



The Vikings

The Vikings were great explorers, and travelled all over the world by longship. They lived over 1000 years ago in Scandinavia. Between the years 700 to 1100 AD, many Vikings left their homelands in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They traveled to other countries, including Ireland and England.

The word Viking means "pirate raid". When the Vikings first landed on British soil, the British went down to introduce themselves and be civil toward the Vikings. But, the Vikings attacked. They fought the local people and stole their belongings. They also torched their homes and buildings. No wonder they were called pirates! The Vikings were fearsome warriors who stole treasures.

But the Vikings weren't all bad. They farmed and settled with their families in some of the areas they conquered. They crafted beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings. They traded silk, spice and jewelry. Some of their Norse words made their way into the English language. The words egg, dirt and muck all came from the Old Norse language.

Did you know the Vikings didn't wear those horned hats you often see them pictured in? They really didn't wear horns.