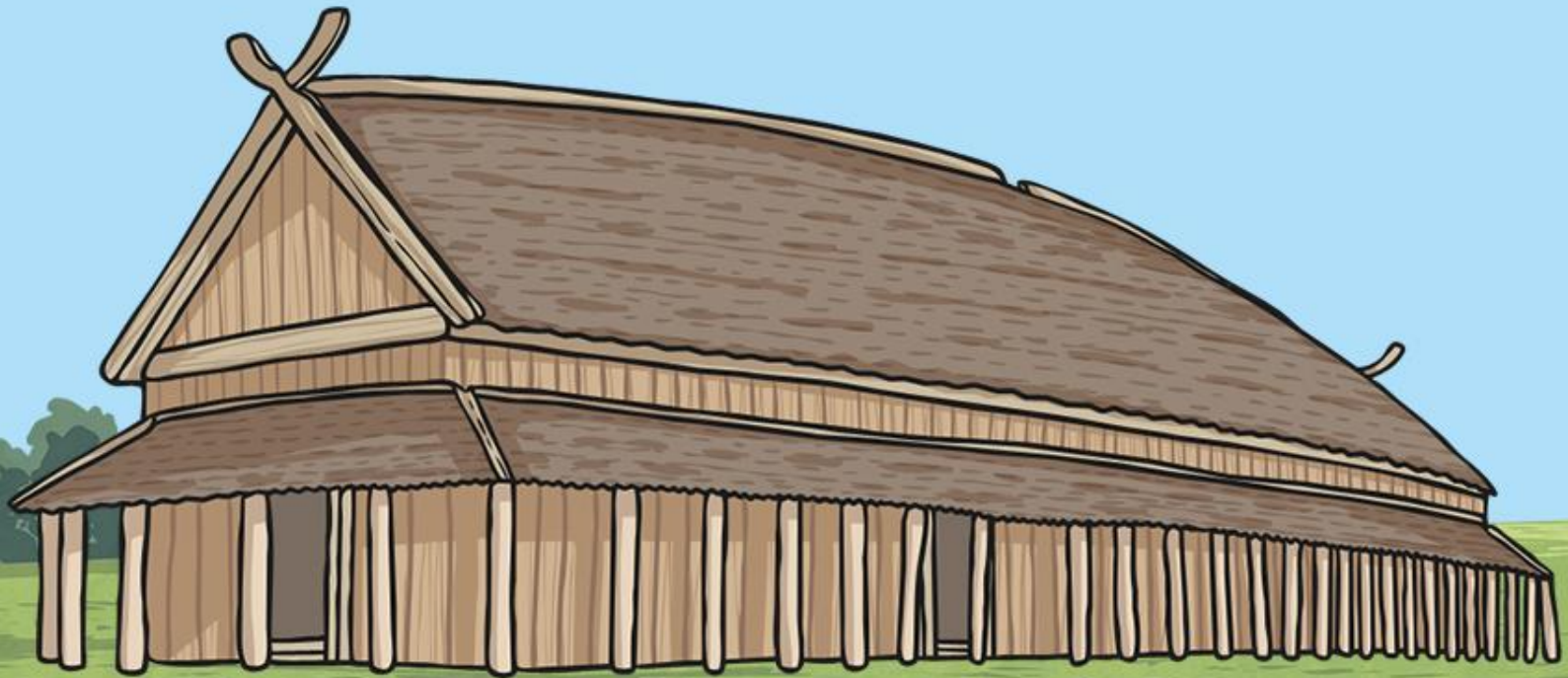


Viking Longhouses



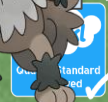


Key Questions

Introduction: What do I already know?

| | |
|-------------|---|
| LC 1 | Who were the Anglo-Saxons and did they like the Vikings? |
| LC 2 | Which region of Britain would you have come under during the Heptarchy? |
| LC 3 | Why did the Vikings come to Britain and how did they make the journey? |
| LC 4 | What did the Brits learn from the Vikings? |
| LC 5 | What was life like for a 11 year old (boy/ girl) Viking? |
| LC 6 | How did the Vikings live when they came to Britain? |
| LC 7 | How can you create a Viking long boat from a range of materials? |

Fantastic Finish: Children to prepare a Viking day when they show others the crafts and skills that the Vikings had.



