

Viking Voyagers: Runes, Sagas, and Art

Materials Needed:

- Plain Paper
- Construction Paper
- Pencils
- Coloured Pencils, Markers, or Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Internet access (for viewing examples of runes, art, and longships)
- Optional: Air-dry clay or smooth, flat stones; non-toxic paint

Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction: Meet the Vikings (History - 15 mins)

Let's travel back in time! Who were the Vikings? Discuss: They came from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Denmark) over 1000 years ago. What are they famous for? (Longships, explorers, warriors, traders, farmers, runes). Briefly look up pictures of Viking longships and artifacts online. Ask the student: What do you find most interesting about Vikings?

2. Activity 1: Secrets of the Runes (History/English - 20 mins)

Vikings didn't use our alphabet! They used special letters called **runes**. The oldest set is called the Elder Futhark. Show an image of the Elder Futhark alphabet (search online). Discuss how each rune had a name and sometimes a magical meaning. Explain they were carved into wood, stone, and bone.

Task: On a piece of paper, try writing your name using runes! You can also try simple words like 'sun', 'axe', or 'ship'. Think about how each symbol represents a sound, just like our letters do.

3. Activity 2: Craft Your Viking Mark (Art/History - 30 mins)

Viking art often featured complex patterns, animals, and symbols, including runes! They carved runes onto stones to mark graves or important events.

Task Option 1 (Rune Stone): Use construction paper, a real flat stone, or air-dry clay. Design your own 'rune stone'. Choose a rune (or a few) that you like or that spell a short word (like your initials). Carefully draw or carve them onto your material. Decorate around it with Viking-style patterns (interlacing lines, simple animal shapes).

Task Option 2 (Shield Design): Vikings decorated their wooden shields. On a circle cut from construction paper, design your own Viking shield. Use bold colours and patterns. You could include runes, a fierce animal design, or geometric shapes.

4. Activity 3: Tell Your Tale - Mini-Saga (English/History - 25 mins)

Vikings loved telling long stories called **sagas** about heroes, gods, and adventures. These stories helped pass down their history and beliefs.

Task: Let's write a short mini-saga! Create a fictional Viking character. Where do they live? Are they an explorer, a farmer, a craftsman? Write a short story (2-3 paragraphs) about one day in their life or a

small adventure they have. Try to include something you learned about Vikings (maybe they use a rune, travel on a ship, or live in a longhouse).

5. Conclusion & Sharing (10 mins)

Show off your amazing Viking creations! Share your rune stone or shield design, explaining the patterns or runes you used. Read your mini-saga aloud.

Review Questions: What was one new thing you learned about Vikings today? What was your favourite activity? Can you show me the rune for 'S' (or another simple one)? Well done, Viking adventurer!