

## History Week 6 LO: What Was Viking Jorvik Like?

Task 1: Watch the Virtual lesson from the Jorvik Viking Centre (being shown at 10am and 2pm everyday – 20-25 mins) and explore the clips about life in Viking Jorvik.

[https://jorvikthing.com/schoolsweek/?utm\\_source=JORVIK%20Viking%20Centre&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=12146204\\_Final%20Schools%20week%20e-shot&dm\\_i=QW,78C2K,4L8UM8,TB29C,1](https://jorvikthing.com/schoolsweek/?utm_source=JORVIK%20Viking%20Centre&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12146204_Final%20Schools%20week%20e-shot&dm_i=QW,78C2K,4L8UM8,TB29C,1)

Task 2: You can also watch the Virtual Tour of the Jorvik Viking Centre on the Schools Week link above. It is interactive so you can use your mouse or cursor keys to move the screen around.

Task 3: Read the following pages and answer the questions on the next page.

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# Viking Jorvik

### Timeline

Vikings take York  
AD 600 AD 850 AD 900 AD 950 Today  
End of Viking rule in York

Jorvik (which we now know as York) was an important town in the Danelaw.

Look at this map. Why do you think York was an attractive place to the Vikings?

### Making York home

York was probably very attractive to the Vikings because from the coast they could sail right up the River Ouse to the town. This link to the sea also meant they could easily trade with countries overseas.

Most Viking settlement in York was in an area that sits between two rivers. This would have been easy to defend as the rivers would have formed a natural boundary.

### Digging for clues

We know a lot about Viking settlement in York from excavations in an area called Coppergate. These excavations have helped to show how Vikings lived in York.

The earth around Coppergate is soft and wet. This stopped many items buried there from rotting away. It also meant archaeologists were able to dig down a long way. They found remains of a huge range of things, from pottery to clothing.

This is a Viking leather boot excavated in Coppergate in York.

What does this tell us about Viking clothing?

### Life in the city

Jorvik was laid out in a grid pattern, with little streets lined with houses built of wood. There were shops and workshops, toilets, animal pens and wells in between the houses. People lived close together in a smelly, noisy, dirty environment.

### The Viking high street

Viking York was a place with links to the wider world. For example, archaeologists found a cap made with silk from Turkey. They've also found a shell from the Red Sea and pottery wine jars from Germany.

Along with evidence of trade, there is evidence of craft and industry. 'Coppergate' actually means 'street of the cup-makers' and there are workshops that produced wooden cups and bowls. We know other small workshops made leather, shoes and boots, from finding off-cuts of leather there.

Metals were brought from other places in Britain or Europe, and turned into pins, brooches, rings, knives and small hand tools. There was also a workshop which made items in bone and antler.

Can you tell what this is?

This is a comb and comb case made of bone. It was excavated in Coppergate.

### What's for dinner...?

The Coppergate excavations also provided evidence of what people ate.

What sort of things do you think were found?

Large amounts of pig, cow and sheep bones have been discovered. Archaeologists can also tell that the Vikings ate wheat and barley bread, many different plants, and flavoured their food with celery and herbs. They also had fish, oysters and fruits.

### How does it compare to life today?

The Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings were around hundreds of years ago, but archaeologists can find things that tell us a lot about what life would have been like for them. Very cle

# Viking Jorvik

The Vikings ruled the Danelaw from the city of Jorvik, which we now know as York.

Read page 26 of the Study Book. Write down three reasons why Jorvik was the ideal place for the Vikings to settle.

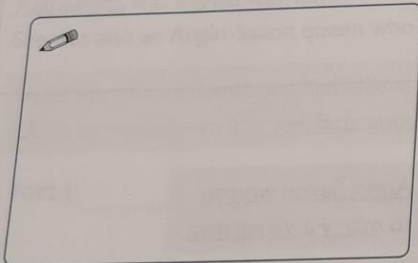
Reason 1) .....

Reason 2) .....

Reason 3) .....

Archaeologists know a lot about what life was like in Viking Jorvik from excavations in a part of York called Coppergate.

Draw one object from pages 26 to 27 of the Study Book that archaeologists dug up from Coppergate. Write down what it is and what it's made of.



My drawing is of a

It's made of

What's special about the soil in Coppergate?  
How did it help the archaeologists digging there?

Hint: the answer is on page 26 of the Study Book.

The soil in Coppergate is .....

This helped archaeologists because .....

This photo shows what the area of Coppergate in York is like today.



What do you think Coppergate would have looked like in Viking times? In what ways would it have been similar to this photo? In what ways would it have been different? Use the information on page 27 of the Study Book to help you.

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The Coppergate excavations told archaeologists a lot about what Vikings ate.

Imagine you are a Viking living in Coppergate. Write down what you're going to have for your meal this evening. Use page 27 of the Study Book to help you.

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"I know what life was like in Viking Jorvik and what evidence we have for this."