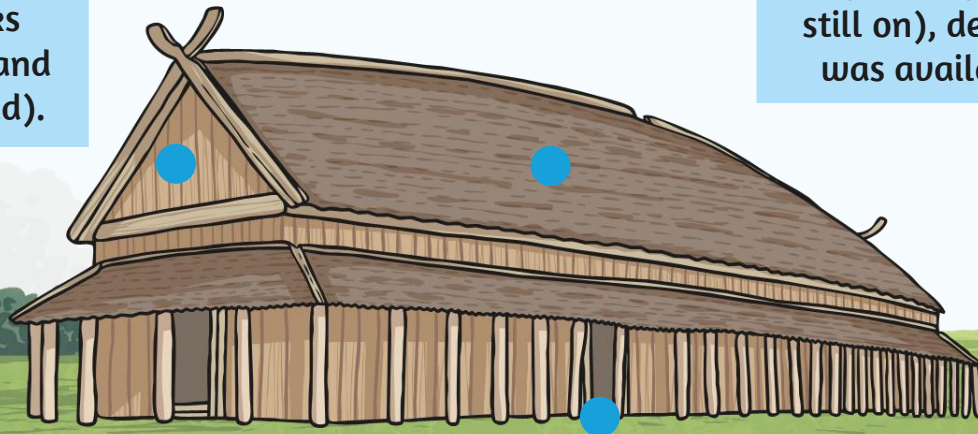
Viking Longhouses

Vikings lived in narrow houses called longhouses. Longhouses were often found in the countryside. Viking houses in cities such as York would have been smaller.

The walls were made of wattle (sticks woven together and covered with mud).

The roofs were thatched (covered in straw).

Longhouses were made of wood, stone or turf (blocks of layers of grass with the soil still on), depending on what was available in the area.



The floor level was sometimes dug below ground level to keep out draughts.

Inside a Longhouse

The inside of a longhouse must have been noisy and smelly!

At one end of the longhouse, there would have been a barn area. A family's animals would be kept there to protect them from cattle thieves and to shelter them from the cold winter weather.

Crops could also have been stored in the barn area.



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The Centre of a Longhouse

In the centre of a longhouse, there would have been a fire. This fire provided heating, lighting and it was used to cook food too.

There were no chimneys or windows so the house would be quite smoky.

The fire would be lit constantly.



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Furniture in a Longhouse

Benches would have been built into the walls of a longhouse.

These benches would have been used for sitting on during the day and sleeping on at night.

A loom would also be found inside a longhouse. It would be used for weaving.



Reconstructions of Viking Longhouses

Here are two modern reconstructions of Viking longhouses.



