



The Vikings' ships made their expansion possible. As shipbuilders they were unsurpassed at the time. Over centuries they developed ships with true keels and with hulls of lapstrake (or clinker) construction—overlapping planks riveted together.

This building method helped Vikings make ships that were strong and flexible. The shallow draft of these ships enabled them to land on almost any beach. They could also sail far up inlets and rivers, allowing startling surprise attacks.

ƒ	U	þ	ƒ	R	<	X	Ɔ
F	U	TH	A	R	K (C & Q)	G	W (V & F)
H	N	I	J	I (y)	P	Z	S
T	B	E	M	L	NG	D	O

What were Nordic pirates, explorers & traders called?

↓ | < | ◇

What were Norse ships called? ↓ ◇ ◇ < N | K <

Where did Leif Ericson go? ↓ | þ M ƒ þ M



Viking navigators did not possess compasses. They calculated their position on the open sea using the sun or the stars. They were also aided by a bearing dial and a stick with the sun's posi-

tion marked at significant latitudes. The Vikings also took soundings, measuring off the line by their arm span. The term *fathom* for this six-foot length is derived from the Norse word for it.

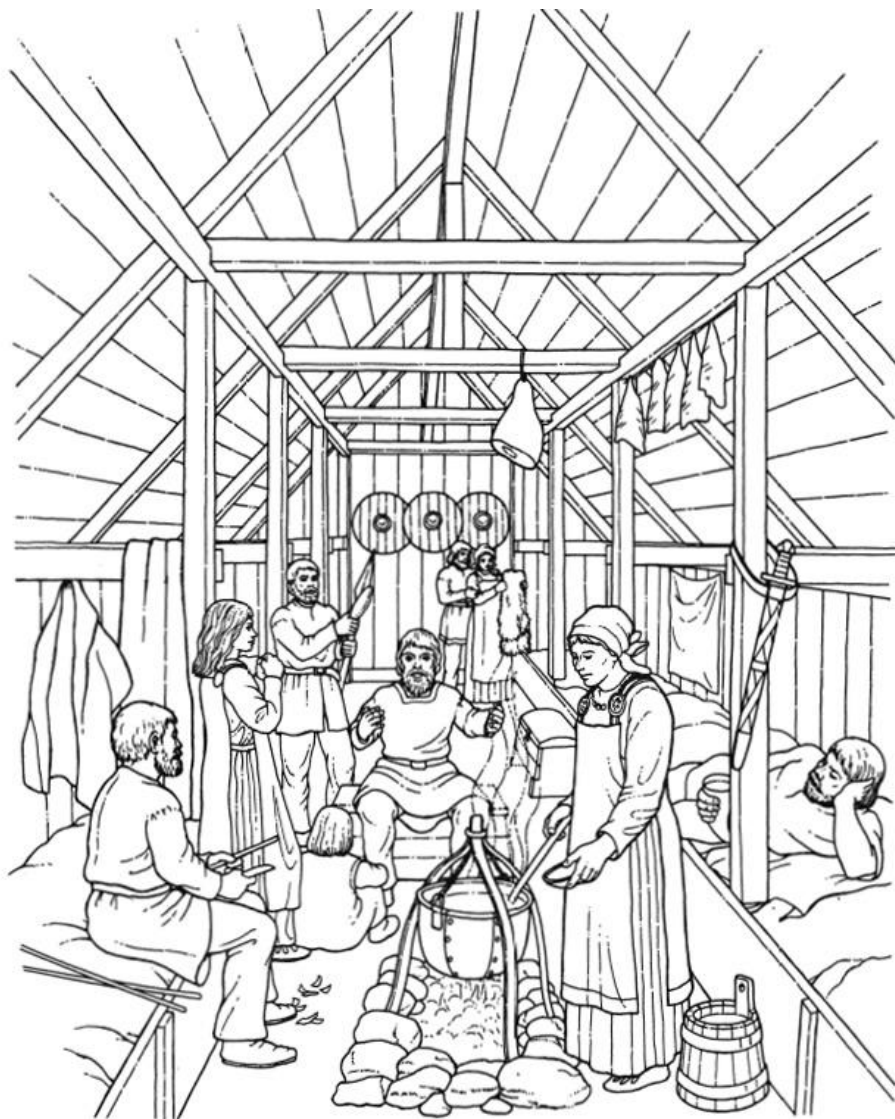
ƒ	U	þ	ƒ	R	<	X	Þ
F	U	TH	A	R	K (C & Q)	G	W (V & F)
H	N	I	J	I (y)	P	Z	S
T	B	E	M	L	NG	D	O

How far did west did Vikings travel? Þ M M R | < Þ

How far south did Vikings travel? Þ ƒ R | < Þ

How far east are we sure they traveled?

