

The Vikings

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Viking Technology

The Vikings technological advancements were outstanding for that era. Their swords were insanely good especially since it's crucible steel was so pure that even today it amazes us with how pure it was. This sword was called the Ulfberht, one person was actually able to make it the same way the vikings would have been able to make it back in the day.



Technology continued

They normally carried shields for protection, but a rich man may wear chain mail armor and an iron helmet. (their helmets didn't have horns on them like they did in the movies.) Then they picked whatever they wanted to use for self defense, from battle axes to swords. They also used bows and arrows for battle and hunting.



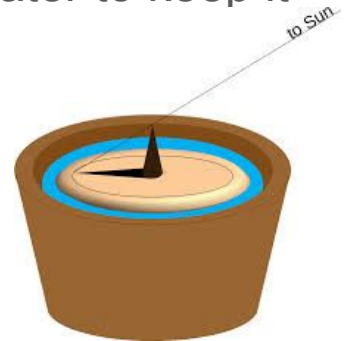
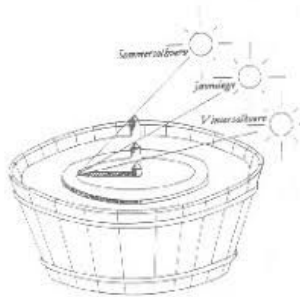
Technology continued

Their ships were amazing itself. Their ships were double ended so they could easily go into reverse without turning around which was a plus when they navigate in icy conditions and when in smaller rivers. They were longer so they could maneuver around in the river much easier, and they were shallow boats so they could also stay from grounding out on the river. The boats were made out of planks and they normally use pith and other sticky materials to seal the cracks so it was water tight.



Viking Technology Continued

When the Vikings would sail overseas what did they use so they didn't get lost, back then they didn't have a compass so how did they navigate the ocean. The Vikings would study the waves and see what direction they were going, watch for birds because if they saw a non seabird they would know they were close to land. Some of them may have used a Sun-shadow board, was a small circular board that would interact with sun casting a shadow. If the shadow was above the the circle on the board they knew their ship was to far north. The sun-shadow board also had to be kept level so they would place it in a bowl of water to keep it level.



Viking Technology Continued

The Vikings also relied on the north star a lot so they could tell what way they needed to go. The Vikings also used what was called a sun stone, this stone was made out of Icelandic spar, this stone would turn to a certain color when the light hit it marking where the sun was even through fog and clouds.



Viking Environment

The environment for the vikings was various, because of their ships that allowed them to go to areas that they wouldn't be able to go to without those ships. The areas they went to varied as well because they have made it into Greenland, Iceland and North America, but those are just some of the northern areas they have reached. How they would have made it to other areas is by using the river systems to get to different areas.



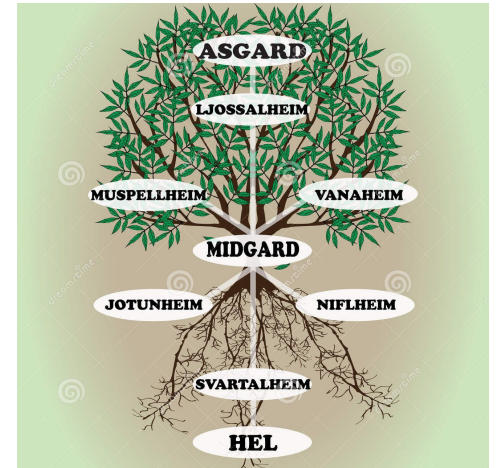
Viking Environment Continued

The Vikings have moved all over the world, because they wanted to conquer more land have more resources. They used many resources from different places so that they could be used for many different purposes.



Viking Religion

The vikings believed that there was different realms. They called it the Viking World Tree, the World Tree had many different worlds in it but there was mainly three parts. One of the most known worlds is Asgard which is in the center of the tree and it holds the most powerful gods like Odin and inside of that there is Valhalla. Then there is Midgard which is next to Asgard. They have Mar which is on the side of Midgard, and those are the main three worlds.



Viking Religion continued

The Vikings believed in many gods and goddesses. One of the most famous gods is Odin, Odin was the king of the Norse gods, he was also known as the god of poetry, battle, and death. Another famous god is Thor, he is the god of the sky, and thunder, he is also the son of Odin. Loki was the god of mischief and he is also responsible for the death of Balder.



Viking religion continued

Valkyries were women warriors that would carry dying soldiers to Valhalla. Ull was the god of archery and skiing. Eir is the goddess of healing. Hel was the ruler of Helheim, which is the realm for the dead. They say that when winter comes around that it is when Odin is sleeping, but in spring that is when Odin is waking.



Viking Culture

The Vikings culture was mainly based around a warrior system. At their homes vikings lived by a well ordered society that was based on laws and democracy. They were divided into three groups the elite group, which had great power. Free-holding farmers who had the right to bear arms and attend the ting. And the slaves who didn't have any rights.



Viking Culture Continued

The Vikings conducted a bunch of raids which is why they were so feared back then. But the Vikings wouldn't raid every place they would mainly raid monasteries that are on the coast instead of major inland settlements.



Viking Culture Continued

When an important person warrior, leader, or famous blacksmith passed away they would have a really cool burial. That person would be buried in a boat, the boat would be filled with weapons treasures and food. Sometimes slaves were sacrificed so they could serve their master in the afterlife. The reason why they would be buried in a boat, was that they believed that the ship would help them go into and navigate their way to go into Valhalla.



Viking Society

When the men would go out on raids, fishing, hunting, or even trades, the women would then take over the mens responsibilities. Women's roles normally consisted of caring for the family, preparing food, laundry, milking cows, goats and sheep, making butter and cheese, and one of the most tedious tasks was making the clothes. Sometimes women would a



Viking Society Continued

Viking men roles consisted of farming, travelling, and being warriors. The men also went to settle other places like Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland, the women did come with as well. They then went to settle England, Ireland, and France. The men would also fight in the battles. At the age of 12 to 15 both boys and girls could successfully and effectively run a household and a farm.



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