

Week beginning 18th January

WALT: retrieve information from non-fiction text

Read the following information and answer the questions.
Choose your question sheet. 1 star is the easiest and the 3 star is the hardest.

Viking Longships

The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

Appearance
The front end of the ship would have a carved figure head to scare off enemies and be intimidating.

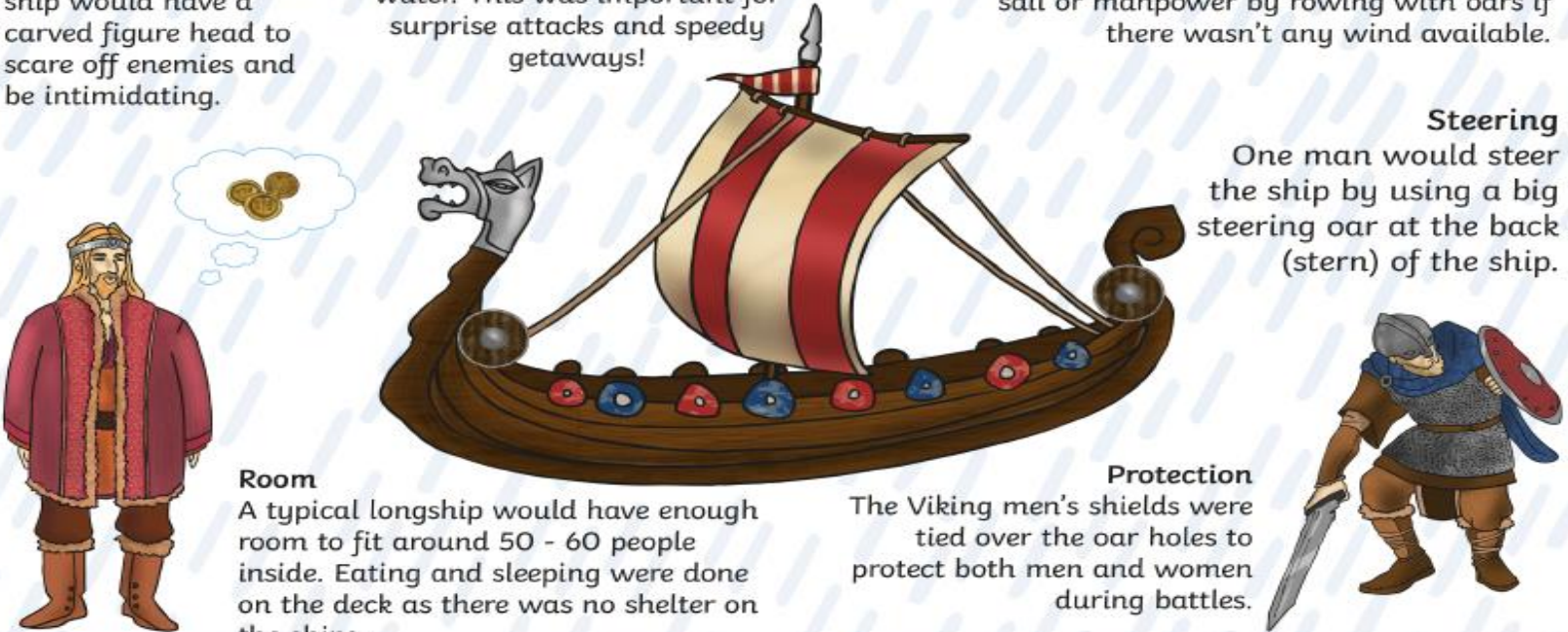
Speed
They were long and narrow for travelling quickly through the water. This was important for surprise attacks and speedy getaways!

Power
The ships were powered by wind in a wool sail or manpower by rowing with oars if there wasn't any wind available.

Steering
One man would steer the ship by using a big steering oar at the back (stern) of the ship.

Room
A typical longship would have enough room to fit around 50 - 60 people inside. Eating and sleeping were done on the deck as there was no shelter on the ships.

Protection
The Viking men's shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both men and women during battles.



Viking Longships Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.

Don't forget - The spellings that you might need could either be in the question or within the text.

1. What is another name for a Viking longship?

2. Give two sources of power used to make the longship move:

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- ---

3. Why were they designed to be long and narrow?

4. How many people could fit in a longship?

5. How was a longship steered?

6. How would you compare Viking longships with a modern-day ferry?

7. What question would you most like to ask if you could interview a Viking from the past about a longship?

Viking Longships Comprehension Answer Sheet

1. Another name for a Viking longship is 'dragonship'.
2. Two sources of power used to make the longship move:
 - **Wind**
 - **Manpower**
3. They were designed to be long and narrow so that they could move quickly through the water.
4. Between 50 to 60 people could fit in a longship.
5. A longship was steered by a man steering a big oar at the back of the ship.
6. Pupil's own response based on: Modern-day ferries are much larger/can hold hundreds of people/are made of metal/are powered by an engine/have windows/can carry cars and caravans/do not have sails or oars. Viking longships are long and narrow/made of wood/use wind and people rowing to move/can hold up to 60 people/have shields along the sides.
7. Pupil's own question.

Viking Longships Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.

Don't forget - The spellings that you might need could either be in the question or within the text.

1. What features of the longship made it travel fast?

2. What was another name for a longship?

3. What two sources of power were used to make the ship move?

4. What would the Vikings do if there was no wind?

5. How were the longships steered?

6. What were the men's shields used for on the longships?

7. What was on the front of the longship and what was it used for?

8. Why was the speed of the longship important for the Vikings?

Viking Longships Comprehension Answer Sheet

1. The features of the longship that made it travel fast were they were long and narrow.
2. Another name for a longship was a 'dragonship'.
3. Two sources of power used to make the ship move were wind and manpower.
4. If there was no wind, the Vikings would row the ship with oars.
5. Longships were steered by a man at the back of the ship using a big oar.
6. The men's shields were tied over the oar holes and used to protect the men and women during battles.
7. The front of the ship was the carved head of an animal and would have been used to scare off enemies and be intimidating.
8. The speed of the longship was important to the Vikings because they might need to carry out surprise attacks or make speedy getaways.

Viking Longships Comprehension

Answer these questions in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.

Don't forget - The spellings that you might need could either be in the question or within the text.

1. What was the purpose of the carved figure head at the front?

2. How did the shape of the longship help it to travel quickly?

3. What is the stern of the ship and what happens there?

4. Do you think wool is the preferred material used for sails on modern boats today?
Why/why not?

5. What was the purpose of the shields on the side of the ship?

6. Why was all eating and sleeping done on deck?

7. How would you evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Viking longship as a method of transportation? Give reasons for your answer.

Viking Longships Comprehension Answer Sheet

1. The purpose of the carved figure at the front was to scare off enemies and be intimidating.
2. The shape of the longship helped it to travel so quickly because it was long and narrow.
3. The stern is the back of the ship and here it is steered using a big oar.
4. Pupil's own response based on: No I do not think wool is the preferred material used for sails on modern boats today because it is not waterproof/ it is heavy.
5. The purpose of the shields on the side of the ship was to protect both men and women during battles.
6. All the eating and sleeping was done on the deck because there was no shelter anywhere else on the ship.
7. I would evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Viking longships as a method of transportation as being very good because they were long and narrow and moved quickly through the water, and they were built to carry a lot of people.