

Viking Glossary

A to D

- ale**
A strong drink made from barley.
- amber**
Hardened tree sap, used to make jewellery.
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle**
A history of England begun in the 800s.
- archaeologist**
A person who finds out about the past by looking at old objects or buildings that are buried under the ground.
- blacksmith**
Another name for a smith. A worker who makes things of metal, usually iron.
- blood-feud**
An argument between two families that involves fighting or killings.
- brooch**
Ornament used to fasten clothing.
- buttermilk**
Watery liquid left over when butter is made from milk.
- carving**
A design cut out of wood.
- charm**
A magical object or words, to protect a person from harm.
- chieftain**
The leader of a village or small group of people.
- Christian**
A person who follows the religion taught by Jesus Christ.
- colonize**
A settlement founded in one country by people from another country.
- compass**
A device for finding direction (east, west, north, south).
- conquer**
To beat an enemy and control them using force.
- Danelaw**
The area of England ruled by the Vikings.
- descendants**
People who are related to earlier people, in a direct line.
- dragon-ship**
Another name for a longship.

E to G

explorer

Someone who travels to unfamiliar places to discover new things.

feast

A special meal for a large group of people.

figurehead

A carved wooden piece at the front of a ship.

Freeman

A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for.

H to L

helmet

Hat made of leather or iron worn by a soldier to protect his head.

hoard

A hidden treasure, usually buried in the soil.

jet

A kind of black stone used to make jewellery.

keel

Long wooden bottom part of a ship, that gives it strength.

invaders

People who try to take over land from other people.

landmark

A natural feature that helps a traveller find his way, such as a mountain, a rock, an island, or a group of trees.

launch

To put a new ship in the water.

longship

A Viking ship with a sail and oars. Sometimes called dragon-ship. A Viking ship with a sail and oars. Sometimes called dragon-ship.

M to O

mail coat

Armour made from chain mail (metal rings), worn like a shirt.

manure

Animal waste such as dung put on soil to make it fertile for crops.

mast

Tall wooden pole from which a ship's sail is hung.

merchant

A trader, someone who buys and sells things.

monastery

The building where monks live.

norse myths

Stories told by the Vikings about gods and goddesses, giants and strange creatures.

P to S

pagan

A person who believed in many gods.

raven

A large black bird of the crow family.

rivets

Bits of metal hammered into holes to join ship planks or metal sheets together.

runes

The name given to the Viking alphabet.

settlement

An area where people live.

shield

A large piece of wood or metal held in one arm for protection in battle.

sickle

A curved knife used for cutting grain stalks at harvest time.

slave

A person who is not free but is treated as someone else's property.

smith

A worker who makes things of metal, usually iron.

spices

Plants such as pepper which can be used to flavour and preserve foods.

spinning

Twisting and drawing out sheep wool into long thin thread.

spit

In cooking, a rod or stick on which meat is stuck to roast over a fire.

T to Z

thatched

A roof covered in straw.

Thing

An open-air meeting where Vikings gathered to discuss the law.

trader

A person who sells goods.

turf

A layer of grass cut with roots and soil, that can be used to roof a house.

walrus ivory

The tusk, or sticking-out tooth, of a walrus (a large sea mammal), which can be carved.

weaving

Making cloth on a machine called a loom.