



Na Lochlannaich The Vikings

Pasgan airson Sgoiltean
Education Pack for Schools





Pròiseact Dualchas na Mara

Tha am pasgan seo mar phàirt den phròiseact Dualchas na Mara bho Museum nan Eilean. Bheir am pasgan seo beagan fiosrachadh seachad air eachdraidh ionadail a tha a’ buntainn ris a’ mhuir. Tha ‘Na Lochlannaich’ a’ toirt sùil air dualchas agus cultar na h-eileanan agus a bhuaidh a bh’ aig na Lochlannaich orra.

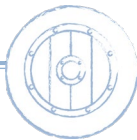
Fhuair a’ phròiseact taic bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Museums Galleries Scotland agus tha Museum nan Eilean taingeil airson an taic sin.

Heritage of the Sea Project

This education pack is part of the Dualchas na Mara / Heritage of the Sea project from Museum nan Eilean. The pack gives an introduction to local maritime history. The ‘Vikings’ pack looks at the heritage and culture of the islands related to Vikings and the impact that they had.

This project received support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Museums Galleries Scotland, and Museum nan Eilean are grateful for their support.





Seisean air Na Lochlannaich



Suas gu 1 uair a thìde ach dh' fhaodadh e a bhith nas fhaide



15- 20 mionaidean

Fior neo Breug

Lughdaich a-nuas an taisbeanadh a tha ri fhaighinn còmhla ris a' phasgan seo air làrach-lìn an taigh-tasgaidh Museum nan Eilean.

Leugh a-mach gach briathar agus tomhas a bheil e fìor neo nach eil.

Tha na freagairtean anns an taisbeanadh agus air duilleagan 5-6.



15 mionaidean

Seisean fiosrachaidh air na Lochlannaich.

1. Cò a bh' anns na Lochlannaich air duilleagan 7-8.
2. Ainmeannan àite Lochlannach anns na h-eileanan – faic duilleag 9.
3. Bàtaichean Lochlannach air duilleagan 10-11.



15 mionaidean

Geama – Shove Groat

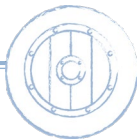
Na riaghailtean air duilleag 13.

A' Bhòrd airson an geama air duilleag 14.



15 mionaidean

Duilleag dath na Lochlannaich – Faic duilleag 12.



Fior neo Breug?

1. Bhiodh clogaidean adharcach air na Lochlannaich - **Breug**

Gu traidiseanta cha bhitheadh clogaid idir air cinn na Lochlannaich, ach uaireannan bha clogaid simplidh leather agus meatailt orra a' geàrd na h-aodainn aca. Chan eil dearbhadh sam bith ann gun robh clogaidean adharcach riamh air cinn na Lochlannaich.



2. Bha iad glan agus a' toirt an aire den coltas - **Fior**

Bi feadhainn àrc-èolais a lorg fianais gu math tric de chìrean, spàinean agus rudan grumachadh eile a tha ag innse dhuinn gun robh na Lochlannaich gu math dèidheil air a bhith cumail suas slàinteachas pearsanta.

3. Thàinig na Lochlannaich uile bhon aon àite - **Breug**

'S e daoine sgapte a bh' unnta. Thàinig na Lochlannaich bhon Danmhairg, Nirribhidh agus An t-Suain.

'Se Lochlannach cuideigin a bha a' gabhail pàirt ann an cuairtean thall thairis.

4. Cha robh na Lochlannaich ro àrd / bha iad goirid - **Fior**

Gu math tric tha na Lochlannaich air am faicinn mar daoine àrd mòr, le gruag bàn, ach tha clàran eachdraidheil a sealltainn gun robh an Lochlann àbhaisteach mu 171 cm (ceud, seachdad 'sa h-aon) a dh'àirde, agus cha robh sin ro àrd aig an àm a bha sin.

Fireannaich – 171 cm (ceud, seachdad 'sa h-aon)

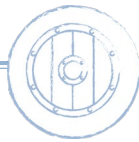
Boireannaich – 158 cm (ceud, caogad 'sa ochd)

5. Bha gruag bàn air na Lochlannaich - **Breug**

Bha gruag bàn air fhaicinn freagarrach ann an cultar na Lochlannaich, ach cha robh iad bàn gu nàdarra agus bhitheadh cuid de na fireannaich a' cuir dath dhan ghruag aca le siabann sònraichte.

Bha na Lochlannaich math air daoine a thoirt a-steach agus le ùine, bha cuid de na sleibhean a ghlac iad an uair sin nam pàirt de sluagh na Lochlannaich.

Mar sin ann an buidheann Lochlannaich bha daoine Eadailtis, Spàinntis, Portagaileach, Fraingis agus Ruiseanaich.



Fior neo Breug?

6. Bha na Lochlannaich a marbhadh a h-uile duine - **Breug**

Bha na Lochlannaich brùideil ach 'se àm brùideil a bh' ann. Cha robh iad a marbhadh a h-uile duine. Bha grain mòr aca air an eaglais agus mar sin bhitheadh iad a' marbhadh fir eaglais agus a dèanamh milleadh ann an àiteachan beannaichte.

7. Bhitheadh na Lochlannaich a cuir pleat dhan ghruag aca - **Breug**

A' fuireach dlùth gu bun na Lochlannaich, bhiodh na fireannaich a' rùisgeadh leth dhen ghruag aca, agus bhitheadh iad a' fàgail an leth eile gu fàsadh an còrr dhen ghruag aca.

8. Bha an t-arm aig na Lochlannaich mòr - **Breug**

A-rèir dearbhadh àrc-eòlais air meud na bataichean, tha e air a smaointinn gun robh caogad neo siagad ann an arm Lochlannaich. Tha sin a ciallachadh gun bheil an airm aig na Lochlannach air an cunntais nan ceudan, agus chan e mìltean.

9. Bhitheadh aodach dathte air na Lochlannaich - **Fior**

Bha na dathan liath agus dearg cumanta aig àm na Lochlannaich. Bhitheadh aodach dathte ri pàtran agus ribeanan orra. Tha muinntir àrc-eòlais air mòran diofar dathan a lorg a bh' air aodach Lochlannach.

