



## PRE-VISIT: VIKINGS

---

### ABOUT THE ASHM:

*The American Swedish Historical Museum in South Philadelphia is the oldest Swedish Museum in the United States. Founded in 1926, the Museum has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Swedish and Swedish-American cultural heritage and traditions for more than 80 years. The Museum is a place where Swedes, Swedish-Americans, and people of all nationalities who appreciate Swedish contributions to history, art, architecture, music, science and technology can come together.*

We hope you will find the following information helpful in preparing your class for their visit to the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM).

### LESSON OVERVIEW:

Many believe the word *Viking* comes from the Swedish word, 'Vik' or 'bay,' hinting at the Vikings' close relationship with the sea. Vikings were aggressive traders, travelers and craftsmen and voyagers. Primarily from Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Denmark, and were believed to be one of the first people to discover North America.

We hope this resource will encourage students to learn and explore Viking culture and practice while thinking about their own culture and practices.

### VOCABULARY:

**Archeologist**– *Study of man's past by scientific analysis of the material remains of his cultures.*

**Figurehead**– *Carved full-length figure or bust built into the bow of a sailing ship.*

**Loom**– *Device for making thread or yarn into cloth by weaving strands together at right angles.*

**Long House** – *A long, single-room home, where Vikings lived.*

**Longship**– *Narrow, open boat with oars and a square sail, used mostly by the Vikings during medieval times.*

**Rune**– *A poem, song, or verse in old Norse language.*

**Rune Stone**– *A Viking memorial stone with engravings and stories.*

**Saga**– *An epic Viking tale or narrative of family and travel.*

**Scale**– *Used to trade goods by weight, standard of measurement or judgment.*

**Trade**– *Act or process of buying, selling, or exchanging.*

**Warrior**– *One who is engaged in or experienced in battle.*

*(Activity suggestions on back)*

# ACTIVITIES

---

## STORYBOARD

Throughout history, stories have been a way of passing down information through word of mouth. Many of these stories are known as myths or legends. Viking told stories of Middle Earth, giants, elves and dwarfs and gods living in the sky. Use this time to talk about some myths and legends the class may be familiar with and have them create a story board with characters from the myth.

Materials needed

- Rulers
- Pencils/colored pencils
- White 8.5 x11 paper

Directions:

Fold the paper into half (the long way), open up the folded piece and draw a line down the center of the folded crease. Use ruler to draw three more lines vertically, creating 4 columns 2.75 inches apart. When finished drawing the lines, students should have eight square boxes. Have students number the boxes to create a story sequence.

***DIG IT UP*** (An Online Activity):

*Provided is a link encouraging students to learn facts while controlling figures to dig up buried treasures and clues about objects related to Viking culture*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings/>