

Primary History: Vikings

Extension Activity - Beliefs and Stories

Find out more about some of the mythical animals in Norse myths. Take trolls, for example. Discuss how the trolls in the Harry Potter books and films, and other modern stories, compare with the Viking idea of these unpleasant creatures.

There are other links between Viking stories and stories children enjoy today. Middle Earth, for example, is a name familiar from the Tolkien sagas. **Research what a 'saga' was in Viking times,** and why this form of story-telling was so popular. How did Vikings pass on stories before they were written down? What was a skald?

The Sutton Hoo ship burial took place before the Vikings came to Britain, but historians can see links between this Suffolk king's burial and Scandinavia. **Find out more about Sutton Hoo.** It gives some clues about how some Viking leaders were buried.

You might like to draw or paint some Viking monsters of your own. Base your ideas on your imagination, and on what you can find out about the weird creatures that pop up in Viking stories.