

Vikings

Aims

To provide students with visual encounters with Viking objects.
To provide teachers with an opportunity to build student familiarity in terms of object identification and object vocabulary.
To provide a visual starting point for cross-curricular work on the Vikings.

Description

- A sequence of 8 slides

Teaching ideas

- If you are going to visit the British Museum, use the images to familiarize the students with some of the Viking objects they will be seeing in Room 41 at the Museum.
- Introduce vocabulary associated with the objects such as materials (e.g. silver, stone, bone), technical terms (e.g. engraved, moulded, carved), name of object (e.g. brooch, hack-silver, hoard), function of object (e.g. personal adornment, trade, hoarding).
- Assign individual objects to student groups. Ask the group to research their object and then present their object to the rest of the class.
- Locate where each object was found on a map. What does that suggest about the Vikings?
- Discuss archaeological evidence for the Viking period. What types of objects might survive in the ground and what might not survive? Why do some types of material survive better than others? What material are the objects on the PowerPoint made from? Does this material generally survive well in the ground?
- What impression of the Vikings do you get from the objects on the Powerpoint? How does this compare with the impression of the Vikings found in a book? Ask half the class to write a paragraph about the Vikings based solely on the evidence provided by the images. Ask the other half to write a paragraph about the Vikings based on book research. Compare the paragraphs. Consider the nature and impact of primary versus secondary evidence when using objects versus books to construct history.

Notes on the pictures

Further information on each of the images can be found using the URL given below for each object. This directs you to the relevant page of the *Explore* section of the Museum's website.

There is also a brief information note within the notes section of each individual slide on the PowerPoint.

The Pitney Brooch

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/t/the_pitney_brooch.aspx

Brooch in the Urnes style

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/b/brooch_in_the_urnes_style.aspx

Silver disc brooch

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/s/silver_disc_brooch.aspx

Silver thistle brooch

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/s/silver_thistle_brooch.aspx

The Cuerdale Hoard

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/t/the_cuerdale_hoard.aspx

Silver penny of Cnut/Canute

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/s/silver_penny_of_cnut_canute.aspx

Antler comb with matching case

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/a/antler_comb_with_matching_case.aspx

The Halton Moor Hoard

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/t/the_halton_moor_hoard.aspx

Background information

Objects on display

Viking objects are on display at the British Museum in Room 41.

Websites

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/introduction.aspx

Use the search term Vikings

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Find out about Viking finds from your local area using the PAS database.

www.finds.org.uk

Jorvik Viking Centre, York: www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/index2.htm

Books (for adults)

Page, R.L., *Chronicles of the Vikings*, British Museum Press, 2007