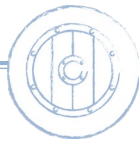
Bhitheadh ribeanan le snàth airgead agus oir air aodach na Lochlannaich a bha na 's fhèarr dheth, agus bhitheadh an t-aodach sònraichte seo air tighinn bho air feadh an t-saoghal.

10. 'S e tuathanaich agus fir-reic a bh' anns na Lochlannaich - **Fior**

Bha tuathanais aig cuid de na Lochlannaich, agus bhitheadh na boireannaich a' coimhead as an deaghaidh nuair a bha na fireannaich ag obair air falbh. Nuair a thilleadh na fir dhachaigh bhitheadh iad a' tòiseachadh air abair air an fhearann.

Thoiseach na Lochlannaich a' fuireach ann an diofar àiteachan mar Innis Tìle agus Graonlainn, cuideachd a' ruighinn cho fada air falbh ri Afraga a tuath, an Ruis, Constantinople agus Ameireaga a tuath.

Bha iad nan fir reic eadar nàiseanta agus bhitheadh iad a ceannach bho cha mhòr a h-uile dùthaich a bh' anns an t-saoghal an uair sin.



Na Lochlannaich

Chaidh a' chiad clàradh gun robh na Lochlannaich air Breatainn ruighinn ann an 793 AD, aig a' Mhanachainn air Lindisfarne agus chaidh Eilean I agus an Eilean Sgitheanach a' chreachadh an ath bhliadhna.

Cò a bh' anns na Lochlannaich?

'S ann bho Danmhairg, Nirrbhidh agus an t-Suain a thainig na Lochlannaich agus 'se paganach a bh' unnta. The an t-ainm 'Viking' a' ciallachadh 'a' creachadh' agus 'se sin an t-ainm a bh' air an fheadhainn a bha a' creachadh agus a' goid.

Tha a' chànan aca, an t-seann Lochlannais, bun-stèidh na cànanan Lochlannach eile. Tha mòran ainmeannan aite anns na h-eileanan an Iar, ann an diofar phiosan de Alba, a tha a' tighinn bho Lochlannais.

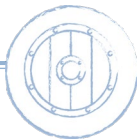
Mar eisimpleir: **Bost** (Habost, Leurbost, Calbost, Shawbost, Kirkibost, Sheilebost), **Shader** (Shulishader, Sheshader, Drinishader, Kershader), **Val** (Vallay, Snuishival, Valtos), **Ay** (Berneray, Orasay, Vallay), **Nis** (Griminish, Ness, Sidinish), **How** (Howmore, Howbeag, Hougharry) & **Borve**.



Bosta (Còrchean nan Dealbhan le Museum agus Tasglann nan Eilean)

Chan e luchd-creachaidh a bh' anns a h-uile duine aca ge-tà agus tha feadhainn den bheachd gun do thoisich na Lochlannaich a' fuireach anns na h-eileanan an Iar bhon bhliadhna 795 AD.

Mus d' thàinig iad, bha na h-eileanaich o thus a' fuireach ann an coimhearsnachdan tuathanais, air a' mhachaire agus air na slèibhtean na beann. Bha slugh mòr ann aig an t-àm ad. 'Se Criostaidhean a bh' anns na h-eileanaich agus bha tòrr eaglaisean beaga agus manachainn.



Carson a thàinig na Lochlannaich?

Bhiodh iad a' dol seachd air an h-eileanan an Iar neo an Innse Gall air an rathad gu àiteachan eile leithid Èirinn, Sasainn agus an Eilean Mhanainn agus bhiodh na sròin aca a' cur dragh orra mu bha iad a' faicinn taighean, smoc, bàtaichean is eile. Bha na h-eileanan tarraingeach dhaibh oir bha an t-sìde agus an talamh gu math coltach ri an dachaigh ann a Scandinavia agus bha iad na b' fhaighe air àiteachan luachmhor mar Eireann agus an còrr den Roinn Europa.

Carson a bha na Lochlannaich a' siubhal cho fada air falbh?

Bhiodh na Lochlannaich a' malairt bathair, gu h-àraidh airgead agus òr le àiteachan eile a bha air an Slighean mara a chaidh seachad na h-eileanan an Iar. Cha robh mòran talamh air fhàgail ann an Nirrbhidh agus thoisich iad a' siubhal airson talamh eile far am b' urrainn dhuibh fuireach.

Chaidh iad cuideachd gu na h-eileanan Faroe, Eireann, Innis Tìle, Cataibh, Gallaibh, Arcaibh, Sealltainn, Graonlainn, Eilean Mhanainn agus Ameireaga a Tuath.

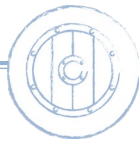
Ciamar a bha iad a' siubhal?

Bha na Lochlannaich math air a' togail bàtaichean, bàtaichean a bha gu math adhartach aig an àm. Bha iad cuideachd air leth math air stiùireadh agus teicneolas nas adhartach aca na dùthchannan a bha gun cuideachadh gus siubhail nas fhaide agus nas luaithe.

Bha na bàtaichean aig na Lochlannaich caol agus so-lùbach a' ciallachadh gu robh iad math anns a' mhuir a bha fada ach cuideachd comasach a dhol a-staigh gu àiteachan eu-domhainn. Bha druim-luinge fada agus seòl mòr ceàrnagach ach bha iad cuideachd air an stiùireadh le sgioba de seòladairean ag iomradh. Bha e cuideachd furasta a thoirt gu tìr agus mar sin bha iad comasach dhaibh a dhol gu tìr gun fhiosta do dhaoine.



Muileann Lochlannais (Còirichean nan dealbhan le Museum agus Tasglann nan Eilean)



Ainmeannan àite Lochlannais

Tha tòrr de dh'àiteachan air feadh na h-eileanan siar le ainmeannan Lochlannach. Seo feadhainn dhuibh agus na tha iad a' ciallachadh.

