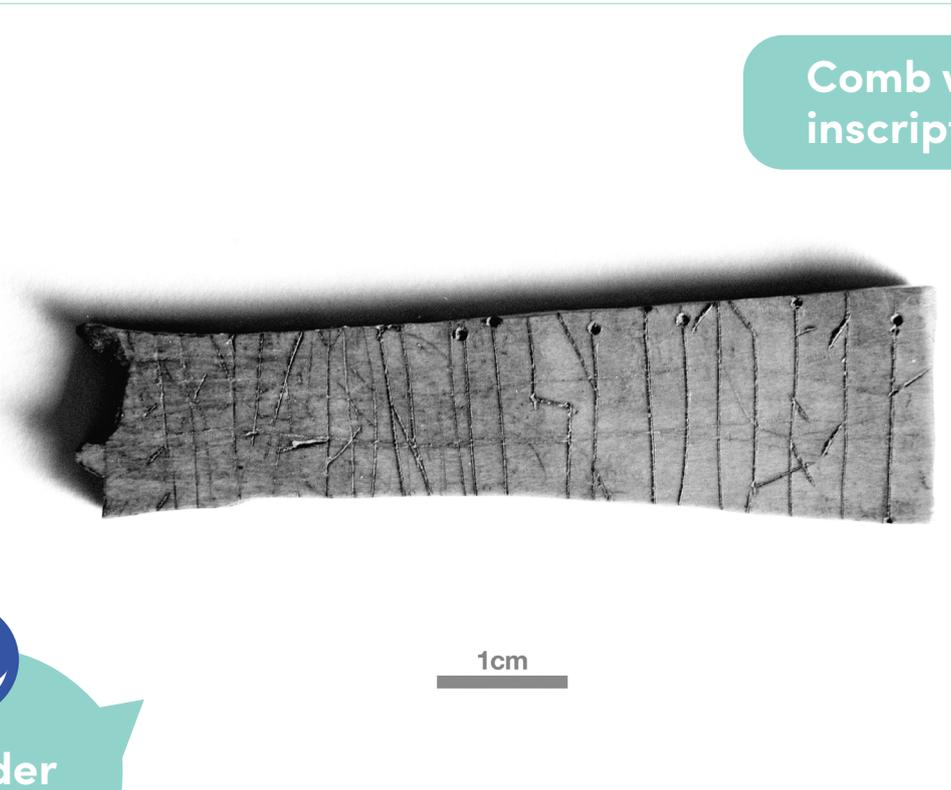


The Viking's Alphabet

The Vikings had their own type of writing, with symbols, called runes. The word rune itself comes from the old Norse (Viking) word, Runa, meaning a secret or mystery. Their alphabet using these runes was called the runic alphabet.

Comb with runic inscription



I wonder what these lines are?

Viking Runes

Tell me about Runes!

Runes were inscribed, or written, on large stones in the countries where the Vikings came from, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Runes were often used to write a person's name but sometimes they had a magic message.

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Runes in Ireland

Runes were also written onto objects. Animal bones with runes engraved onto them have been found in Ireland. Some of the objects were discovered by archaeologists when they were excavating Viking houses and towns.

Deer antler with
runic inscription



This deer antler, antler combs and a sword with runes are on display in the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology.

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Viking Objects in Dublin

Archaeologists found a deer antler and part of a Viking comb with runes on them at Fishamble Street, Dublin.

The Runic Alphabet

Here is the Runic alphabet written out. The Runic alphabet was called the Futhark, after the first six letters.

F U T H A R K G W

H N I J P E R

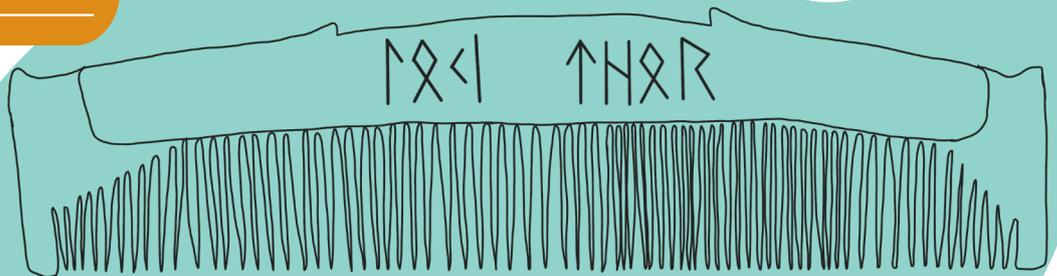
T B E M L N G D O

Do you think this is like A, B, C?

