

**museum**

National Museum of Ireland

Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann



# Viking Challenge!

ACTIVITY SHEET FOR THE VIKING IRELAND EXHIBITION

# Viking Voyages

## Where did the Vikings come from?

The Vikings brought **walrus tusks** from the north of Norway and Greenland to Ireland and carved them to make objects like dice and pendants.



BRATTAHILD

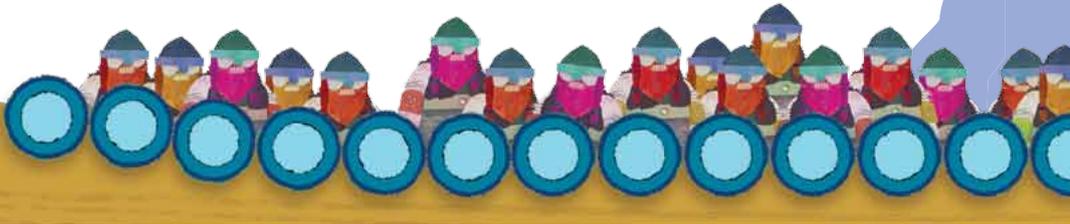
The Vikings came from an area of Northern Europe called **Scandinavia**. **Scandinavia** is made up of three countries: **Denmark**, **Norway** and **Sweden**. They travelled all around Europe, sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to **Canada** and ventured as far east as **Russia**. This map shows some of the routes that the Vikings travelled.



The Vikings liked the Irish fashion of using a ringed pin (like the one in the picture above) to fasten clothing. One Viking even wore his ringed pin on a trip to Canada!

### Sailing Routes

-  ●●●●●● **Baltic Sea to Ireland**
-  ●●●●●● **Glendalough, Co. Wicklow to Roskilde, Denmark**
-  ●●●●●● **Ireland to Newfoundland, Canada**
-  ●●●●●● **Byzantium to Co. Westmeath, Ireland**
-  ●●●●●● **Greenland to Dublin**



Archaeologists discovered a **Viking ship** in Roskilde, Denmark that was made with wood from Ireland. The longship must have been made in Ireland and then sailed back to Denmark!

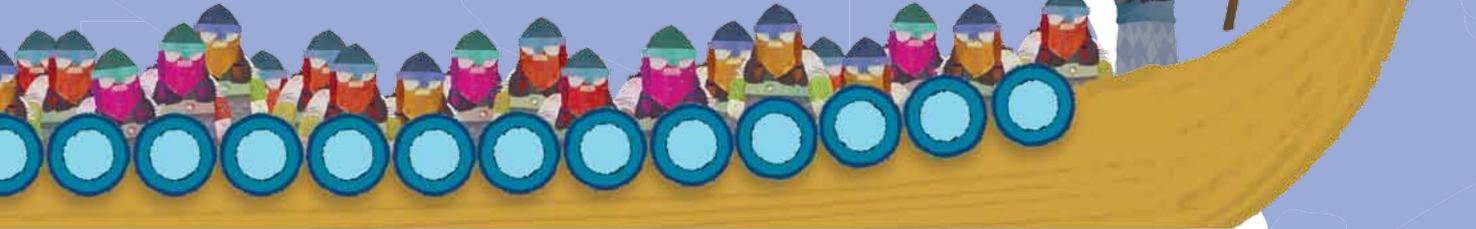
**Amber** is a material which is made when the resin of pine trees becomes fossilised over millions of years. Over 3,000 pieces of amber were found at one Viking workshop in Dublin, amber is not found in Ireland so the Vikings must have brought it here!

**Precious silk** was transported from Byzantium and Baghdad to Dublin.

**Silver coins** with Arabic writing on them have been found here in Ireland. What a long journey!

## A long trip on a Longship

The longest Viking ship ever discovered measures 37m (121ft). Longer than three double decker buses! In a row!