Nis = headland

Griminish, Sidinish, Ness, Meanish, Rossnish

Val = vallay

Snuishival, Vallay

Vik (wick) = inlet / bay

Sandwick

Ay = island

Berneray, Orasay, Grimsay, Vallay, Flodaigh (ay)

Ven = mountain

Scotven (Grimsay)

Shader = village

Shulishader, Shershader, Kershader

Skip = headland

Skipinish

Lax = Salmon

Laxdale

Bost = homestead

Kirkibost, Shawbost, Leurbost

Dale = Vallay

Gramsdale, Glendale

Flod = flood

Flodaigh

Klettr (cleit) = Outstanding Rock

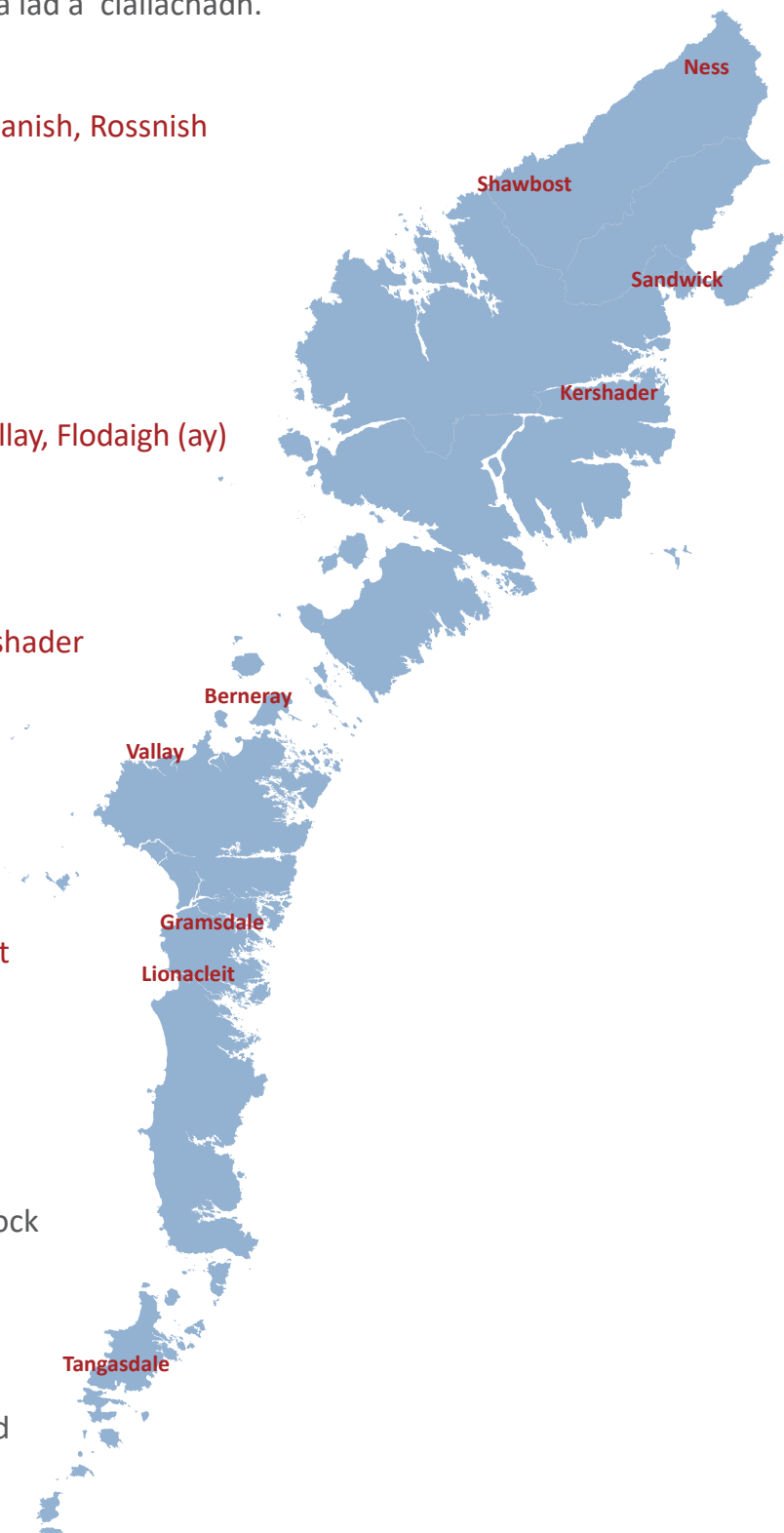
Lionacleit, Cleitrebhal

Tang = low rocky point

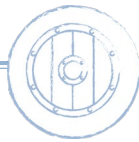
Kentangbhal, Tangasdale

Straumr = stream / farmstead

Strom, Craigastrome



Gnìomh – bheil sùil air mapa de na h-eileanan an Iar airson na àiteachan air an liosta, cur ainmeannan eile ris an liosta a tha sibh a' smaoinichadh a thàinig bho Lochlannais.



Bàtaichean na Lochlannaich

An Long

Chaidh am bàta-luinge a dhealbhadh airson a' creachadh agus gu ìre nas lugha airson cogaidhean-mara. Mar a tha an t-ainm ag innse, 'se bàta fada, caol a bh' anns an long.

Bha cruth a' bhàta a' ciallachadh gun b' urrainn dhaibh siubhail gu luath san uisge agus na bu cudromaiche, sin a dhèanamh gun fhiosta agus fhaighinn air falbh a-rithist ann an cabhaig.

Nuair nach robh a' ghaoth ann airson na siùil, bhiodh iad a' cleachdadh na ràimh airson stiùireadh agus bha na ràimh air gach taobh a' bhàta.

B'e saighdearan agus seòladairean a bh'anns a chrutha air fad. Tha fianais ann gum biodh iad a' suidhe air cisteachan neo bogsaichean nuair a bha iad ag iomradh a' bhàta.

Chaidh an long as fhaide a' lorg a bha 28m a dh' fhaid agus 4.5m tarsainn. Tha iad den bheachd air na bataichean is motha bhiodh suas ri 60 duine le ràimh aig gach duine. Air na turasan as fhaid, bhiodh na sgiobaidhean ag atharrachadh.

