



Viking Roles in Society



Recap

Have a think back to last week's topic lesson.
Can you remember anything new or interesting
that you learned?



Recap

Did you say...

- Vikings built ships called longboats that helped them sail from Scandinavia to Britain?
- Longboats had a fierce animal on the prow?
- Boats had colourful sails and displayed shields along the sides?





This week we are going to be thinking about some of the different roles Vikings (or Norsemen) had in their society.

To help us learn, let's start by thinking what roles there are in our modern day society.



Examples

There are so many different roles in our society, here are just a few...

Everybody, whatever their role, plays a very important part in keeping our country running, including you as children!

Creative roles:

Artists

Designers

Authors

Musicians

People in charge:

The Queen

The Prime Minister

The Government

Key workers:

Doctors

Police

Teachers

Shop workers



Roles in Viking Society

After they invaded Britain, Vikings lived in tribes or settlements. Each settlement had people performing different roles to make sure their tribes had everything they needed.

Let's take a look at some of those roles





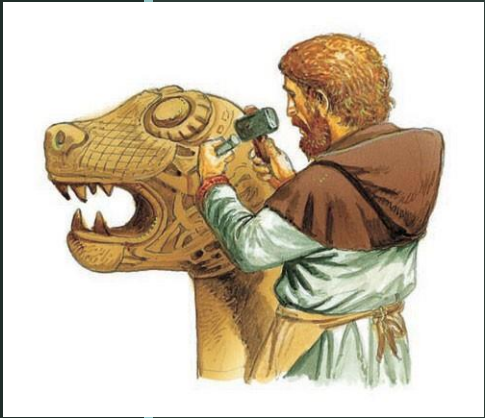
Kings and Jarls

The Vikings did not have a central government. Instead, each village or town had its own **king** or chief. The kings were the most powerful people in Viking society.



Next on the social scale were the **jarls**, the wealthy nobles. The nobles lived in the best houses and employed other Vikings to work for them. They also kept slaves.





Karls

The karls were everyday farmers, craftsmen, sailors, and warriors.

Everything had to be done by hand on a Viking farm, so life was tough. **Farmers** grew different grains, planted vegetables and kept animals like cows, sheep, pigs and chickens.

Craft workers made the things that people needed. **Woodworkers** and **leatherworkers** made plates, cups, belts and shoes. **Jewellers** made rings and brooches from precious metals. **Blacksmiths** hammered and twisted red-hot iron into tools, knives and swords. **Potters** baked clay pots in an oven heated by wood fires. **Boat builders** were important, as their longboats were vital for transportation.





Thralls

Slaves, known as **thralls** did the dirtiest jobs; they were captured in wars against the Anglo-Saxons. Slaves were also purchased by traders and sold in the marketplace. If slaves ran away, they could be killed. But, if slaves saved enough money, they could buy their way out of slavery. Slaves did have some time to create goods to sell and were paid for special jobs they did.

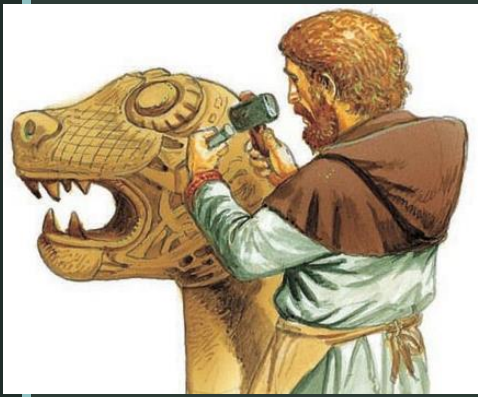


Your thoughts

Viking women had a lot more rights than women in other ancient cultures; they could run their own businesses and become warriors!

Have a think about what sort of role you think you would be best at if you were a Viking.
Why?





Your task

Your task today is to have a go at taking on an important Viking job; we want you to become a **boat builder!**

Use whatever materials you already have at home – paper, cardboard, empty bottles etc. to create your Viking longboat.

Remember to be creative and think outside the box.

Use your longboat design from last week to help you.

On the next slides are some examples and ideas.



Cardboard

- You could cut a cereal box to make a boat shape, then use the leftover cardboard to make the prow, seats and oars
- Use a straw or some tightly rolled up paper and attach your sail
- Remember to add shields along the sides!



Plastic

- You could put some paper or card over the top of a plastic bottle, or cut the top of the bottle to make your boat.
- If you use plastic, your boat will float!
- Remember to add shields and a sail, and a fearsome head on the prow!




Paper

- You could carefully stick paper together to form a boat shape, then add your sail and shields
- If you want to challenge yourself, you could also try some origami! Check out this video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqr-FNrOXxI





We can't wait to see all of your
amazing Viking Longboats!
Have fun!

