Early Travel: The Viking Longboats
Aim

• I can find out about an early form of travel; the Viking longboats.

Success Criteria

• I can ask and answer questions about the Vikings and their longboats
• I can design my own longboat and talk about why it will be effective for my Viking crew
Why Have People Always Wanted to Travel?

To steal money, jewels and land.
To explore.
To find out about different people.
To trade (buy and sell goods).

Have you thought of any other reasons?
Who Were the Vikings?
Where do the Vikings fit on the timeline?

- 700
- 900
- 1100
- 1300
- 1500
- 1700
- 1900
- 2000
Who Were the Vikings?

Where do the Vikings fit on the timeline?

The Viking age in European history was from AD 700 to AD 1100; that’s 400 years!

- **The Vikings**
  - 700
  - 900

- **The Tudors** (1485 – 1603)
  - 1100
  - 1300
  - 1500

- **The Victorians** (1837 – 1901)
  - 1700
  - 1900
  - 2000
Who Were the Vikings?

The Vikings’ homeland was Scandinavia; modern Norway, Sweden and Denmark. From here they travelled great distances, mainly by sea and river. They travelled as far as North America to the west, Russia to the east, Lapland to the north and North Africa and Iraq to the South.

- We know about them through archaeology, poetry and the writings of people in Europe and Asia whom they encountered.
- They were skilled craftsmen and boat-builders, adventurous explorers and wide-ranging traders.

Let’s look at some more facts in this video.

Why do you think the Vikings wanted to travel?
The Gokstad Ship Discovery

Here is an example of how we know about the Vikings through archaeology. In 1880, a team of archaeologists discovered a Viking longboat buried under the ground in a farm in Norway.

The ship is now in a museum in Oslo, Norway.

As a group, look through the images of the Gokstad ship on your sheet.

Can you answer the questions together?
The Gokstad Ship Discovery

How did the design of the longboat help the Vikings?
Can You Design Your Own Viking Longboat?

A figurehead at the front of the ship helped to scare enemies!

The sail was square and sometimes dyed red, again to scare the enemies away!

Very detailed carvings were etched into the sides of the ship.

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Imagine You Are a Viking

Can you persuade everyone to sail in your longboat?

You should sail in my longboat because...