# Viking Exhibition Plan

## 1. How do we know the Vikings lived in Ireland?

O\_\_l Br\_\_c\_es

Traces of the Vikings can be found in many parts of Ireland, if you know where to look! In this exhibition, you can see some of the most exciting Viking objects that were discovered in Ireland. Follow the trail on the exhibition plan and find the objects shown in the pictures. Can you complete their names? **Fill in the missing letters!**

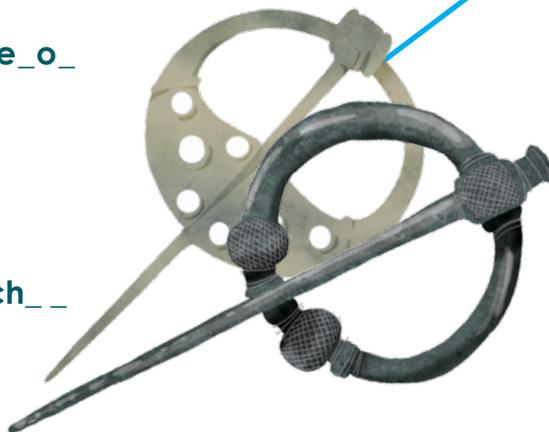


W\_\_\_\_bone P\_aq\_\_

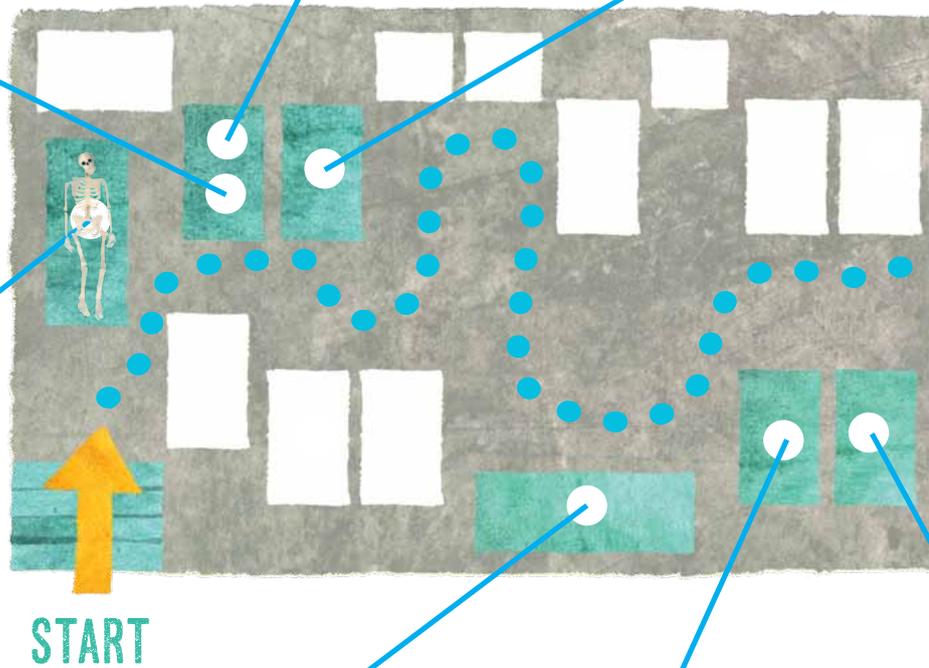


W\_r\_i\_r Sk\_le\_o\_

S\_iv\_r B\_\_och\_\_

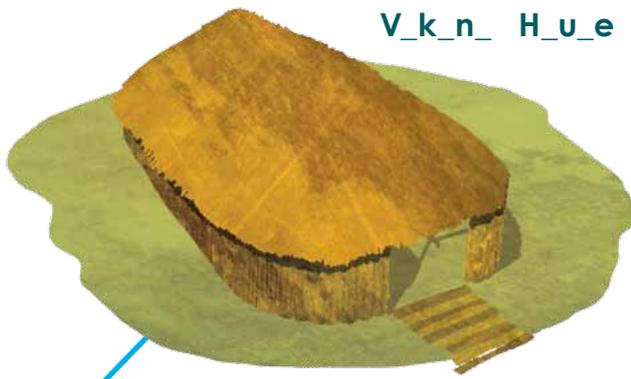


Si\_\_er C\_\_ns

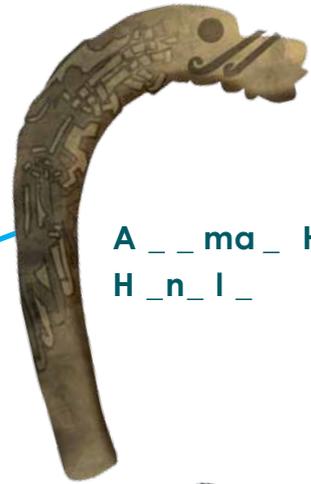




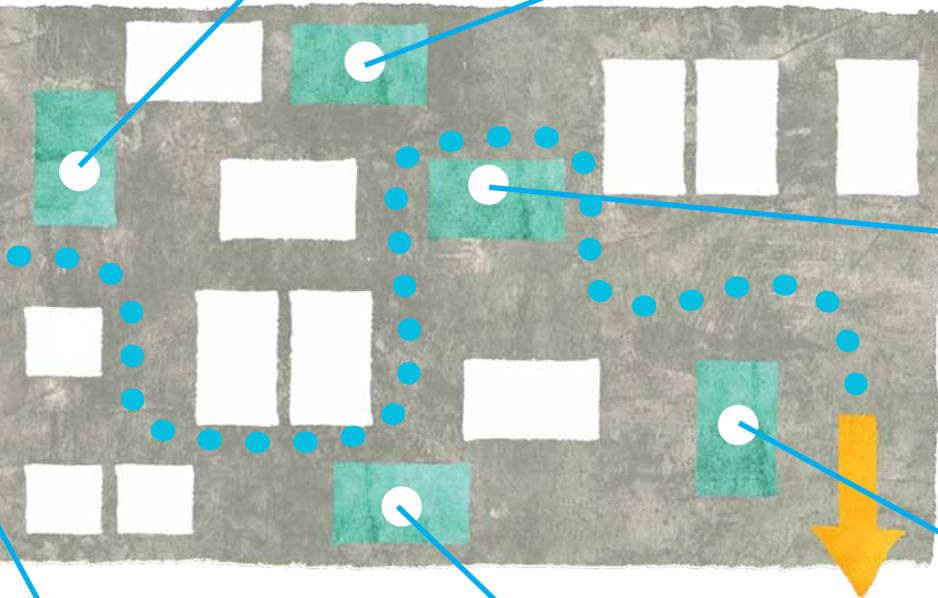
I\_o\_ S\_\_rd



V\_k\_n\_ H\_u\_e



A\_\_ma\_ He\_de\_  
H\_n\_l\_



Le\_\_her B\_o\_



W\_lr\_s Iv\_r\_ Di\_\_



Am\_e\_



D\_\_r A\_t\_er C\_m\_

# Rust in Peace

Why were Vikings buried with their favourite belongings?

Vikings were often buried with the objects they valued most. This is because they believed that after you died you went to another world and you could take your favourite possessions with you. Sometimes artefacts were broken or 'killed' before they were placed in graves with them.

Find the case with the skeleton of the Viking Warrior in it.

**Use the Exhibition Plan on pages 4 and 5 to help you.**

Look carefully at the artefacts that were found buried with the Viking. The artefacts in the cases nearby were found buried with other Vikings.

## Useful Words

**Archaeologist:** A person who tries to figure out what life was like in the past by looking at the remains of ancient people.

**Excavation:** To uncover something by digging away and removing the earth that covers it.

**Artefact:** An ornament, tool or other object that is made by a human.

## BURIAL A



## BURIAL B

## 2. Excavation Report

Imagine you are an archaeologist and you have discovered the two skeletons shown in the picture.

**Write your report below!**

**How old do you think these skeletons are?**

500 years old  1000 years old  2000 years old

### BURIAL A:

**What artefacts were found with this burial?**

1

2

**What could these artefacts have been used for?**

1

2

**Do you think Burial A is that of a man or a woman?**

.....

