
Vikings Way of Life: History Analysis

The Vikings, fearless, heartless, and unmerciful barbarians that tormented everyone around them from the 8th century up until the 11th century. Expert craftsman, ship builders, and raiders. Not only did they control their homeland in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, but would voyage as far away as to the Americas. traders , and divided into three classes, the vikings would dominate anybody that stepped in front of them, showing no mercy. They would raid villages, rape and/or capture villagers, and burn them to the ground. They were horrible people, but they did what they had to do to survive.

Nearby countries and territories were devastated by the stories they heard by these sinister people and would write scripts about them, only hoping not cross the army. But not only were they gods of war, they were also very excellent farmers. They would grow enough food to feed their whole village, and still have more left over to save. They would also hunt, fish, and scavenge rural areas to find food.

With the experience in hunting, farming, and battling, the Vikings we unstoppable. No army could single handedly defeat them, no country could defend against them, all they could do is watch for the giant ships and hope that they pass by, otherwise it would call for days of battle and raiding, one which most villages could not win. The ships were enormous and would carry up to 100 or more men. Sailing and voyaging in large numbers means that they would always have the majority advantage.

They everyday life of Vikings was pretty common compared to other countries. Most villagers were farmers growing mostly barely, oats, and rye. Most of the rest of the population took care of cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens and horses. This was part of the Scandinavian culture. Most people lived in timber houses, but where woods was scarce, they would live inside stone or tarped houses. Apart from farming and taking care of animals, some villagers were fisherman or hunted for whales. Salt was a vital product in this department because without salt, there was no way they could preserve the meat over long periods of time.

Nearly all houses and buildings were made of timber. They were long and rectangular. The rooftops were made of reeds or straw thatch. Other than at a blacksmith's workshop, there were no chimneys, only openings to allow smoke to escape. Some lower class dwellings may have had just a single room. With no windows, interiors were gloomy, lit by simple lamps or candles. People busied themselves with work such as cooking, drying, salting, smoking and pickling food, tanning leather, blacksmithing, or dyeing cloth.

The clothes of the Vikings were simple, made from woollen or linen cloth, with animal skins to keep warm in the winter. Men wore trousers and a long-sleeved shirt, while women wore loose-fitting dresses, usually with an apron in the front. In cold weather, both men and women wore cloaks. Shoes were made from local leather.