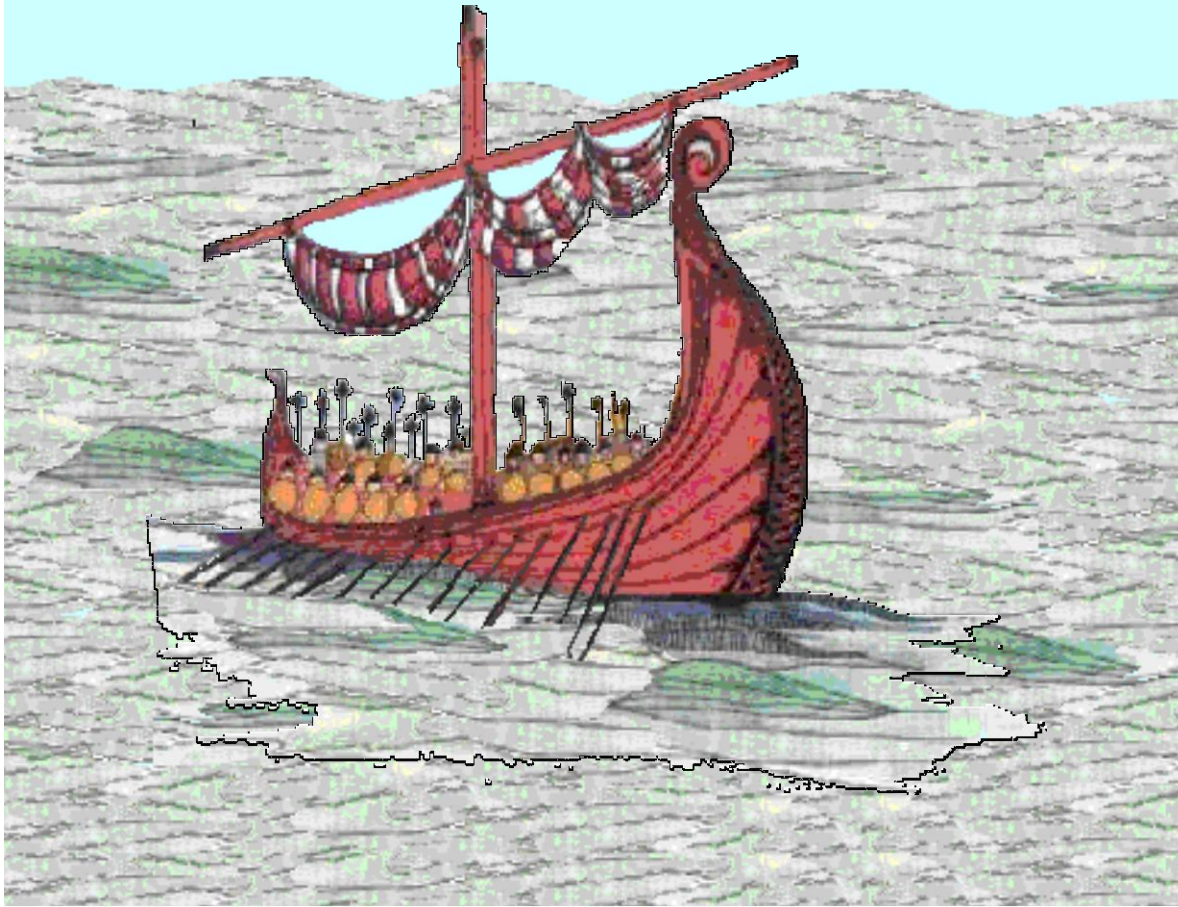


LO: What Was Special About Viking Longships?



The land was hard to farm on in Scandinavia, so I wanted to explore the seas and set sail!

This is the ship I sailed in called a Longship. I travelled to Scotland and England and even to America in this ship!!





VIKING SHIPS

- The Viking ships were strong, lightweight and beautifully shaped to skim quickly through the water.
- Warships and raiding ships were designed to come right up on the beach so that men could jump out and start fighting straight away.
- The ships were built of wood and made waterproof with tar from pine trees.
- The square sails were made of woven wool and were often brightly coloured.
- When the wind was wrong for sailing, they were rowed by teams of oarsmen.





Vikings are most famous for their **LONGSHIPS**
- known as **DRAGON SHIPS** to their enemies

The Prow - front of the ship carved with a dragon like figure

The Stern - back of the ship with a carving similar to the one on the front



???Question???
Why do you think the Vikings carved dragon like figures onto the front and the back of their ships?

My Ship had a
TERRIBLY
FRIGHTENING carving
of an eagle on the
front and back to
scare the places we
were about to fight!

What animal would
you put at the front
of your ship?



Dragon head
prow to scare
enemies and
see the way!

Clinker built hull
allowed for great speed
and strength in stormy
seas.

Also allowed the ship to
be rowed up narrow
channels and rivers.

