

## History Task (Week beginning 01.06.20)

Objective: To evaluate rites of passage undertaken by the Vikings.

### Task 1

Follow the link below to find out about different Viking Sagas (only choose a couple to watch).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks1-english-viking-sagas/zkyqd6f>

Sagas were stories made up after the great days of Viking history as a way of remembering the past. Read through the story of Bjorn and the test he faced on his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**SAGAS** were stories made up after the great days of Viking history as a way of remembering the past. Here is the kind of story the Vikings might have told.

### **Bjorn becomes a warrior**

Bjorn was feeling proud. Today, on his 15th birthday, he would go through a test and, if he passed it, he would no longer be a boy, but would become a man.

For years he had watched the men go out and raid as proud warriors, and he would hear them laugh and joke about their deeds and the **BOOTY** they had brought back. And for years he had envied them.

Now was his chance to prove that he was worthy of joining them in their raids. He would also be allowed to defend the village against attack from neighbouring tribes.

Bjorn looked at his spear. It was long, sturdy and gleaming. He looked at his shield. It was made of stout wood, fashioned into a disc and brightly painted. His gear was surprisingly heavy, and he wondered, just for a second, if he would be able to carry it all.

Suddenly he was summoned in front of the people gathered in the **LONGHOUSE**. By the fire, seated on a wooden chair, was the chieftain. The chieftain would challenge him to do a deed to prove he had become a man. If he failed he would be disgraced and be as lowly as the slaves that had been captured in battle.

The challenge had been set: he must go alone into the forests, seek a reindeer and bring it back.

Outside it was bitterly cold with snow thick on the ground. Bjorn thought of his name – it meant ‘the bear’ – and wondered if he would meet a bear in the forest. Swiftly now, he began to search for hoofprints in the snow.

In the longhouse everyone waited, busying themselves about their jobs, but always wondering what was happening to Bjorn on his lonely quest.

The hours passed and then, out of the darkness, Bjorn returned. He was pulling something behind him. The antlers told everyone that it was a fully grown reindeer.

Bjorn came to the fire. Everyone gathered round as he began to tell of how he had tracked and then caught the biggest reindeer in the world...

### **Who knows...**

#### ***what sagas were?***

- ▶ Sagas were a good way of passing on the history of the people.
- ▶ They were often tall tales, like fairy tales, made for entertainment.
- ▶ They were often violent.
- ▶ They were mainly written centuries after real events.
- ▶ They were long to while away the long winter nights.

## Task 2

Write a letter home to Bjorn's parents from his perspective of the events.

To be successful:

- First person and past tense.
- You are proud of your achievements and what you have accomplished so really 'sell' yourself and make your parents proud.
- Describe your thoughts and feelings with the different events.