Here's a Task!

Discover the name of the two of the Viking Gods written below on the outline of the Viking Comb.

Viking God Names:

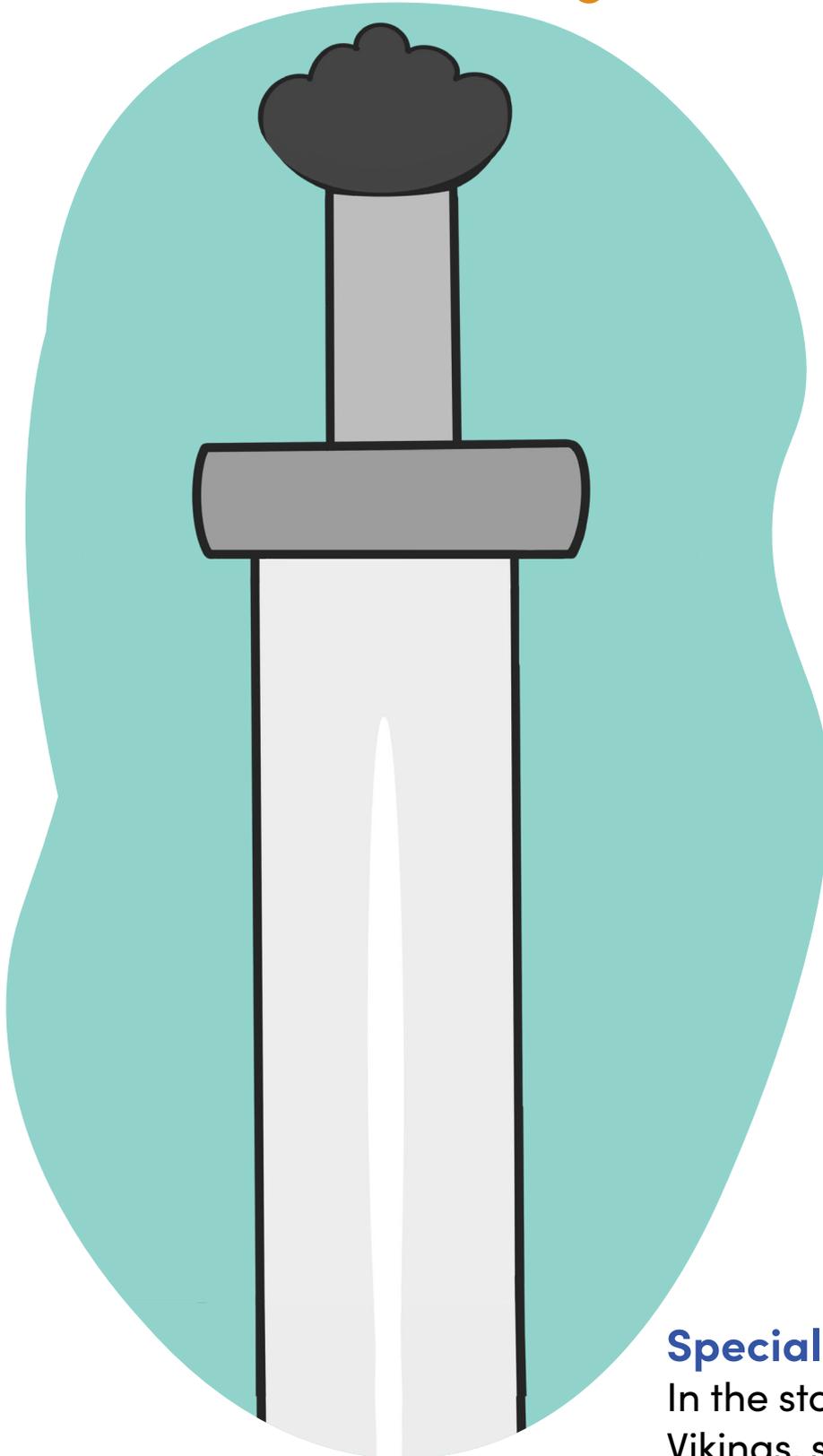


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Here's a Task!

Give the sword a name and write it in runes on the blade.



Why not also decorate your sword?

Special Sword Names!

In the stories, or sagas of the Vikings, swords were often named, one was called Fierce. Sometimes the names explained special powers, like foot-biter. Swords were often decorated at the hilt, or handle, with gold and silver.