### BURIAL B:

**What artefacts were found with this burial?**

**Unscramble the letters below to find out!**

**How were these artefacts used?**

**Draw a line to match the object to the description!**

3 ELAWHENBO QUELPA

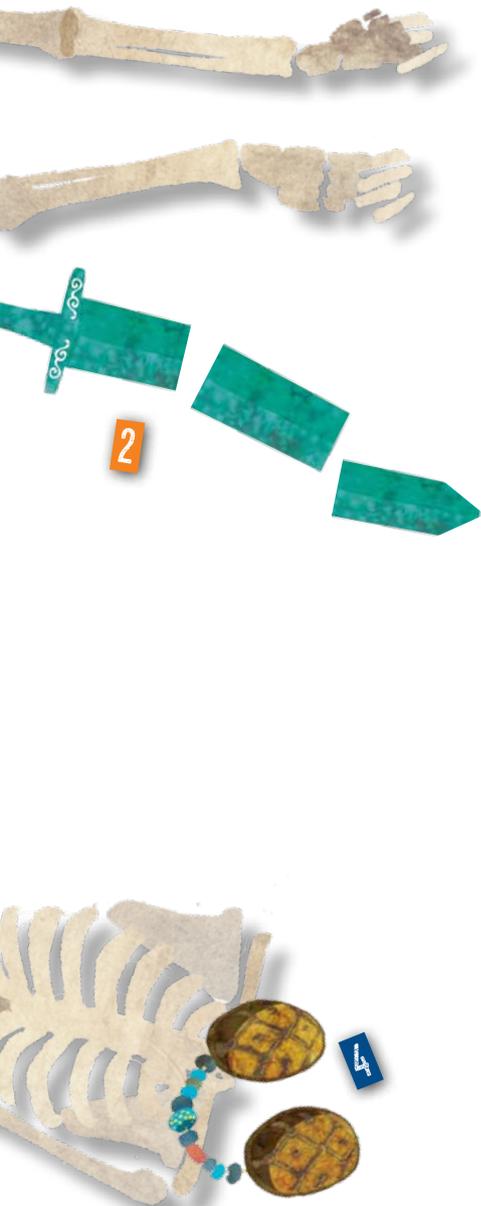
.....

**Clothes made from linen or wool would have been placed on top of the plaque. A round heated piece of glass would have been rubbed over the top of the clothes to smooth out creases. This was a Viking Age version of an ironing board!**

4 VALO RECHBOOS

.....

**A brooch is used to fasten clothes together. Viking women would have used these to fasten the straps of a type of apron called a pinafore.**



# Treasure Ireland

## What did the Vikings use to trade?

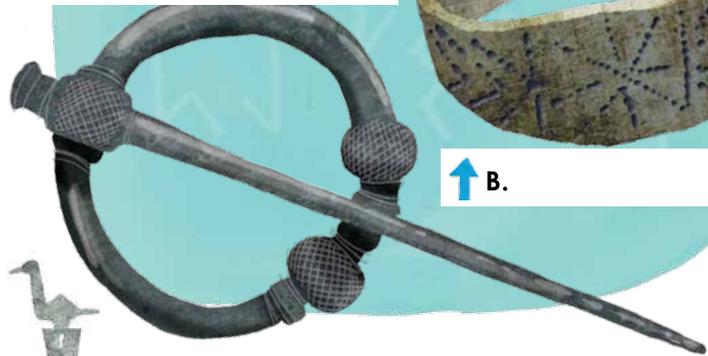
By trading (and sometimes raiding!), the Vikings collected precious objects such as silver coins and jewellery. As there were no banks in Ireland one thousand years ago, the Vikings often buried these objects in secret locations for safe-keeping, a valuable Viking treasure trove!

## 3. A Silver Lining

Did you know that the Vikings brought the idea of coins to Ireland? They melted down pieces of silver and coins to make other objects. **Find the case with the Silver Brooches.** Use the Exhibition Plan on pages 4 and 5 to help you. **Can you name these artefacts made from silver?**

**HINT:** This type of brooch has the same name as a spikey plant!

↓ A.



↑ B.