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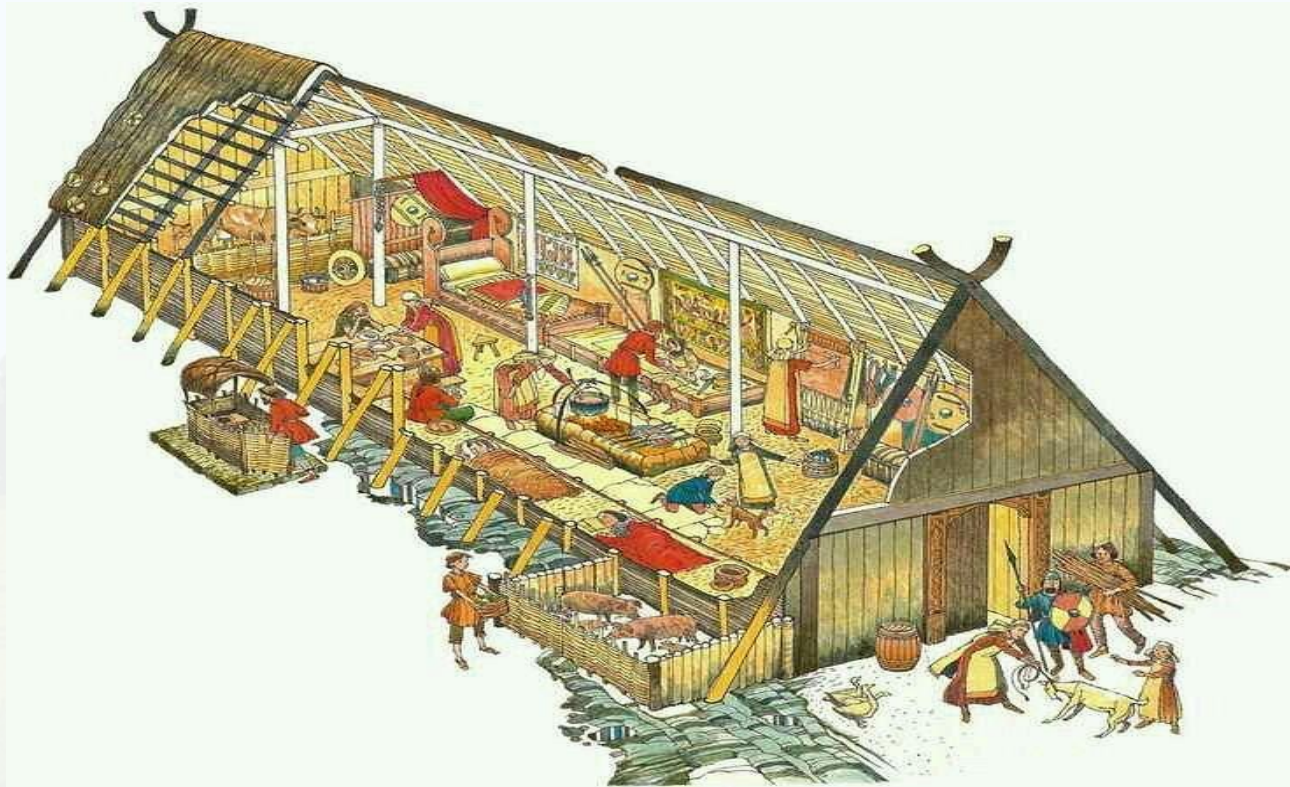
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Watch the following video on Viking longhouses: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zrthfg8>



Art Activity

Draw a diagram of a Viking longhouse and label key parts. Consider doing half of the building showing the outside, and half of the building showing the in. Be as technical as possible, using a ruler whenever a straight line is needed.



Minecraft build

There are some fantastic examples of building Viking longhouses in minecraft!
Can you make your own Viking longhouse in minecraft?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY-Xd6zls0s>



