AWESOME stories

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Dragon-head post found in the Oseberg Viking Ship when it was discovered at a burial site in Norway. Copyright, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, Norway, all rights reserved. Permission to reuse granted if <u>specific instructions are followed</u>.

What does the word "Viking" actually mean? A vikingur was "a hit and run raider."

After <u>building their ships</u>, these Norsemen would sail to places like Britain where they would terrify monks and <u>loot their treasures</u>. (When Vikings first <u>landed on British shores</u>, the defenders did not yet have the sophisticated <u>weapons</u> they would develop later.) "<u>Going Viking</u>" meant to sail away on a plunder-and-loot trip.

It wasn't just full-time sailors who embarked on such raiding (or <u>trading</u>) adventures. (Click on "Thorkel and the trading voyage.") Sometimes farmers, or craftsmen, also joined in. After a raid, the men returned to their normal occupations either <u>at home</u> or in a <u>new settlement</u>.

For a <u>Viking-settlement</u> overview, take a look at this map. <u>Areas in green</u> depict the locations of frequent raids. You can also see when Vikings were most active:

- · Eighth-century Viking settlements are noted in brown;
- · Ninth-century settlements are red;
- Tenth-century settlements are orange; and
- Eleventh-century Viking settlements are yellow.

Norsemen invented the longship, among other vessels, which they sailed to distant places. Archeological evidence reveals that Vikings - just like Anglo-Saxons - occasionally used their ships for <u>underground burials</u>.

One of the most rare, and exciting, <u>discoveries</u> in Britain was the burial ship at <u>Sutton Hoo</u>. Measuring 85 feet (27 meters) long, and 15 feet (4.5 meters) at its widest, the <u>Anglo-Saxon ship</u> (the link depicts an artist's conception) was placed into the ground sometime during, or shortly after, 625 AD - predating the first Viking incursions. It remained <u>undisturbed</u> until <u>excavations</u> in 1939. (To see many of the solid-gold artifacts found at the site, visit the "<u>British Museum Compass</u>" and search for "sutton hoo.")

Scholars believe Sutton Hoo's ship burial took place in the 7th century. Are we able to date when Vikings built *their* boats? Since <u>Viking ships</u> were made from wood, experts can reasonably fix <u>the time frame</u> by using the



science of "tree rings." With that method, referred to as <u>Dendrochronology</u>, we can also create a <u>tree-ring</u> <u>chronology</u> with this animated game.

Vikings relied on ships to reach, and explore, new territories. But a Shoshone teenager, named Sacagawea, used a different means of transportation as she helped Lewis and Clark with their Corps of Discovery expedition.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/VIKING-SHIPS-and-SETTLEMENTS-Night-at-the-Museu</u> m

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Media Stream



Dragon Head - Viking Ship

This dragon-head post was found in the Oseberg Viking Ship when it was discovered inside a burial mound at the Osberg farm near <u>Tønsberg</u> in <u>Vestfold County</u>, <u>Norway</u>. Scholars believe the ship was buried around 834 AD. It was excavated between 1904-05.

The ship, and the post, are now part of the collections at the <u>Viking Ship Museum</u> located on Oslo'sbeautiful <u>Bygdøy Peninsula</u>.

Although <u>replicas of the Oseberg ship</u> have been built, it has been difficult to keep them afloat.

Scholars are not sure about the purpose of this dragon-head post.

Click on the image for a better view.

Photo of dragon-head post, online via <u>Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo,</u> <u>Norway</u>. Copyright, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, Norway.

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Anglo-Saxon Ship - An Artist's Conception Image online, courtesy Texas A & M University website.

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Sutton Hoo - Anglo-Saxon Burial Ship

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VIKING SHIPS and SETTLEMENTS

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Viking Ships

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