

Primary History: Vikings

Extension Activity - Trade and Exploration

Find out more about the islands the Vikings visited and colonized – the Faeroes, Iceland and Greenland. How did Vikings settle there and make a living? What are the islands like today?

Imagine a meeting in America between Vikings and Native Americans. Forget the language barrier, and start a dialogue between the two. What questions might be asked? What might one group have thought of the other? Compare this encounter with later meetings between Native Americans and European 'discoverers' such as Columbus.

Write a diary of a Viking voyage. You might choose to make it a child's diary, or a sailor's. What was it like on the Viking ship during the voyage across the Atlantic? Imagine how it felt to say goodbye to friends and head for an unknown land somewhere across the ocean.

Vikings went East as well as West. **You could find out more about Viking contacts with the East**, through Russia and Constantinople, for example. Investigate the geography of the region, to see how the Vikings got there. Why was Constantinople (now Istanbul) an important city? Lots of people from many different countries met there.