

Viking Archaeo-Box (HI10003)

This collection contains a variety of Viking replica artefacts to support and enhance learning about this time in history.



Contents: -

1. 8 x Viking jewellery
2. 2x Viking coins
3. 1 x Viking axe head
4. 1 x Viking horn
5. 1 x Viking helmet
6. 1 x Timeline

(Contents may vary)

Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about the Vikings?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Artefacts

1. Viking jewellery

Viking jewellery would have included rings, brooches, bracelets and necklaces. It would have been worn to show status and some pieces had symbolic meaning. Brooches were particularly important as they were used to fasten back clothes, always making sure the hammer and sword were easily accessible at all times.

Use the artefacts as a starting point for discussing Viking lifestyle and culture. How was Viking jewellery used to display status and wealth. Create own Viking brooches.

2. Viking coins

Coins were used for trade and bartering. They were valued by their weight and Viking traders would have carried a set of folding scales with them to weigh the coins and make sure they were getting a good deal. Sometimes the coins would be chopped into half to reduce their value.

3. Viking axe head

Used as both a weapon and a tool. Viking warriors fought with long swords and axes and pictures of Vikings show both being carried. Weapons were often buried with their owner when they died, and axe heads have been found by archaeologists.

Draw and label a Viking warrior with his weapons and armour.

4. Viking horn

Used as a drinking vessel to drink mead- a honey-based alcoholic beverage. Also used as a signal horn to signal important events and to give commands. There is a common misconception that Vikings wore helmets with horns.

Make own blowing horn by rolling paper or card into a cone shape and decorating it with pens or paint.

5. Viking helmet

Viking helmets were often simple in design with a nose guard. The most common is the Spangenhelm. Only one complete Viking helmet has ever been found and the image of Vikings wearing horned helmets is a myth and would have been impractical when rowing in the longboats.

Design and decorate own Viking shields and helmets using different materials.

6. Timeline

Learn about key events and significant individuals from Viking times. Mark raids and settlements, when the first Vikings arrived in Britain, and when the attack on the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria happened.

Look at pictures of Viking ships and build paper or card models of Viking longboats to move along the timeline. Explain how the Vikings travelled, traded and raided.

Visit a local museum or historical site that features Viking artefacts. Read Viking inspired literature, such as the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series by Cressida Cowell.

Reference Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw3qmp3>