< X þ S ↑ ƒ þ ↑ | þ X L Þ M



Viking home life centered around the hearth in a long hall. Benches along the sides served as beds for most of the household. Smoke escaped through a small vent in the roof.

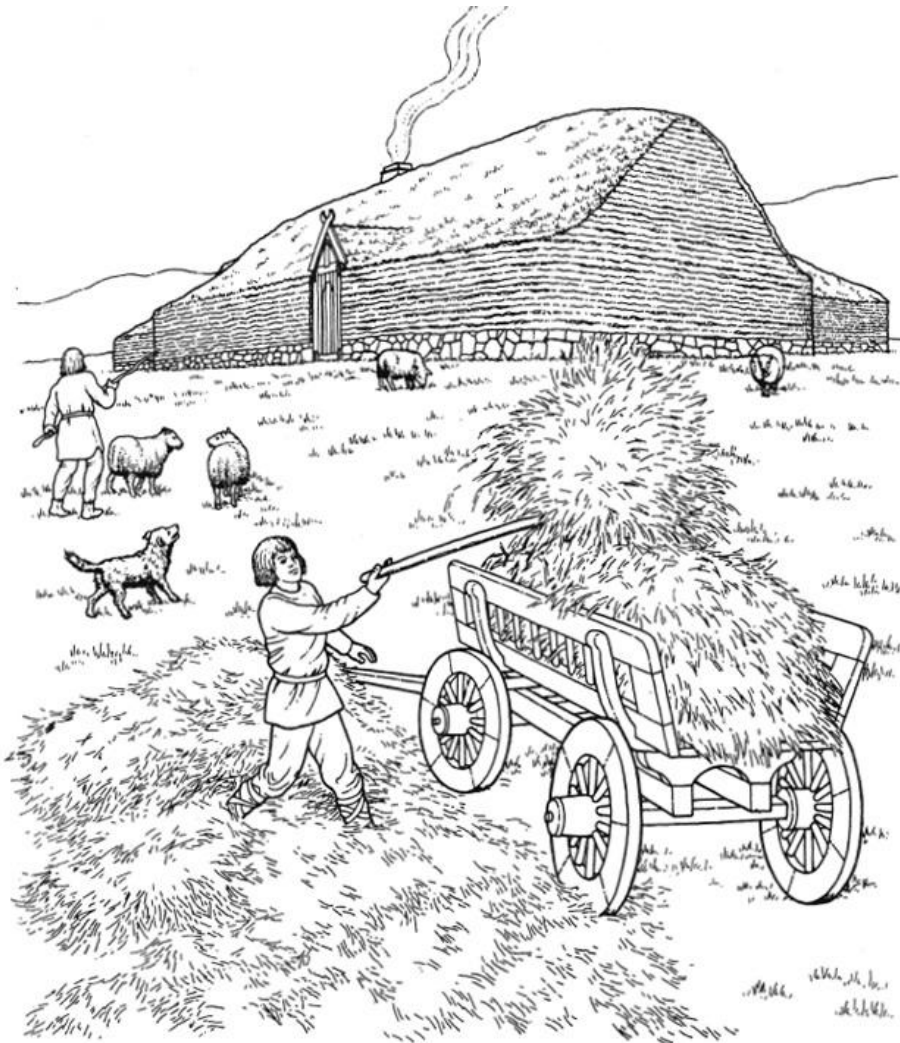
Storytelling (seen here) was a favorite entertainment. In royal and noble homes, feasting was often spectacular.

ƒ	U	þ	ƒ	R	<	X	ƿ
F	U	TH	A	R	K (C & Q)	G	W (V & F)
H	N	I	J	I (y)	P	Z	S
T	B	E	M	L	NG	D	O

What were pots made from? < ↑ ✕ þ M , M M ↑ ƒ ƒ

How many rooms were in Norse house? ✕ þ M

What was in the center of a Norse house? ƒ | R M



By the end of the ninth century the Vikings had colonized the Faroe Islands. They were settling in Iceland by about 860. That island had scarcely been populated earlier. Soon, it was full of successful farms with sod-built houses. The illustration shows

such a farmhouse at Stöng, where a modern reconstruction exists. During the same century the Vikings were also settling in Ireland and at York in northern England.

ƒ	U	þ	ƒ	R	<	X	Ɔ
F	U	TH	A	R	K (C & Q)	G	W (V & F)
H	N	I	J	I (y)	P	Z	S
T	B	E	M	L	NG	D	O

What were Norse houses called? Ɔ Ɔ Ɔ H Ɔ U < M <

What profession did most Norse have? ƒ ƒ ƒ M M R

What did most Norse wear? ƒ Ɔ Ɔ ƒ , ƒ | ƒ M ƒ