikings set off from their homelands in search of new lands to settle and farm, such as Iceland. Other voyages were carried out for plunder first, then for settlement. Norwegian Vikings began to settle in the islands off the north coast of Scotland at the beginning of the 8th century. From there they moved down the west coast of Britain and across to Ireland.

The Danish Vikings plundered Lindisfarne on the northeast coast of Britain and later East Anglia. Vikings from Sweden moved across the Baltic Sea into eastern Europe. Traveling by river, they eventually reached Constantinople, attacking it in 860.

By the 9th century Viking merchant-warriors had built up a large trading network across the Baltic Sea, linking Europe from end to end.

Plunder, slaves and trade

The Viking raiders certainly looked for and collected plunder but they also required slaves – they called them *thralls*. Some peoples they attacked were forced to buy them off with gold. Trade was important too. For example, a Viking prince established a trading contract by force with Constantinople in 907. The Vikings supplied slaves, timber, furs and honey in exchange for gold, silver and luxury goods.

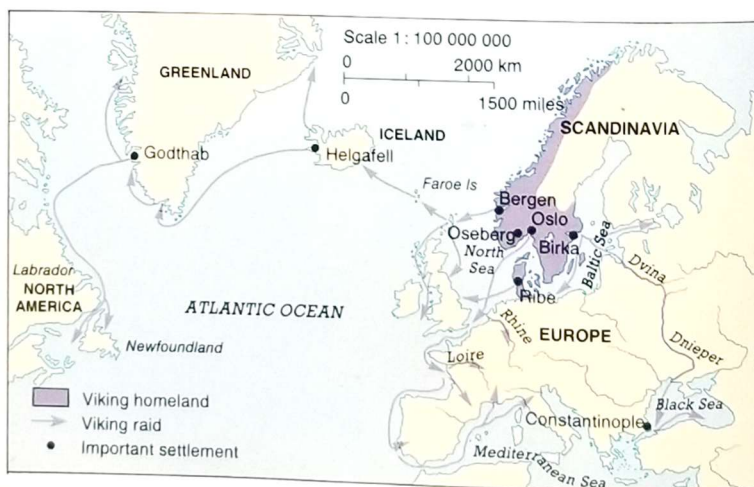


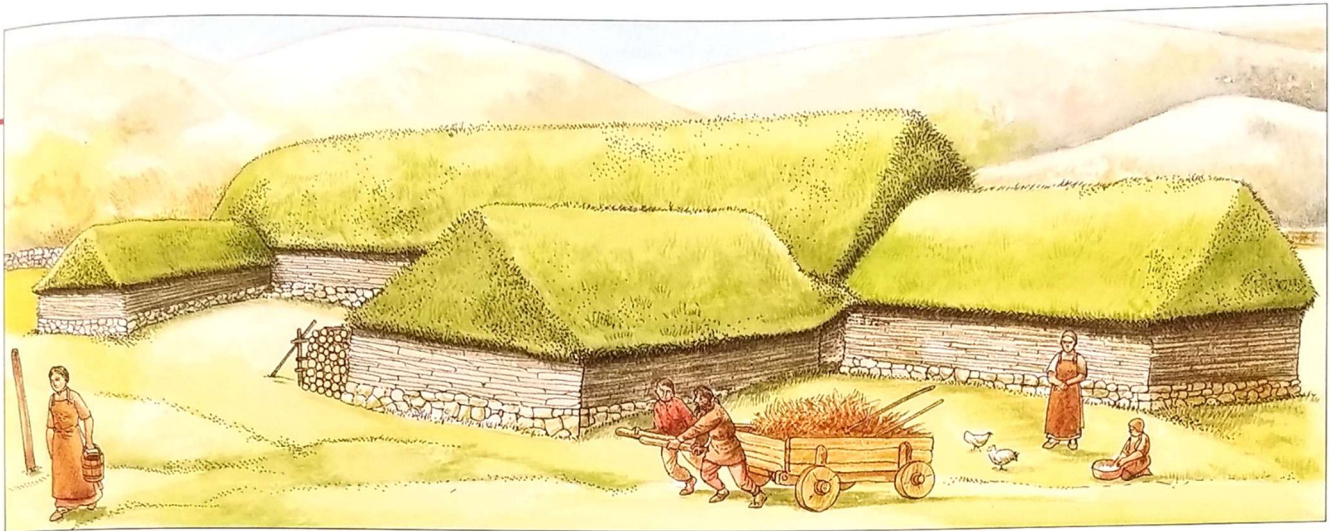
Ships and the sea

The Vikings were great shipbuilders and sailors. This was the key to their success as traders, raiders and settlers. They made very long voyages in fast ships, even crossing from Iceland to Greenland to settle in North America. Their ships, built with overlapping timber planks, were powered by sails and oars. The Vikings built not only "longships" for raiding (holding up to 200 warriors) but also wider trading ships called *knarrs* and little rowing boats called *faerings*.