## 4. Balance your Budget!

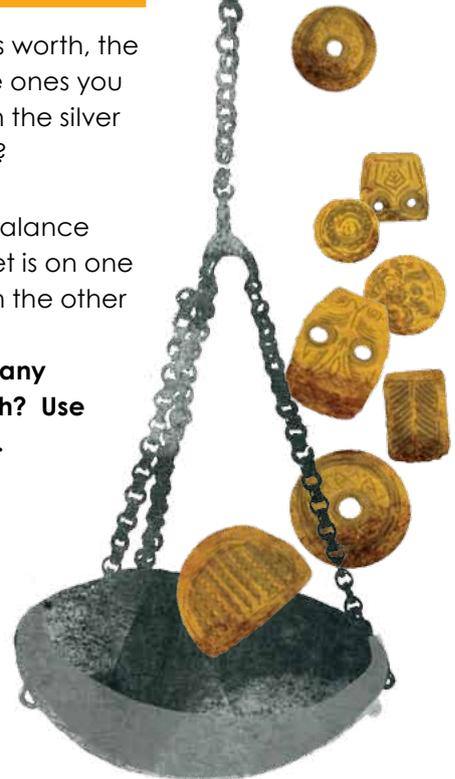
To find out how much a coin or a metal object was worth, the Vikings used a balance scales and weights like the ones you can see in the picture. Look again at the case with the silver brooches, can you see a very large gold bracelet?

Imagine you are a Viking trader and you have a balance scales like the one in the picture. The gold bracelet is on one side of the scales and there are 75 weights on the other side to balance the scales.

Each weight weighs 5 grams. **How many grams does the gold bracelet weigh? Use the box below to work out the sum.**



X



# Cutting Edge Technology

## What weapons did Vikings use?

Find the case with the Iron Sword from **Ballinderry**. A Viking trader may have bought this sharp blade in Germany and brought it back to Ireland! Look carefully at the blade of the sword to see some marks. These marks letters spell 'Ulfbehrt', this is a German name and might be the name of the blacksmith who made the blade.