Ged a bha ramhan aca, bha siùil aca cuideachd. Bha na siùil air an cruinneachadh and ceangailte suas ris a' chrann nuair nach robh feum aca ach furasta an leigeil sìos mu bha.

Bha slige na luinge eu-domhainn a' ciallachadh gum b' urrainn na bàtaichean a bhith air an slaodadh suas air an tràigh agus suas aibhnichean cuideachd.

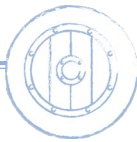
Bha falmadair air taobh a bhàta ann airson taic fad na h-ùine. Bha an crann sa mheadhan agus an crann-grith air aon taobh den chrann.

Aig toiseach a bhàta bha samhla snaighte a bha air a dhealbhadh gun an t-eagal a chur air na neamhnaidean a bharrachd air a' sealltainn cho adhartach is cudromach sa bha na Lochlannaich.

Tha e coltach gum biodh an samhla snaighte air chur gu sàbhailte air an deic agus gur ann aig a mhionaid mu dheireadh a bhiodh iad ga chur shuas air toiseach a' bhàta mus ruigeadh iad cladach sam bith.

'Se fiodh darach a bha na Lochlannaich a' cleachdadh airson na bàtaichean aca oir bha an fhiodh cruaidh agus làidir.

Bha na siùil air a dhèanamh a-mach a clòimh. Airson an dèanamh dìonach bhiodh iad a' cleachdadh geir bho amhaich nan eich aca. Bha na h-oirean air an neartachadh le piosan leathair neo anart.



Ann an Sagas (sgeulachdan Lochlannach) bha iad ag innse gun robh striopan dearg is liath neo dearg air fad air na siùil.

Bha slige na luinge air a dhèanamh le plangaichean fiodha a bha a' sùdh ri chèile (clinker-built). Bha seo a' ciallachadh gun robh am bàta tana, aotrom ach làidir agus sùbailte agus freagarrach airson an Cuan a Tuath.

An Knarr (bàta-bathair)

Bha an knarr air a chleachdadh airson stuth trom is mòr a tharraing. 'S ann air mheadhan an knarr, bha a' charago ga chur agus air a chuirteachadh le tarpaulin airson a dhìon bhon droch shìde.



Sàmhla de long Lochlannaich (Còirichean nan Dealbhan le Museum agus Tasglann nan Eilean)

Bha stòr a bharrachd fon deic. Cha robh na uiread de ràimhean gun cleachdadh air an seòrsa seo air sàillibh an cuideam nuair a bha i làn stuth, mar sin bha dìreach aon seòl oirre airson a' gluasad.

Bha na knarrs gun cleachdadh airson an stòr aca ach bha iad cuideachd comasach siubhail gu dùthchannan eile leithid Innis Tìle, Graonlainn agus Newfoundland. Cha robh cuideam cho cudromach mur nach robh feum aca a' dhol luath.

Bha na bàtaichean seo nas leathann airson a bhith comasach air an carago mòr a tharraing. Coltach ris na luinge, bha na sligean aca eu-domhainn cuideachd airson an stiùireadh fiordan, aibhnichean agus a thoirt gu tìr air cladaichean. Bha an knarr làidir agus math aig muir airson a bhith air a' chuan Atlantaig a Tuath.

