

The Vikings - Fact or Opinion?

Many hundreds of years ago people known as Vikings lived in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They were farmers, but their land was not very good for farming. They could not always grow enough food to feed themselves. So the Vikings had to find new countries to settle in.

The Vikings loved adventure. They set sail in their longships to find new lands. As well as travelling to Britain, they reached North America, Russia, Iceland and Greenland.

For over 300 years the Vikings attacked and raided other countries. They were often very cruel to their enemies and many people lived in fear for their lives. They once attacked and destroyed the monastery at Lindisfarne, in the north of England. They even besieged Paris in AD 885.

The Vikings were fierce warriors. They fought with swords, battle axes and spears. Some axes were so heavy that they had to be lifted with two hands. They also used large, round shields.

Read the sentences below and write "fact" or "opinion" next to each one.

1. The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. _____
2. The Vikings were not very good at farming. _____
3. They could not grow enough food to feed themselves. _____
4. The Vikings enjoyed being farmers. _____
5. Viking boats were called longships. _____
6. The Vikings travelled as far as North America. _____
7. They loved attacking and raiding other countries. _____
8. They were often very cruel to their enemies. _____
9. Everyone hated the Vikings. _____
10. Lindisfarne is in the north of England. _____
11. Square shields would have been better than round ones. _____
12. They fought with swords, battle axes and spears. _____
13. Some axes were so heavy that they had to be lifted with two hands. _____