

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a better understanding of Viking history, culture, and their impact on society.

Materials and Prep

- Internet access
- Pen and paper

No prior knowledge is necessary, but a general understanding of European history would be helpful.

Activities

- **Research and create a Viking timeline:** The student will use online resources to research and create a timeline highlighting important events in Viking history. They should include significant dates, notable Viking figures, and major Viking expeditions.
- **Design a Viking artifact:** The student will imagine themselves as a Viking craftsman and design a Viking artifact such as a weapon, jewelry, or a household item. They should draw or sketch their design and explain its purpose and significance.
- **Write a Viking saga:** The student will write a short story or poem inspired by Viking mythology or historical events. They should incorporate elements of Viking culture, such as gods and goddesses, heroic deeds, or exploration.
- **Create a Viking feast:** The student will plan a menu for a Viking feast, considering the available ingredients and cooking methods during that time. They should research traditional Viking recipes and explain the significance of certain foods in Viking culture.

Talking Points

- **Viking Origins:** The Vikings were seafaring people from the late eighth to early 11th century, originating from the Scandinavian region. They were known for their exploration, trade, and raiding activities.
- **Viking Society:** Viking society was hierarchical, with jarls (nobles) at the top, followed by freemen, and then thralls (slaves). They had a strong warrior culture and valued bravery and honor.
- **Viking Expansion:** The Vikings expanded their territories through exploration and colonization. They established settlements in places such as Iceland, Greenland, and even reached as far as North America (Vinland).
- **Viking Mythology:** The Vikings had a rich mythology, with gods and goddesses such as Odin, Thor, and Freya. They believed in an afterlife called Valhalla, where fallen warriors would be rewarded.
- **Viking Legacy:** The Vikings left a lasting impact on European history, influencing language, culture, and even political structures. Their seafaring skills and trade routes contributed to the development of medieval Europe.