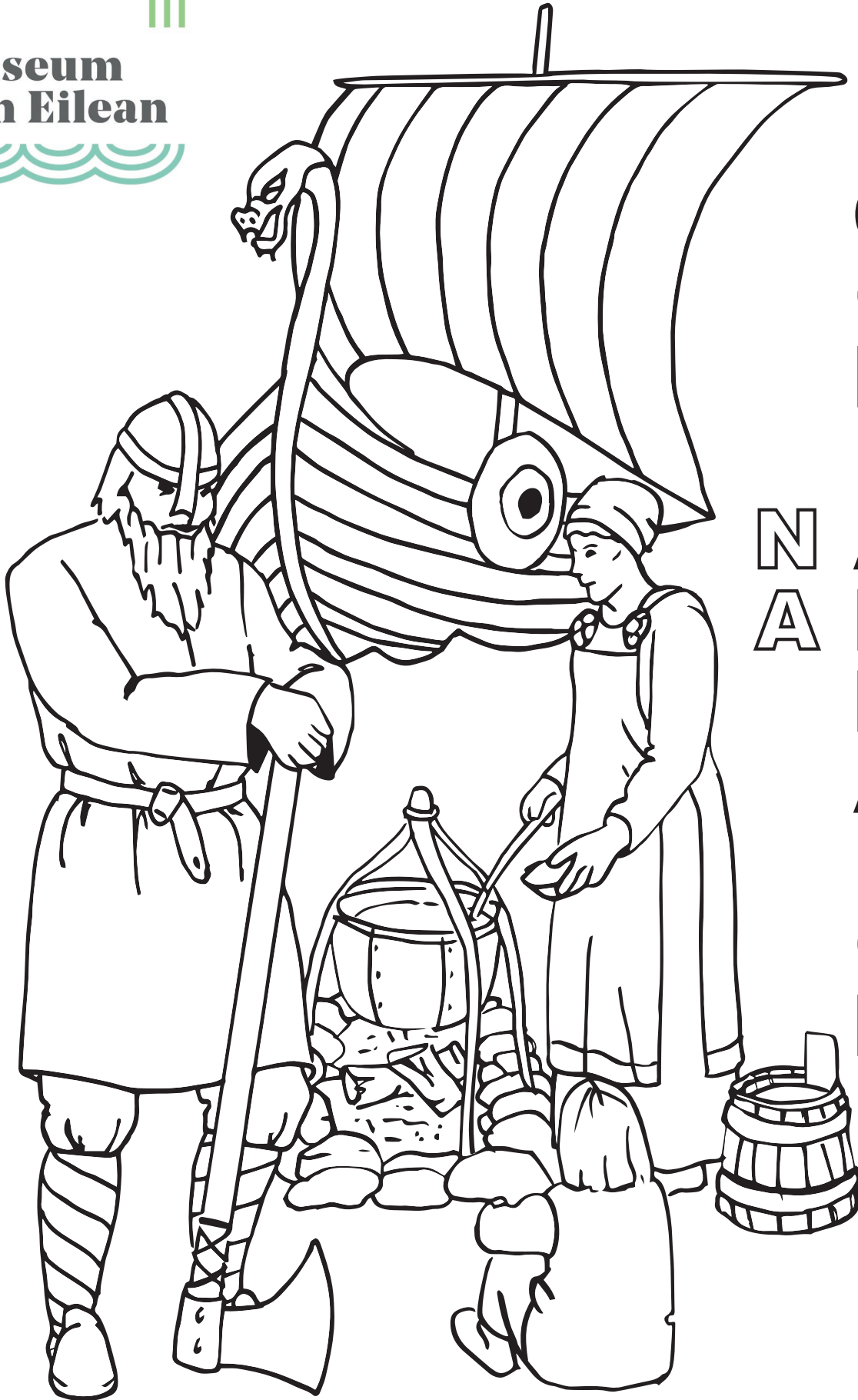
An Criutha Lochlannach

Air a' chriutha bha stiùireadair, cuideigin a bha a' coimhead a-mach, taomaire, luchd-siùil agus na luchd-ràmh. Bhiodh an criutha a' cadal ann an pocannan-cadail agus ag ithe biadh tioram neo air a' phicligedh agus aran. Bha feadhainn fiùs a' feuchainn teine air bòrd le coire mar àmhainn.

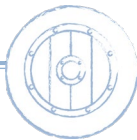
Carson a bha na Lochlannaich cho sònraichte?

On a bha na Lochlannaich cho sgile air bàtaichean a' thogail agus a' stiùireadh, bha iad cho math air creachadh, mar luchd-malairt agus mu dheireadh thall, thoiseach iad a' fuireach anns na dùthchannan a bha iad air buinig. Airson 300 bliadhna, b' iad na seòladairean is sgile air tuath an Roinn Europa. Chan eil clàraidhean ann ag ràdh gun robh Anglo-Saxons a' feuchainn ris an aon rud a dhèanamh. Bha an long Lochlannach àlainn agus air leth freagarrach. Tha e a' sealltainn na sgilean a bh' aca, rud a bha bunaitich dhan cumhachd aca. Bha na bàtaichean na duais luachmhor aca agus mur nach robh duine-ualasal Lochlannaich air bàsachadh aig muir, bhiodh iad ga thiodhlacadh air tìr am broinn bàta.

Duilleag Dath



LOCHLANNAICHE



Geama Shove Groat

Riaghailtean Shove Groat

B' e geama Lochlannach a bh' ann an Shove Groat. Bhiodh iad ga chluich air na tursan fada aca airson a tìde a chur seachad. Bhiodh iad ga chluich le groats, pìosan airgead mòr trom. Dh' fhaodaidh do sgillinn sam bith neo washers a' chleachdadh ach dean cinnteach gu bheil iad uile an aon mheudachd agus cuideam.

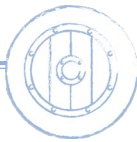
Tha a' bhòrd airson an geama fhèin air a roinn ann an loidhnichean còmhnaidh. Tha a' bhòrd air an ath dhuilleag. Dean leth-bhreac den bhòrd airson dà cluicheadair, neo 's urrainn dhuibh tè nas motha a dhèanamh anns a' chlas.

Bi na cluicheadairean a' dol gu gach ceann a' bhòrd-geama agus a' cur na sgillinnean aca anns an roinn as fhaisge orra. A' cleachdadh an òrdag agus an corrag mheadhanach, feumaidh na cluicheadairean na sgillinnean aca a' bhualadh gu diofar roinnean air a bhòrd-geama.

Gus puing fhaighinn, feumaidh an sgillinn a bhith anns an roinn gun a bhith a' bualadh loidhne sam bith air a' bhòrd. 'S urrainn dhan cluicheadair eile an sgillinn aig an cluicheadair a chur a-mach leis an sgillinn aca fhèin.

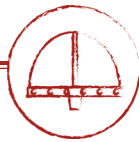
Tha trì dòighean ann airson an geama a' chluich:

1. Anns a' chiad gheama, tha gach roinn a' comharrachadh puingean a-rèir an t-astar bhon cluicheadair eadar 1- 10. Cleachd bonn neo sgillinn gus na roinnean sin a' bhualadh. Sgillinn sam bith a dh'fhàgas a' bhòrd a' call na puing. A' chiad cluicheadair a' ruigeas 50 neo 100 neo àireamh sam bith a tha iad ag iarraidh, tha an cluicheadair sin a' glèidheadh.
2. Anns an dàrna geama, feumaidh gach cluicheadair na puingean anns gach roinn fhaighinn dà thuras. Mu tha sgillinn a' bharrachd anns an roinn, tha na puingean sin a' dol chun an cluicheadair eile mu tha feum aca orra. Chan eil puingean a bharrachd as dèidh gach cluicheadair an na puingean airson gach roinn fhaighinn an uairsin a' cunntadh. Chan eil puingean ga chaill mu thèid na sgillinnean far a bhòrd. Mu thèid aig air cluicheadair na puingean fhaighinn dà thriop anns gach roinn, tha iadsan a' glèidheadh.
3. Airson geama sgioba a dhèanamh às, faodaidh gach cluicheadair anns an sgioba an sgillinn a' thilgeil 3 tursan agus na puingean a gheibh iad a chur còmhla airson an sgioba. Mu dh' fhàgas an sgillinn a' bhòrd, chan eil iad a' faighinn puing. Cuimhnich na puingean a thoirt air falbh bhon sgioba eile ge-tà mu bhuaileas iad an sgillinn agaibh. An sgioba aig a bheil na puingean as àirde as dèidh 3 geamannan, tha iad sin a' buannachadh.



Geama Shove Groat

CLUICHEADAIR 2		
10		1
9		2
8		3
7		4
6		5
5		9
4		7
3		8
2		6
1		10
CLUICHEADAIR 1		



Session running order



Total time = up to 1 hr but can be longer



15- 20 minutes

True or False

Download the Vikings, True or False presentation from Museum nan Eilean website.

