

Vikings

The Vikings came from Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

They were great sea-farers and explored using longboats, often invading other countries to acquire more productive land.

The Vikings first invaded Britain in 793 AD and stayed for almost 300 years.

Throughout the Middle Ages they struck fear into the hearts of many tribes – and for good reason – the Vikings were some of the most ferocious warriors who ever lived.

They fought violent battles with spears, bows and arrows and swords.

This worksheet is all about a very rare Viking-age sword in the Royal Armouries collection.

Additional resources

You can find lots more fascinating facts and close up images of the sword here:

collections.royalarmouries.org

Type **Viking swords** into the search box

Watch a video about Vikings on our YouTube channel.



Fascinating Facts

Sword

This Viking-age sword is over 1,000 years old.

It is in the Royal Armouries collection and is kept at our museum in Leeds.

It was discovered in 2001 at the bottom of the river Seine in France.

Like many Viking swords, the blade was double edged, meaning it was sharp on both sides, allowing the warrior to slice back and forth whilst fighting.

Can you see the remains of the scabbard?

A warrior would carry their sword in a scabbard hung from their belt. This sheath kept the sharp blade safe whilst they were travelling or going about their daily life.

This scabbard was probably made of wood and leather, which has rotted away over the centuries but the metal tip remains.

What makes this sword special?

Viking swords are rare. Very rare in fact.

They were expensive to make and therefore owning one was a sign that you were rich and important.

This sword is much smaller than the Viking swords we usually find, indicating that it probably belonged to a child warrior.



Things to do

Draw

Design and draw your own Viking sword.

Think

Vikings used to give their swords fearsome names like – Ankle Biter and War Flame.

Give your sword a name that will strike fear into the hearts of your enemies.

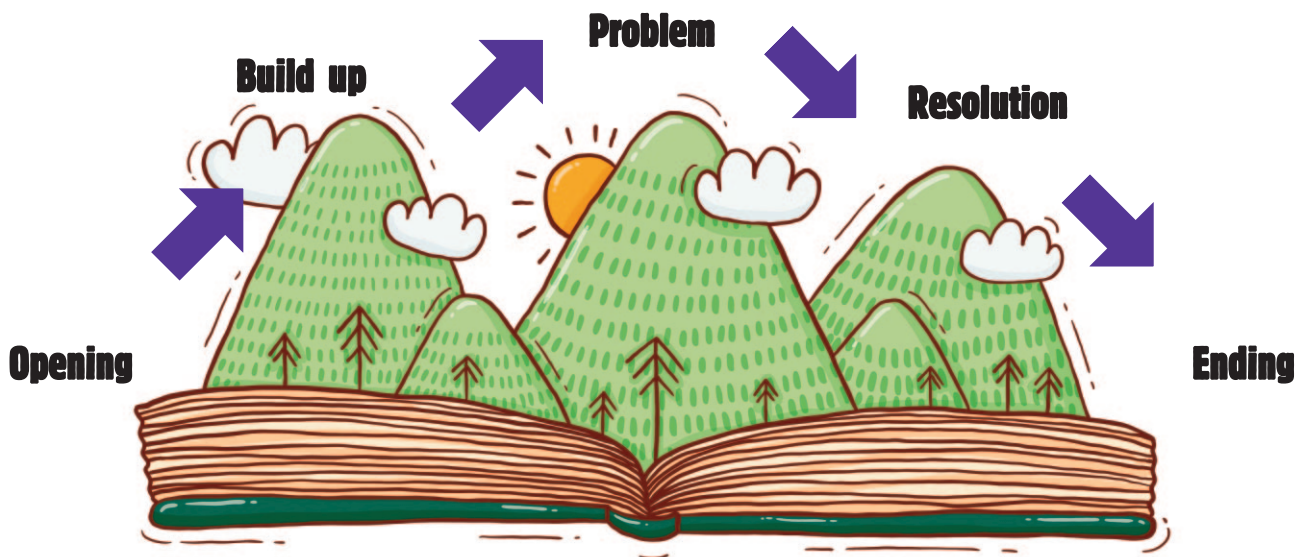
Make

Why not have a go at making a sword and scabbard from cardboard?

Tell the story

Tell an adventure story about a Viking child warrior and how their sword ended up at the bottom of the river Seine in France.

Create your story using a story mountain like the one below.



Opening

- Describe the setting
- Introduce your main characters

Problem

- Your main character faces the problem at this point
- Make your plot fast-paced

Ending

- What will the characters do now?
- What have they learned?
- Is there a moral or theme to your story?

Build up

- Introduce the problem to be resolved
- Introduce more plot
- Add in more dialogue between your characters

Resolution

- What is the result of facing the problem?
- Has anything changed?

Keep in touch

We would love to read your stories and see your sword designs.
Please email them to educate.leeds@armouries.org.uk