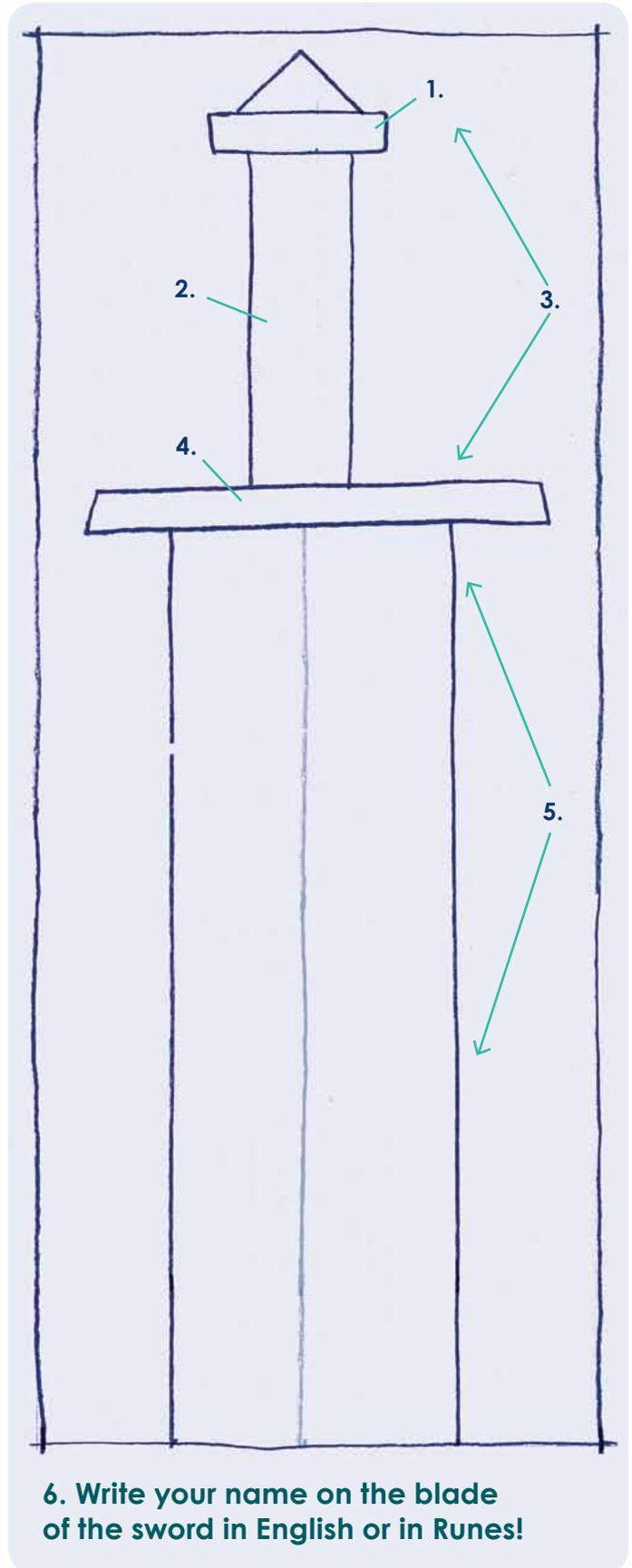
## 5. Norse Code - Runic Alphabet

The Vikings wrote with letters called **Runes**, Rune means secret writing!

**HINT:** The Vikings **did not** have letters for: **C, V, X, Y** or **Z**, you can make up your own runic letters for these! They also had two different ways of writing **E** and **R** so choose your favourite!

Use the runic alphabet below to help you name the different parts of the sword.

1.  .....
2.  .....
3.  .....
4.  .....
5.  .....



## Runic Alphabet



# Home Sweet Home

## 7. Where did people live in Viking Age Ireland?

Archaeologists discover the remains of ancient houses buried underground and use these traces to help us to figure out what the building was used for and who might have lived there.

**Look at the picture. Can you match the person to their house?**

**HINT:** Remember, some buildings that were used as workshops and houses might look the same from the outside. Look at the pictures of the artefacts beside the houses to help you to find out what the building was used for. **If you find the artefacts in the exhibition it might give you a clue!**

**FACT:** Beside one building in Viking Dublin, archaeologists discovered a pile of leather that was one metre high, that shoe-maker must have been working hard!



Hello, my name is Astrid. I live with my three sons on Fishamble Street in Dublin. Where do I live?



B



I am Domhnall from Co. Westmeath. I'm an important Irish chieftain. Where do you think I live?

3



2

Hello, I'm called Erik. I make shoes from leather in Dublin. Which building do I live in?



C

# Hand Crafted

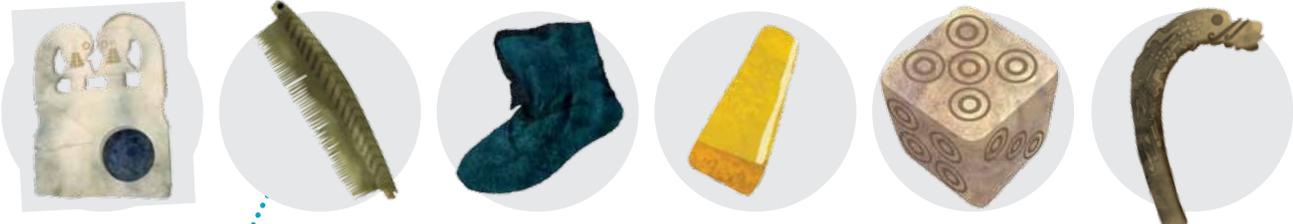
## 8. What materials did Vikings use?

The Vikings used natural materials from the world around them to make the objects that they used every day. Use the Exhibition Plan on pages 4 and 5 to help you find the six artefacts in the pictures below. Read the labels and display panels beside the

artefacts in the exhibition to help you to figure out what they are made from. The Map of the Viking Voyages on pages 2 and 3 could be useful too!

**Draw a line to link the ARTEFACT to the MATERIAL that it is made from and what SOURCE it originally came from.**

**Artefact**



**Material**



**Source**



Dotted blue arrows indicate the flow from Source to Material to Artefact.

### Did you enjoy this trail?

You can find the answers to the Viking Challenge activity sheet at [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

To discover more activity sheets and other resources contact:

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