△ Reconstruction of a ship excavated from a royal burial mound at Oseberg near Oslo in Norway.

▽ Across the Atlantic. The search for new lands and an escape from murderous feuds took some Vikings far overseas. By about 1000 they had reached as far as Labrador and Newfoundland and built settlements there.

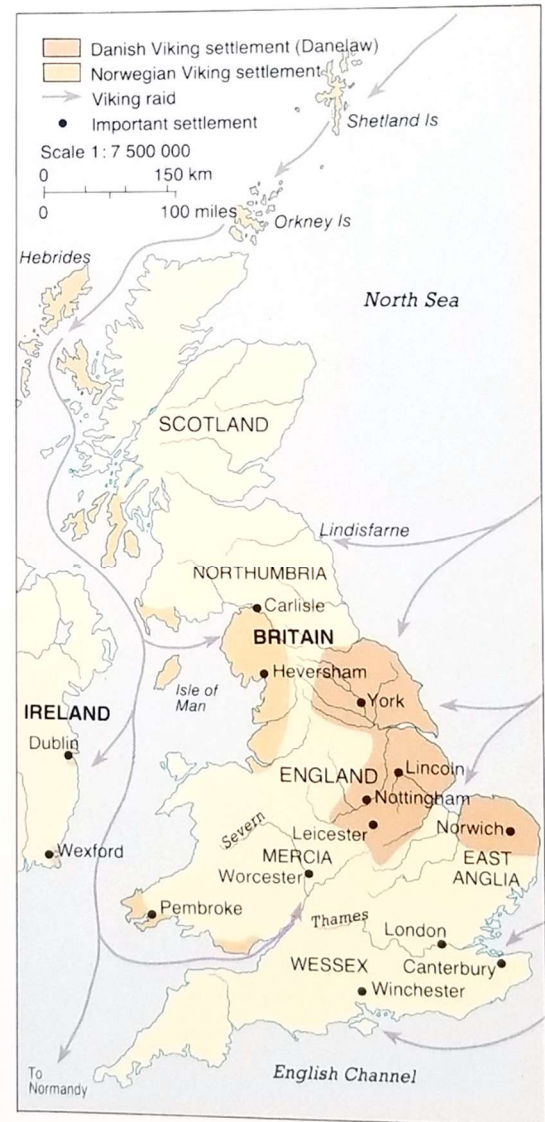
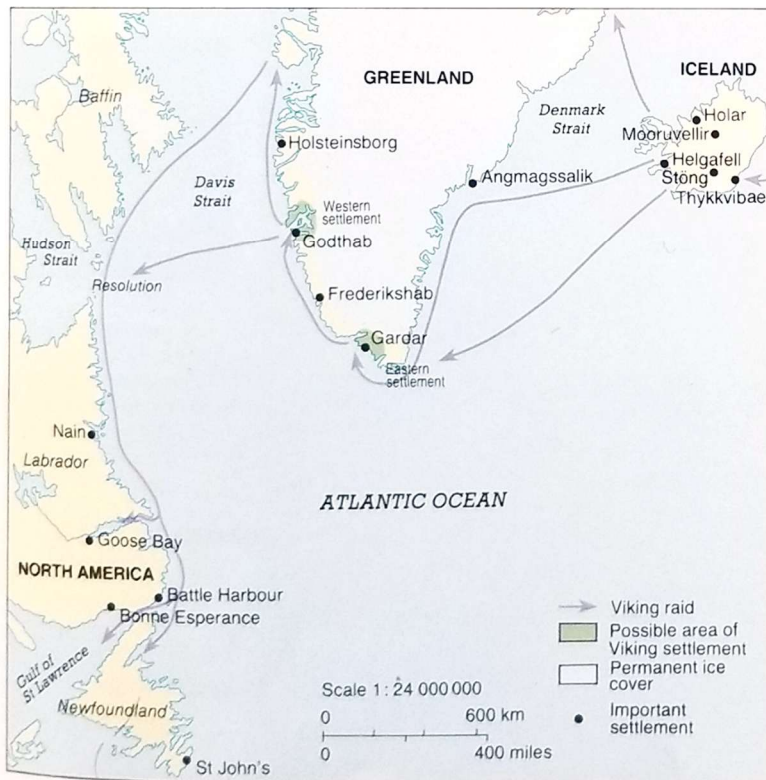




△ A drawing of a Viking farmhouse at Stöng in Iceland, based on archaeological excavations. Viking settlements here were destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1104. The farm buildings were made of turf and consisted of hall, living room, dairy and lavatory.

▽ Viking settlements in Iceland and Greenland. Sheep farming was the basis of the Vikings' new northern settlements. Written records from these lands show the settlers as hardy and sometimes violent people, feuding and fighting. Some ventured even further west – to the North American coast.

▷ Raids on Britain. Invasions of Vikings were difficult to stop. The Anglo-Saxon King Alfred halted them in 886 and reoccupied London. But a large area of Britain – known as the Danelaw – fell under Viking control. Not until the mid-10th century were they fully overcome.



