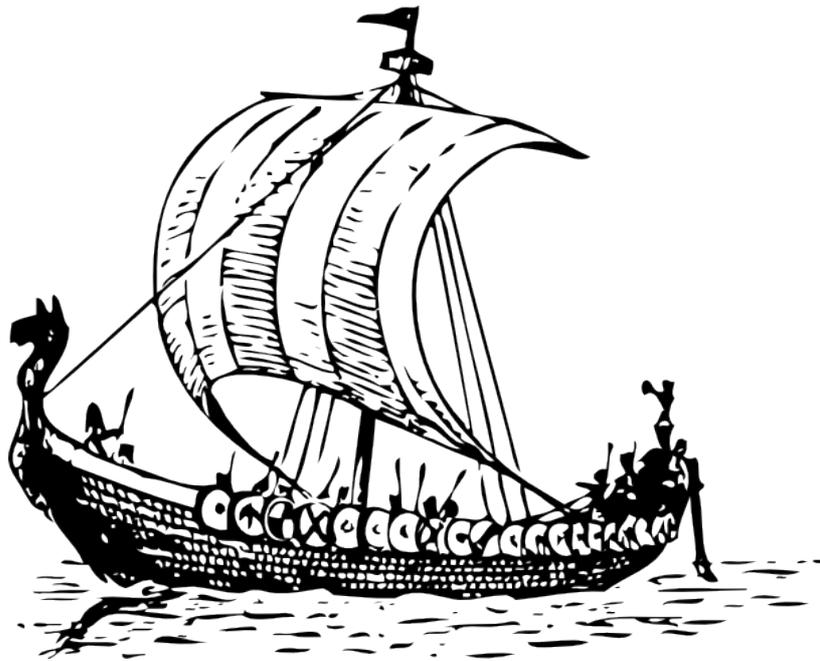


Viking Long-Ships



The Vikings built fast ships for raiding and war. These ships were called 'dragon-ships' or 'long-ships'.

The ships were long and narrow and this meant they could travel quickly.

Speed was important for when the Vikings wanted to make surprise attacks and for quick escapes.

A Viking ship had one big square sail made of woven wool. Sometimes there was not enough wind for the sail and the ship had to be powered by men rowing with long wooden oars.

The sail and the oars were the two sources of power on the long-ship.

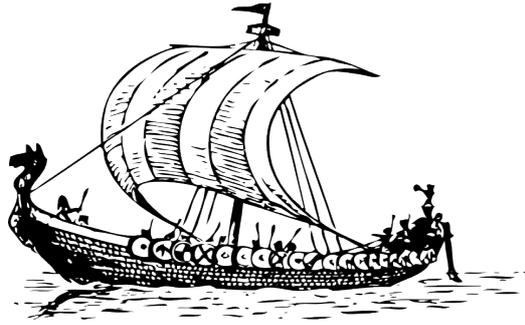
To steer the ship, one man worked a big steering oar at the back end (stern) of the ship.

Shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both the men and the ship during battles with the enemy.

A long-ship had room for between 50 and 60 men. Most of the men would be rowing and some would be steering. The men slept and ate on deck.

On the curved front end of the ship was a carved wooden figure-head which was used to scare the Viking's enemies.

Viking Ships Comprehension



1. What was another name for a long-ship?

Another name for a long-ship was a

2. What two features of the long-ship would allow it to go fast?

The long-ship travelled quickly because it was and

3. Why would speed be important for a Viking long-ship?

Speed was important for a Viking long-ship so that the warriors could make and

4. How did the Vikings power the boat if there was no wind?

The Vikings used.....

5. What were the two power sources on the ship?

The two power sources were the and the

6. How did the Vikings steer the ship?

The Vikings used a big

7. What were the shields used for?

The shields were used for

8. How many men would have been on board the long-ship?

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9. Where on the long-ship was the figure-head and what was it used for?

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