Read out each statement and have the children guess whether the statements are true or false. The answers are on pages 16-17.



15 minutes

Information session related to Vikings

1. Who were the Vikings on pages 18-19.
2. Norse Placenames on page 20.
3. Viking boats on pages 21-22.



15 minutes

Game – Shove Groat

Rules on page 23.

The board for printing out is on page 24.



15 minutes

Vikings – colouring in page on page 25.



True or False?

1. Vikings wore horned helmets - **False**

Vikings traditionally went bareheaded or wore simple leather and metal-frame helmets with the occasional face guard. The idea behind horned helmets came about from the Viking revival during the Victorian period. There is no evidence for helmets like this ever being worn by Vikings.



2. Vikings were clean and took care of their appearance - **True**

Archaeologists find evidence on a regular basis of combs, spoons and other grooming utensils that indicate the Viking people were very keen on maintaining personal hygiene.

Saturday is still referred to as laugardagur / **laurdag** / lørdag / lördag, or “washing day” in the Scandinavian languages. “**Laug**” also still means “bath” or “pool” in Icelandic.

3. Vikings all came from the same place - **False**

They were a divided people. Vikings came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The Old Norse word **víkingr** denoted not a nationality, but occupation: a Viking was anyone who took part in an overseas expedition.

4. Vikings weren't very tall - **True**

The Vikings are often shown as big, bulging guys with long blond hair, but historical records show that the average Viking man was about 171 cm (5'7") tall which was not especially tall for the time.

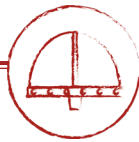
Vikings' average height:

Men – 171 cm

Women – 158 cm

5. Vikings all had blonde hair - **False**

Blond hair was seen as ideal in the Viking culture, and many Nordic men bleached their hair with a special soap. But the Vikings were great at absorbing people, and many people who had been kidnapped as slaves, became part of the Viking population in time. So, in Viking groups, you would probably find Italians, Spaniards, Portuguese, French, and Russians — a very diverse group built around a core of Vikings from a particular region, say, southern Denmark or an Oslo fjord.



True or False?

6. Vikings were bloodthirsty - **False**

The Viking raids were indeed very violent, but it was a violent age, and the question is whether non-viking armies were any less bloodthirsty and barbarian than others at the time. What really made the Vikings different was the fact that they seemed to take special care to destroy items of religious value (Christian monasteries and holy sites) and kill churchmen, which earned them quite a bit of hatred in a highly religious time.

7. Vikings plaited their hair - **False**

There is an 11th-century letter in Old English, which mentions “Danish fashion with bared neck and blinded eyes.” There is no historical evidence of Vikings wearing tresses. To proclaim their Viking roots, Norman men shaved the back half of their head entirely, behind a line drawn from over the crown from ear to ear. On the front half of the head, forward of this line, the hair was left to grow long.

8. Viking armies were huge - **False**

On the basis of the archeological evidence for the size of the boats, he suggested that Viking ships may have held fifty to sixty men. It means that Viking armies have to be numbered in the hundreds, not even in the thousands.

9. Vikings wore colourful clothes - **True**

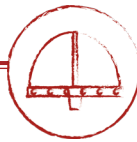
Blue and red were popular colours throughout the Viking Age. In general, they all wore colourful clothes with patterns and sewn-on ribbons. Archaeologists have come across examples of colours covering the entire colour palette.

The Vikings have also known about luxuries such as silk and sewn-on ribbons with silver and golden threads. But only a few members of the elite have been able to wear these exclusive fabrics, which were imported from around the world.

10. Vikings were mostly farmers and traders - **True**

Many of the Vikings held farms back in their homeland that their wives maintained during Viking season. When the men returned home from a raid, they resumed their normal routine of farming.

The Vikings settled peacefully in many places such as Iceland and Greenland, reaching as far as North Africa, Russia, Constantinople, and even North America. They were international merchants of their time; they peacefully traded with almost every county of the then-known world.



Vikings & Norse Settlement

Britain was the site of the first recorded Viking raid when, in 793 AD, the monastery at Lindisfarne was raided, with Iona and the Isle of Skye being attacked the next year.

Who were the Vikings?

Although many people think of the Vikings as Norse they were in fact people, who were mostly pagans, from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The term 'The Vikings' should only really be used for those that came to plunder and raid.

Their language, Old Norse, is the foundation of present-day Nordic languages. There are a number of place names in the Western Isles, and other places in Scotland, that have an Old Norse influence left over from Viking times.

Placename examples: **Bost** (Habost, Leurbost, Calbost, Shawbost, Kirkibost, Sheilebost), **Shader** (Shulishader, Sheshader, Drinishader, Kershader), **Val** (Vallay, Snuishival, Valtos), **Ay** (Berneray, Orasay, Vallay), **Nis** (Griminish, Ness, Sidinish), **How** (Howmore, Howbeag, Hougharry) & **Borve**.



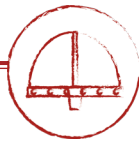
Bosta (Copyright Museum & Tasglann nan Eilean)

However, not all Scandinavians were raiders and it is believed that some started to settle in the Western Isles from about 795 AD.

Before they arrived people lived in farming communities, mostly on the machair and the hill slopes, and the islands had a large population. Many of the islanders were Christian, and there were a lot of small churches and monasteries.

Why did the Vikings come here?

They would have passed the islands in the Outer Hebrides on route to other places like Ireland, England and the Isle of Man and would have been curious especially if they'd



spotted signs of life – houses, smoke, boats, etc. When they'd visited or raided the islands once they'd have been attracted to return because the land and climate were similar to that back home in Scandinavia, with the added attraction of their proximity to the profitable Viking centres in Ireland plus the rest of Europe.

Why did the Vikings travel so far afield?

The Viking traded goods, particularly silver and gold, with other areas especially within the Western Seaboard and these routes which were like sea roads passed the Western Isles. The Vikings in Norway also began to run out of land and started to look for other places where they could settle.

Other places they visited or settled in were the Faroe Islands; Ireland; Iceland; Caithness, Orkney and Shetland; Greenland; Isle of Man and (briefly) in North America.

