Materials / Reading and Writing

Q. What type of materials do you **see**?

Can you **find** any Runic inscriptions in this exhibition? What material has

inscription say? (Hint: Look in the

been used? What does the

end room of Viking Ireland)

Do you know that the only complete workshop found in the Dublin excavations was that of an amber worker. Amber is fossilised tree sap, found near the Baltic sea in Scandinavia. The Vikings made beads, rings and other jewellery using amber. We still use it today for the same purpose.

Look at the artefacts found in the excavations in Dublin. They show us what the Vikings were using to create everyday items, whether it was materials to build a house or make jewellery. It also shows us that the Vikings got materials from many different countries.

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	The second secon	
Q. What does this tell us about t	the people living in Dubli	n during the Viking period?
		فتنفذ تنفضنه
Could Vikings read and v		anc 'cocrat writing'. Thou may ha
The Runes were the Vikings alpha received this name because there		
so the meanings would have rema		
KN LNN V/N LLL	L. N. N.V. / A	
FN PFR (XP H+	191, 1, 1, 2, 1	
linin/\langle \langle	INTICI	MILLI MY
fuþarkgw h n	lijpe Rst	be m lng d o
The Runic alphabet was called the Futhark, after the first six letters.		
Can you write your name in Rune	257	
(If you can't find your letters make		
up your own.)		



Archaeology

Activity Sheet



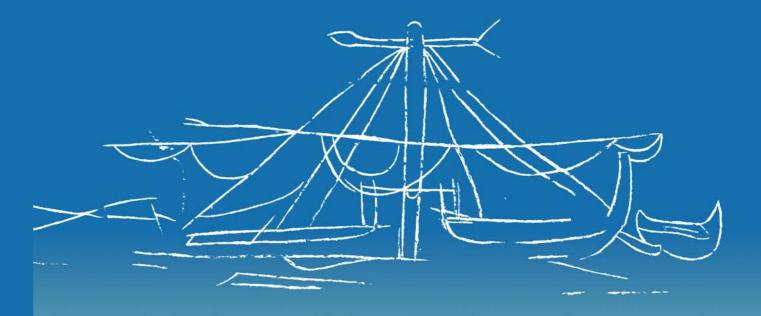
a Viking

The wind is fierce tonight
It tosses the sea's white hair
I fear no wild Vikings
sailing the quiet main

Is acher in gaith innocht
Fu-fuasna fairggae findholt
Ni agor reimm mora minn
Dond laechraid lainn ua Lothlind

Taken from a 9th century gloss from the St Gall Priscian

This sheet belongs to





The Vikings came from Scandinavia in the 8th century AD. There are three countries that make up Scandinavia, they are; Denmark, Norway and Sweden. To go a viking was to go out raiding other countries for things like gold, silver, jewels and people or slaves.

The first raid on Ireland was in the year 795 AD on Rathlin Island off the coast of Antrim in Northern Ireland. There followed fifty years of raiding along the coast of Ireland before there was any settlement.

The first type of settlement was a **longphort**, or a place where the Vikings stayed for the Winter to avoid bad weather and prepare for the Spring raids. In 841 AD there was a longphort in Dublin and another one in Anagassan in Co. Louth.

As time went on the Vikings spent longer periods of time in Dublin, some even brought their families over from Scandinavia. Dublin changed from a longphort to a permanent settlement, on its way to becoming one of the most important towns of the early Middle Ages.

Explore the exhibition to find out about Dublin and the rest of Ireland in the Viking Age...

museum

National Museum of Irelar Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Education and Outreach Department, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin. 2002 Tel: 01 - 648 6455. Fax: 01 - 679 1025.

Email: bookings@museum.ie

Text: Joanna Joyce, 2002.

Viking Warrior



fact: A Viking Warrior had to be buried with his weapons so that he could enter VALHALLA, the Hall of the Slain.

Here is a picture of the skeleton of a Viking warrior buried with his iron sword and dagger. Have a *look* at the case with all the swords in it.

Q. What weapons would a Viking living in Dublin have used?

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Draw one of these weapons.

The Arab traveller Ibn Fadlan met Viking men and women in Russia around 920 AD. He wrote:

Each man wears a garment that covers his body on one side and leaves a hand free. He always carries an axe, a sword and a knife and keeps each with him all the time.

Viking Woman

Ibn Fadlan wrote about women:

Each woman wears on either breast a brooch of iron, silver, copper or gold... each brooch has a ring from which hangs a knife. The women wear neck rings of gold and silver... their most prized ornaments are green glass beads.

We know what objects Viking women would have used in every day life because they were often buried with them. Have a *look* to see if there are any other objects in the Viking exhibition that would be used by a woman.

If you were a Viking and one of your womenfolk had just died, *draw* what you would bury with her. (**Hint:** use Ibn Fadlan's description of a Viking woman and the artefacts in the exhibition.)

Can you *find* any oval brooches that a Viking woman would have worn?

Draw it here.

Q. What is it made of?

Q. Would a wealthy Viking woman have worn this brooch? Why / why not?

Viking Home Life

A Viking house consisted of one room, which had a fire or hearth in the centre of it, with raised platforms either side and four storage areas in the corners. The walls were made using wattle and daub and the roof was thatched. During the day the work was done on the platforms and at night they served as beds. This type of house is only found in Viking settlements in Ireland- **Dublin**, **Waterford**, **Wexford**, **Cork** and **Limerick**.

Have a **look** at the reconstruction of a Viking house. **Match** the numbers to the part of the house.

Storage areas

Hearth

Front door

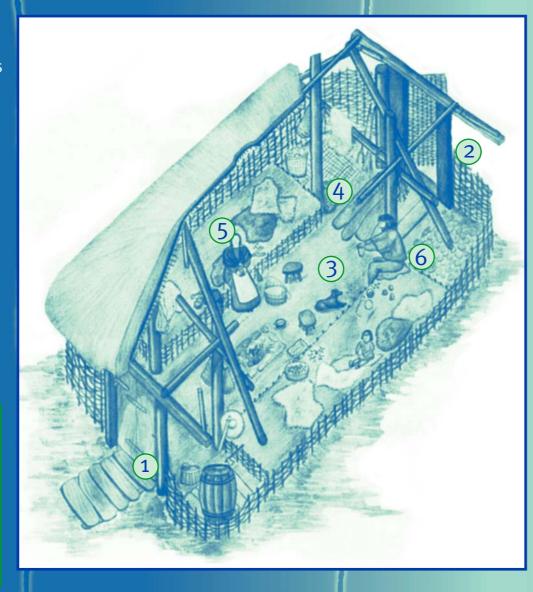
Sleeping/

working platforms

Back door

Toilet

fact: The Vikings would have eaten honey and fruit as a desert. They did not have any other sweeteners, like sugar, which is why their teeth were so good



How do we know what Vikings ate? Archaeologists go through ancient rubbish dumps to find animal and fish bones, seeds and shells. This tells us what the people ate.

Look at the cases in the middle section of the Viking Ireland exhibition, can you **find** any food remains that show us what the Vikings ate in Dublin?

Draw a Viking feast.
(Hint: Vikings used knives, spoons, wooden plates and drinking horns.)

