



The Vikings were people from the Scandinavian countries of northern Europe : Denmark , Norway and Sweden. They were famous fighters but were also farmers, fishermen, craftsmen and traders. Also they wore woven cloths.

The Vikings were expert boat builders and sailors. They made longboats. The Vikings were famous for sailing very big distances from their home in Scandinavia.

The name ‘Viking’ means ‘a pirate raid’ in the Old Norse language.

Around 500 years before Christopher Columbus ‘discovered’ the American continent, Vikings had already visited Canada in around AD 1000.

8. When important Vikings died, they would be placed with all their clothes, jewellery, even their animals, in a burial ship. This would either be covered with a huge mound of earth or set alight and pushed out to sea.



Vikings' home life was simple but comfortable. A Viking house had just a single room , but it was usually large enough for more than one generation of a family to live in. Their homes were called longhouses. Their home was built near the water

1<sup>ο</sup> Γυμνάσιο Λαυρίου

because much of their food came from creeks and sea. Their houses were clean. Boys didn't go school but their parents taught them how to farm, row, sail and fish. Girls learned how to spin, weave, milk cows and goats and how to make colourful clothes.



4. Among the many gods Vikings believed in were Thor, the god of thunder, and Loki, a cheeky mischief-maker who could shape-shift to become all different kinds of animals. What a beast!

## FOOD AND DRINK

The Vikings' food was shellfish, bread, seals and whales, herbs,  
some milk, cheese, butter, apples and mushrooms.