

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 3–4

The Vikings

Norse explorers, traders, raiders

Quick facts

When	c.793 CE – c.1066 CE (about 270 years).
Where from	Scandinavia — modern Norway, Sweden, Denmark.
Where to	Britain, Ireland, France, Russia, Iceland, Greenland — even Newfoundland in Canada.
Famous for	Longships, raids on monasteries, settling new lands.
Longships	Shallow boats with one big square sail. Could cross oceans AND sail up rivers.
Gods	Odin (chief), Thor (thunder), Freya (love), Loki (trickster).
Writing	Runes — a 24-character alphabet carved on wood and stone.
Trade	Furs, amber, slaves, walrus ivory. Reached Baghdad and Constantinople.
Vinland	Leif Erikson reached North America c.1000 CE — 500 years before Columbus.
End of era	1066 — Viking King Harald Hardrada killed at Stamford Bridge in England.

