

Date:

Student Name:

Week 5-Year 2 Developments During the Viking Age

General Information for All Grades

For many years, historians called the first part of the Middle Ages (from the fall of Rome in about 476 to the time of the First Crusade in 1095) the "Dark Ages." The name arose because, except for the deeds of a few heroic men, most of life in Europe during those years was filled with trouble, uncertainty, and death. Relatively speaking, Charlemagne's reign of wide-ranging peace and order was a brief, shining moment in the midst of centuries of general strife. As we saw last week, his successors soon wrangled with one another over how to divide Charlemagne's empire, and then - much as the Romans had fought their ancestors - the relatively civilized Carolingians had to defend their spark of civilized culture from a new barbarian menace: the Vikings. No sooner would a community make progress towards order and prosperity than fierce Norsemen would appear in the night to kill, destroy, and steal what little wealth the parish church had collected, or what few crops had been stored up in barns. In the struggle just to survive, many previous advances of civilization were lost to western Europe. Except in monasteries, study all but ceased and towns that had no defenses disappeared altogether. Skilled men who had enjoyed the safety and order of the Roman Empire and had worked to create beautiful paintings, buildings, jewelry, and churches now had to work hard every day just to feed themselves and their families. Craftsmen ceased making beautiful things and turned to tilling the ground, or were forced to fight in petty battles as feudal lords fought one another for mastery over small patches of land.

If we limit our view to political structures of this age, the centuries between 500 and 1000 do look pretty dark, even despite Charlemagne's significant reign. But, as modern scholarship has demonstrated, much was going on during these years in Europe. God was busily at work forging the foundations of a new way of life - one that would eventually take European society to greater heights of godliness, quality of life, craftsmanship, and scholarship than did the Roman Empire. However, during these darker centuries, the Viking raiders posed a real, terrifying, and recurring threat - so much so that the years between 793 (when Norsemen suddenly raided an important island monastery called Lidiðfarne) and 1066 (when William the Conqueror invaded England and quelled all Viking challengers) have been called the Viking Age.

Who were the Vikings, and what cause them to leave their northern lands to wreak havoc on their weak southern neighbors? Why did they eventually stop raiding? What were the purposes of God in allowing this long-term violence and destruction? We will seek to answer these questions this week as we focus our studies on the Viking peoples of Scandinavia, the British Isles, and the lands now known as Denmark, Sweden, northern Germany, and Russia. We will seek to understand how they organized themselves when at home and why they took to raiding. As we study, we will joyfully see that, though many a priest and missionary were martyred by the Viking raiders, in the end the gospel of Jesus Christ tamed the savage Vikings, bringing peace to European shores.

READING

ALL - ENRICHMENT or READ ALOUD

- Story of the World Vol II Chapters 14, 15 & 16**
- Streams of Civilization Vol 1: 250 - 261 (stop at "The Age of Chivalry")**

LG Reading Assignments:

- Leif the Lucky**, by Ingri and Edgar D'Áulaire
- Books about Erik the Red**

UG Reading Assignments

- Trial and Triumph** by Richard Hannula, Chapter 11
- The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow**, by Allen French
- Where Am I?** by A.G. Smith p 34-38

DIALECTIC & RHET. Reading

- The Story of the Middle Ages**, by Christine Miller XLIV-XLIX, LI-LV, LVII-LVIII, LXI-LXIX
- The Church in History** Chapt 11 (sections 1-4)
- Invitation to the Classics**, by Louise Cowan and Os Guinness p 85-88
- The Art of Catapult** by William Gurstelle (Week 2 of 3)
- Beowulf: A Translation & Commentary** by J.R.R. Tolkien (Week 2 of 2)

• Lower Grammar Words

viking

jarl

tunic

raid

turf

saga

runes

flax

saga

Upper Grammar Words (All Lower Grammar Words +)

archaeologist

boar

amulet

pyre

skald

brooch

karl

thrall

Lower Grammar People (Preschool and Pre-K - would be great to know who Charlemagne is.)

Alfred the Great

Erik the Red

Leif Ericson

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Alfred the Great

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Saint Vladimir

Handwriting practice lines for the name "Saint Vladimir".

Blank handwriting practice lines.

Upper Grammar People (all LG +)

Rolf (Rollo)

Handwriting practice lines for the name "Rolf (Rollo)".

Blank handwriting practice lines.

Olaf Haraldsson

Canute the great

William the Conqueror

Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line.

Four sets of handwriting practice lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line.