Viking Life at Home

Families of three generations or more lived in long farmhouses, built of stone and turf or stone and timber. Roofs were thatched. A typical longhouse was 16 to 23 feet wide and 50 to 250 feet long. Inside the longhouses there were several rooms. The main room was used for cooking, eating, and sleeping and sometimes had a large stone fireplace on the end. The houses also had a storage room and a dayroom, where the women would weave on a loom and sew. Some long houses had an area for livestock at the opposite end from the main room. Ventilation and illumination were provided through smoke holes in the roof.

Vikings grew grain (rye, barley, oats, and wheat), vegetables (such as carrots, parsnips, cabbage), and flax, which was used for oil, food, and making linen cloth. They also kept hens, geese, pigs, goats, sheep, and cows, which were milked for making butter and cheese. Seafood was important in areas that were near the coast, and whales and walrus were hunted for food in Norway.



Longhouse in Denmark



Inside a Longhouse



Main room of a long house

Medieval Russia



In the 500s, Slavs settled along great rivers of the Black and Baltic seas. Slowly their settlements expanded toward Central and Eastern Europe, including the area we know today as Russia. Like their Germanic neighbors, the Slavs were pagan, lacked an alphabet, and were organized into small clans.

By the end of the 800s, Russian slavs lived primarily in Northeastern Europe along the Barents Sea. They were the most populous Slavic nation. In the 800s, Swedish Vikings conquered most of the Russians and they established a kingdom. The Vikings strongly influenced the culture. They brought their customs, their religion, and their rules of government.

During the ninth and tenth centuries, Christian (Eastern Orthodox Catholic) missionaries from the Roman Byzantine Empire were led by Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius to teach the Slavs. Cyril and Methodius were brothers, and they invented an alphabet for the Slavs so they could

read the Bible and Ancient Greek texts. The Cyrillic alphabet used by the Russians is based on the alphabet Cyril and Methodius invented.



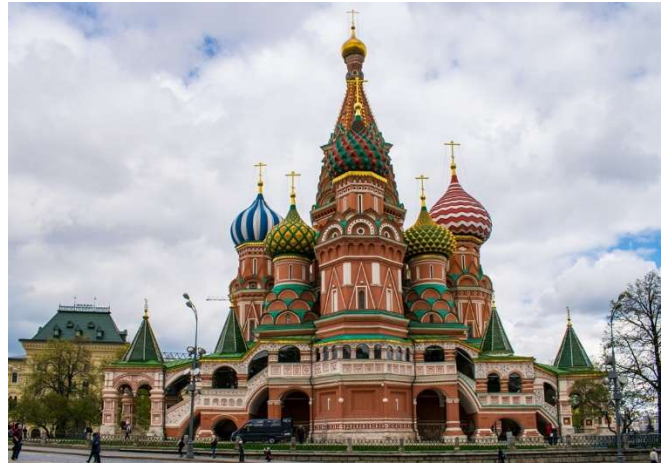
The Cyrillic Alphabet

Prince Vladimir ruled Russia from 980 – 1015. Initially he was a pagan believer. He erected shrines to Viking gods and he was a ruthless leader like many medieval rulers. In 987, he converted to Christianity. He married the sister of Emperor Basil II of the Byzantine Empire and promised to protect the Empire. He made baptism compulsory (required) for all Russians, and he replaced the Viking shrines with Christian ones. After Prince Vladimir's marriage, Russian society was influenced by the Byzantine Empire. Russian churches, law, literature, art, and government reflected this influence. Russia adopted the Byzantine rule of placing both church and state under the authority of the king or prince.

In the 1200s, Mongol invaders from the East conquered the Russians and ruled them for the next 200 years. The Mongols kept Russia isolated from Western Europe. This slowed Russia's development because the Russians could not trade or exchange ideas with Western Europe.

In 1480, Russian Grand Duke Ivan III – called Ivan the Great – defeated the Mongols. He ruled from 1462 – 1505. He tripled the size of the Russian territory and introduced a new legal code. He made the double-headed eagle Russia's coat of arms. His 43-year reign was one of the longest in Russian history.

Ivan III's grandson, Ivan IV ruled from 1547 – 1584. He was the first ruler to use the title tsar (emperor). He greatly increased Russia's territory. Ivan IV had St. Basil's Cathedral constructed in Moscow to commemorate his seizure of Kazan. However, due to famine, drought, epidemics, and a 24-year war, there was great poverty in Russia during Ivan IV's reign. He was known as Ivan the Terrible because of his cruelty and brutality. He created a police force all dressed in black, astride black horses, who would terrorize or kill anyone who said anything against the tsar. He changed the laws and caused the peasants to lose their land. The land was given to wealthy friends of the tsar, and the peasants became serfs who had to work for the rich landowners.



St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow



Russian coat of arms