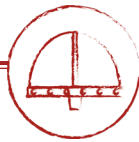
How did the Vikings travel?

The Vikings were legendary shipbuilders with more advanced technology than other people of the time. They were also thought to have supreme navigational skills that helped them to travel further and faster than other nations.

Viking war ships were traditionally slender and flexible ensuring that they were very sea worthy and could deal with both long sea voyages and also shallow inlets. They had a long keel and one large square sail but were also able to be rowed by a team of sailors. They were easy to beach so that they could land anywhere in order to arrive unannounced.



Norse Mill (Copyright Museum & Tasglann nan Eilean)



Norse Placenames

There are many Norse placenames throughout the Western Isles that the Vikings left. Here are just some of them and what they mean.

Nis = headland

Griminish, Sidinish, Ness, Meanish, Rossnish

Val = vallay

Snuishival, Vallay

Vik (wick) = inlet / bay

Sandwick

Ay = island

Berneray, Orasay, Grimsay, Vallay, flodaigh (ay)

Ven = mountain

Scotven (Grimsay)

Shader = village

Shulishader, Shershader, Kershaer

Skip = headland

Skipinish

Lax = Salmon

Laxdale

Bost = homestead

Kirkibost, Shawbost, Leurbost

Dale = Vallay

Gramsdale, Glendale

Flod = flood

Flodaigh

Klettr (cleit) = Outstanding Rock

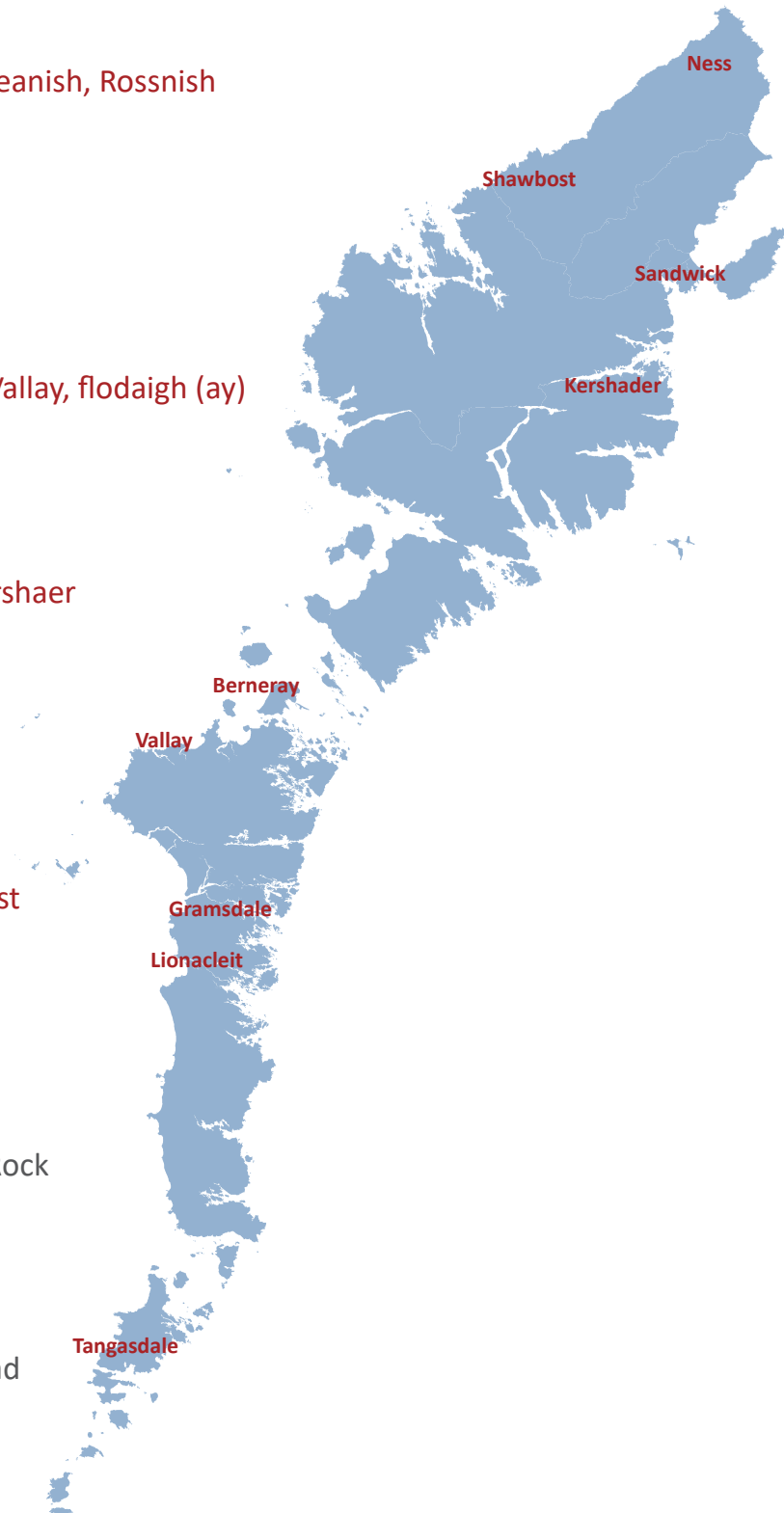
Lionacleit, Cleitrebhal

Tang = low rocky point

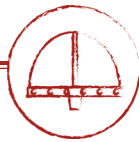
Kentangabhal, Tangasdale

Straumr = stream / farmstead

Strom, Craigastrome



Task – take a look at a map of the Western Isles and see how many Norse placenames you can spot and add them to the list.



Viking Ships

The Longship

The longship was designed for raiding and to a lesser extent for sea battles. As the name suggests it was long and narrow. This shape meant that it could travel quickly, important in surprise attacks and get-aways.

In order to be independent of wind direction the main source of power was the oar and there were oars all along the ship. The crew were all seamen and soldiers alike. Evidence suggests that oarsmen would sit on chests or boxes.

