

LO: To read and answer questions about Viking longships

Drop and drag the labels to the correct part of the Viking longship.

dragon head

ropes

keel

shields

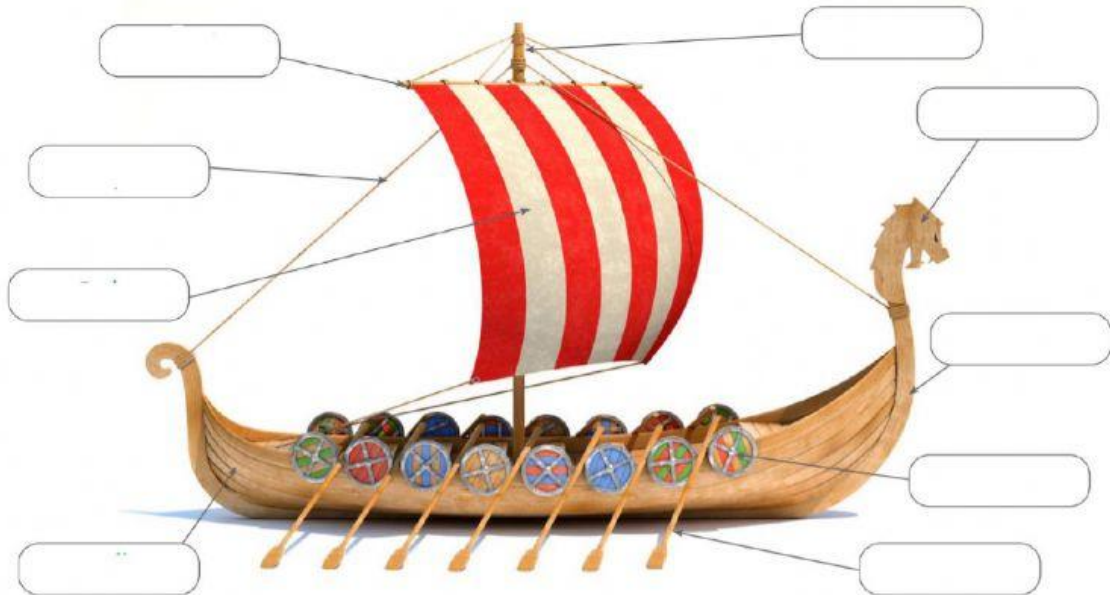
oars

hull

sail

mast

yard



Read each paragraph carefully. Drop and drag the title of the paragraph to the correct place.

Power

Steering

Speed  
Protection

Appearance

Room

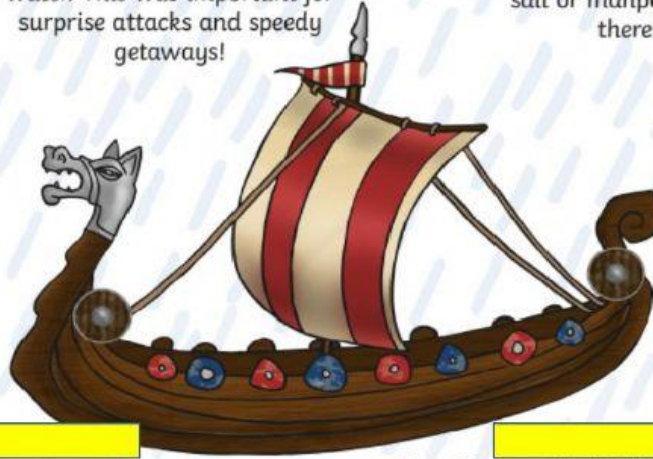
## Viking Longships

The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

The front end of the ship would have a carved figure head to scare off enemies and be intimidating.



They were long and narrow for travelling quickly through the water. This was important for surprise attacks and speedy getaways!



The ships were powered by wind in a wool sail or manpower by rowing with oars if there wasn't any wind available.

One man would steer the ship by using a big steering oar at the back (stern) of the ship.



A typical longship would have enough room to fit around 50 - 60 people inside. Eating and sleeping were done on the deck as there was no shelter on the ships.

The Viking men's shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both men and women during battles.

### **Answer the questions**

- 1) What is another name for a Viking longship?
- 2) Give two sources of power used to make the longship move.
- 3) Why were the boats designed to be long and narrow?
- 4) How many people could fit in a longship?
- 5) How was a longship steered?
- 6) What were the men's shields used for on the longship?
- 7) What was on the front of a longship and what was it used for?
- 8) Why was the speed of the longship important for the Vikings?
- 9) How would you evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Viking longship as a method of transportation? Give reasons for your answer.