

# History: The Vikings

Vikings used whatever natural resources were available to make their houses. Typically, this might have been stone or wood for the walls, a thatched (straw) roof and wattle and daub (stick and mud/dung) on the inside walls to keep in heat.



Most Vikings lived on farms where they grew their own crops, such as oats and wheat. They also kept farm animals, such as cows, pigs and sheep which provided milk, wool and meat.



Vikings ate from wooden bowls or plates using a spiky knife. Forks were not invented until much later in history.



The Vikings kept an open fire in their houses to provide heat and a place to cook. They hung meats and fish above the fire to preserve them with the smoke. They also preserved by curing (drying out with salt).



Most Vikings wore clothes made from wool or linen. Men wore trousers and tunics which were fastened at the waist with a leather belt. Women wore long sleeved linen dresses under a woollen apron type dress.



Key Vocabulary	
Danegeld	'Paying the Dane'. King Etherlred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether.
invade	To enter and occupy land.
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
raid	A surprise attack.



Viking Longboat

The individual letters of the Viking alphabet were called runes. There were 16 runes in total.