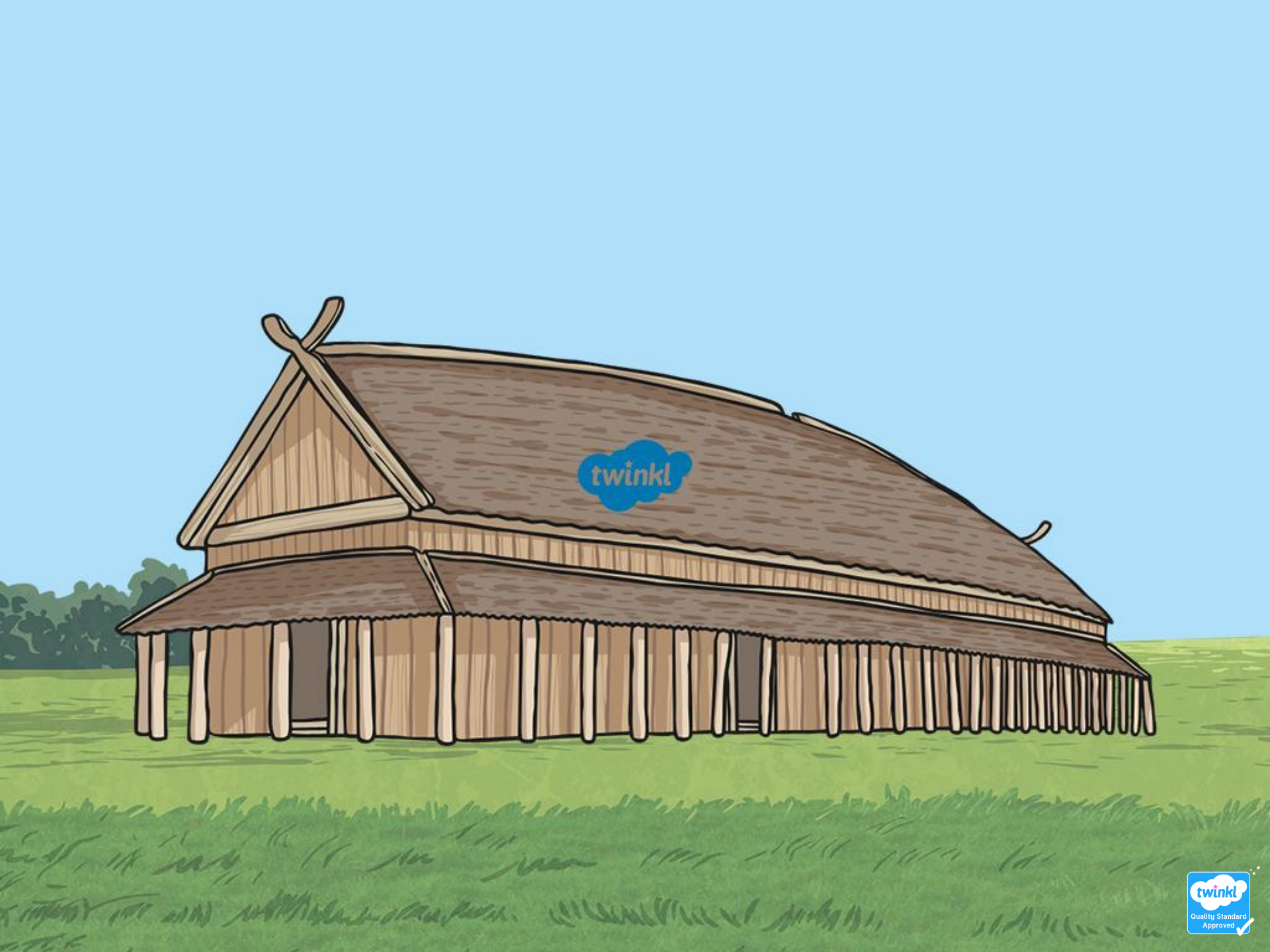
D&T

A popular Viking building in the Viking Age was the longhouse. It was long, with a tapered roof. Put your skills to the test and try building this square version using toothpicks!

You will need: Glue and wooden toothpicks

- 1) Take four toothpicks and set them down on a flat surface, in the shape of a square. Glue the corners together so that they overlap a little bit.
- 2) Take four more toothpicks and glue each one on top of a toothpick on the base layer.
- 3) Keep glueing toothpicks on top of one another, to increase the height of the longhouse.
- 4) Once at the desired height, take two toothpicks and glue them together in a 'u' shape, with the ends overlapping slightly. Then make another. The tip of each 'u' will form part of your roof.
- 5) Take each toothpick 'u', turn it upside down, and glue the ends to one side of the longhouse (so that the 'u' is upside-down at the top of the longhouse), forming the start of a roof at one end.
- 6) Take the other 'u' and glue it in the same way to the other end of the roof.
- 7) Pick up one toothpick, apply glue to both ends, and glue to the points to the inside of each 'u', connecting them together.
- 8) Glue the remaining toothpicks along the roof to the connecting toothpick, to build up the rest of the roof.
- 9) Paint and decorate your Viking longhouse!

Tip: For a more advanced longhouse model, why not try using lollipop sticks?



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