

11:1:21




























WALT: Understand and decode Viking
runes.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n
ng	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

The Vikings wanted to send messages and they came up with a convenient way of doing it. Many Vikings would carry a knife at their belt. There was plenty of wood about-you could always pick up a stick from the firewood basket. You squared this stick up so it had three or four sides. Then, starting at the end of one side you began to cut your message with the point of the knife. When you came to the end of that side, you turned the next side uppermost and began again, until you had either finished your message or filled the whole stick. If you made a mistake you would only need to shave off the surface a bit at that point and recut your word. You would get someone to take the stick to whoever you were writing to.

But of course you would need a special alphabet for this sort of writing. Ours - the Roman one - has all sorts of curved letters like O, G, C, and curves are hard to cut on a wood surface because of its grain. The Vikings made up a special alphabet with letters that had only straight lines and which were on the whole simpler than the Roman ones. This alphabet was called 'runic', and each letter was a 'rune'. They didn't use our ABC order; the first letters of their alphabet had the values f u th a r k, so it was called a futhark.

Anglo-Saxon Runes

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj
									
Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	ng	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss
									
Tt	Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz			
									

Questions

1. What did the Vikings carve their letters on?
2. What was the alphabet called?
3. Why were the letters straight?
4. What was the writing used for?

Answers

1. The Vikings carved the letters on wood.
2. The alphabet was called runic.
3. The letters were straight because it was easier to carve straight lines than carved ones.
4. The writing was used to sent messages.

Decode the runes below to reveal the Viking God or Goddess name.

𐌱 𐌒 𐌥 𐌹 𐌺 𐌛 𐌜

𐌽 𐌾 𐌟 𐌥

Answers


S


u


n



L



o



k


i


O

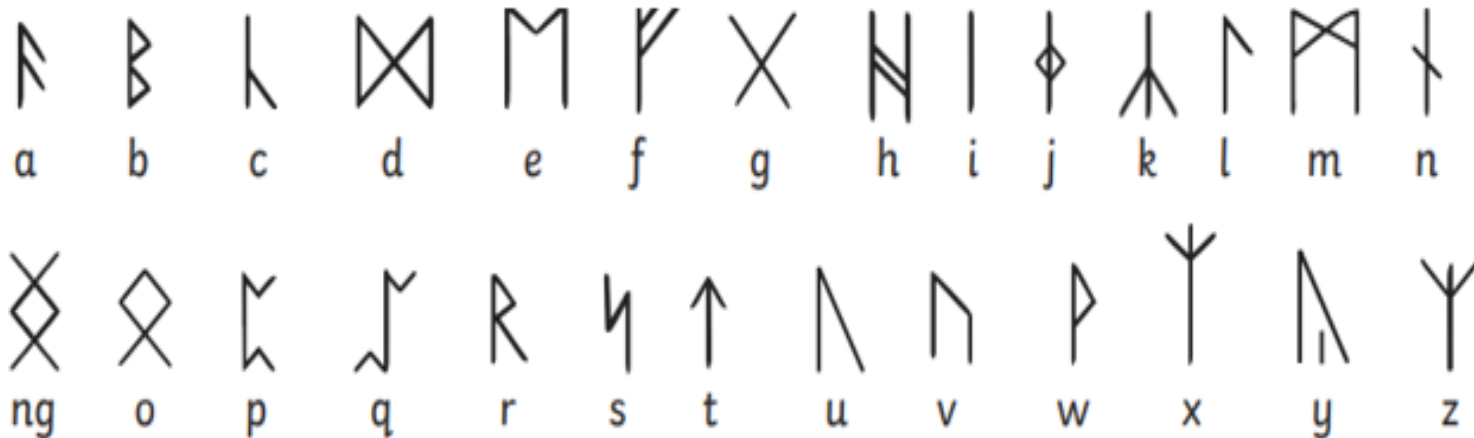

d


i


n

If you want a challenge try this!

Challenge



1. Now write your own secret rune message for your friend to work out!