The longest example found was 28m long and 4.5m wide. It is thought that on large ships there would have been a crew of approximately 60 men, with one man to each oar. On long journeys they would need to change crews.

Sails would have been furled up but masts left standing, in case they were needed suddenly.

The shallow hull meant that ships could draw up on the beach, and also travel far up rivers.

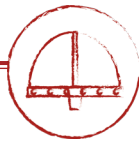
The siderudder was mounted on a permanent support. The mast was stepped forward at mid-point with the rigging only fitted one way.



Model replica of a Norse longship (Copyright Museum & Tasglann nan Eilean)

The highly carved figurehead on the prow of the ship was designed to inspire fear in enemies as well as showing the status and importance of the Vikings. It is likely that out at sea the figurehead would have been removed for safekeeping and put on at the last minute.

Vikings ships were made mostly from oak. The keel was always from oak as it is strong and hard.



Sails were probably made of wool. To prevent them becoming baggy when wet they were waterproofed with fat from horses' necks. Seams were reinforced with strips of leather or linen.

Sagas tell of red and blue striped sails, or of entirely red ones.

The hull was made from overlapping planks (clinker-built). This meant a ship that was thin and light but very strong and flexible – a ship ideally suited to the rough seas of the North.

The Knarr or trading ship

The knarr (sometimes spelled knorr) was used for transporting heavy and bulky goods. These were carried in an open hold in the centre of the boat. This could be covered with a tarpaulin to protect cargo in bad weather.

There was further storage space beneath the deck. The knarr had fewer oar holes than the longship. Oars would not be used much because of the weight of the ship, laden with goods, so the single sail was the primary source of power.

The knarrs were used mainly as merchant ships because of their storage space, but were also used by Vikings exploring and settling far distant lands – Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland. The weight of the ships was not an important issue as speed was not crucial.

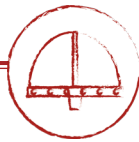
These transport vessels were wider than the longships in order to carry greater loads. Like the longships they had shallow hulls in order to navigate up fjords and rivers, and land on beaches. The knarr had to be strong and seaworthy in order to withstand the stormy seas of the North Atlantic sea.

Viking Crews

The crew would include a helmsman, a lookout, a bailer, the sail-crew and the oarsmen. The crew slept in fur-lined sleeping bags and ate dried or pickled food and unleavened bread. On experimental replica voyages people have used fires lit in cauldrons suspended on chains as a mobile hearth or oven.

What made the Vikings special?

The Vikings' mastery of shipbuilding and navigation was crucial to their success as raiders and invaders, traders and ultimately settlers. For 300 years they were the most skilled seamen in northern Europe. There are no records of Anglo-Saxons attempting similar attacks or journeys across the sea. The Viking ship was both beautiful and supremely functional. It represented the height of the Scandinavians' technical skill and was the foundation of their power. The ship was a Viking's most prized possession. If a high-born Viking did not die at sea, he might be given a ship burial on land.



Shove Groat Board

Shove Groat Rules

Shove Groat is a gambling game Vikings played on long sea-voyages to pass the time. The traditional playing pieces were groats, large heavy coins, hence the name. You can use any coins or washers – just make sure they are all the same size and weight.

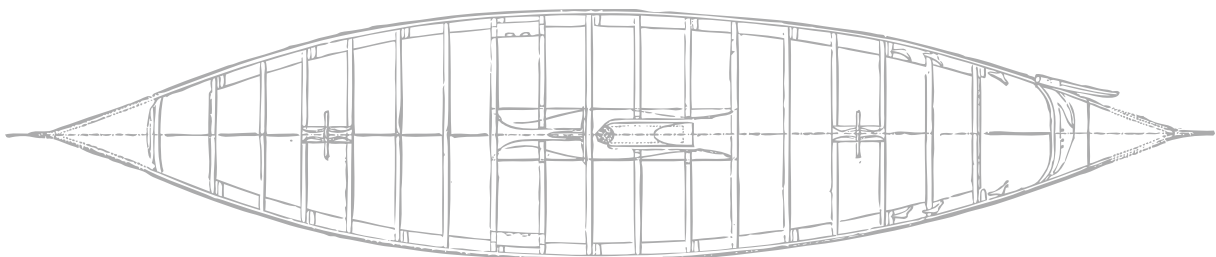
The game board itself is divided into horizontal sections. The board is on the next page and can either be printed off for two players or transferred onto a bigger sheet for teams to play against each other which might be simpler in a class setting.

The players line up at opposite ends and take turns placing a coin in the section closest to them with the trailing edge extending off the board. Using either thumb and middle finger, or the heel of the palm, players strike their coins (or shove their groats ;-) into the different sections of the game board.

To score, a coin must lie completely within a section without touching a line. Subsequent coins by other opposing players can knock a coin into or out of scoring position.

There are three variations of the game.

1. In the first variation, each section is given a point value based on its distance from the player. A coin landing in that section, scores that point value (1 – 10). A coin leaving the board incurs a negative penalty score. First player to reach a predetermined score wins.
2. In the second version, a player must score exactly twice in every section. Additional coins in the same section score for the opponent if they still need points in that section. Subsequent scores in that section are ignored. There is no penalty for a coin leaving the board. First player to score twice in every section wins.
3. For a team version play best of 3 throws per player and add up the score for the team. A coin leaving the table scores zero. Remember to deduct points if the opposing team knocks your coin down the board. The winners are the team with the highest score after three rounds.





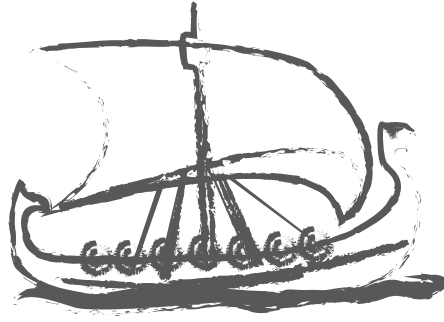
Shove Groat Board

PLAYER 2		
10		1
9		2
8		3
7		4
6		5
5		6
4		7
3		8
2		9
1		10
PLAYER 1		

Colouring In Page



V
I
K
I
N
G
S



Na Lochlannaich

The Vikings



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