**What advantages would
this give the Vikings?**

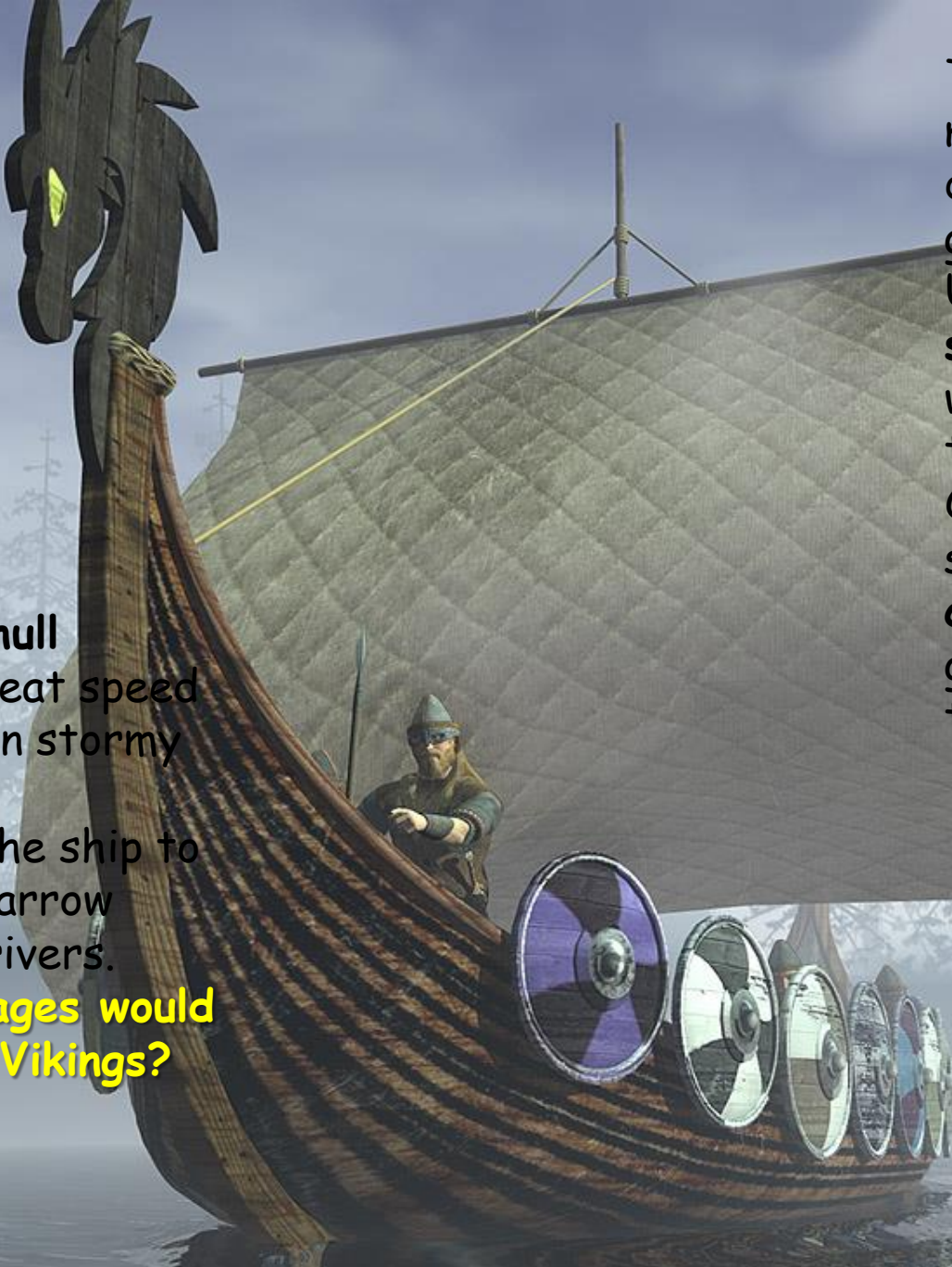
The sail was large and
made by wives,
daughters and servant
girls.

Usually **made from
sheep wool** covered
with animal fat and tar
to strengthen it.

Often made from long
strips of **brightly
coloured cloth** (blue,
green or red) sewn
together.

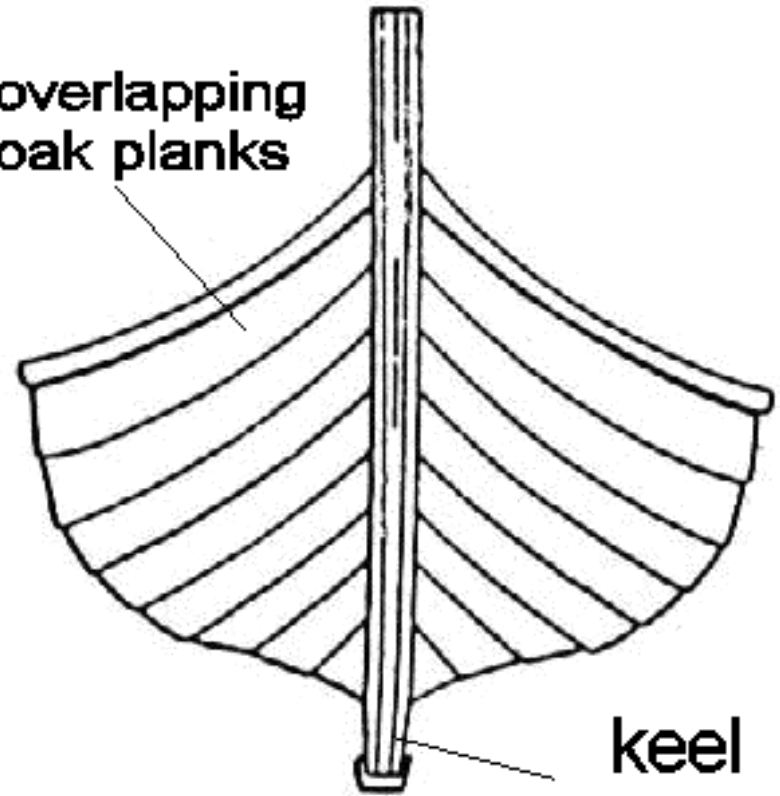
Shields were
brightly coloured
and were hung over
the sides of the ship
as it entered port.

**Why did the boats
need shields?**





overlapping
oak planks



keel

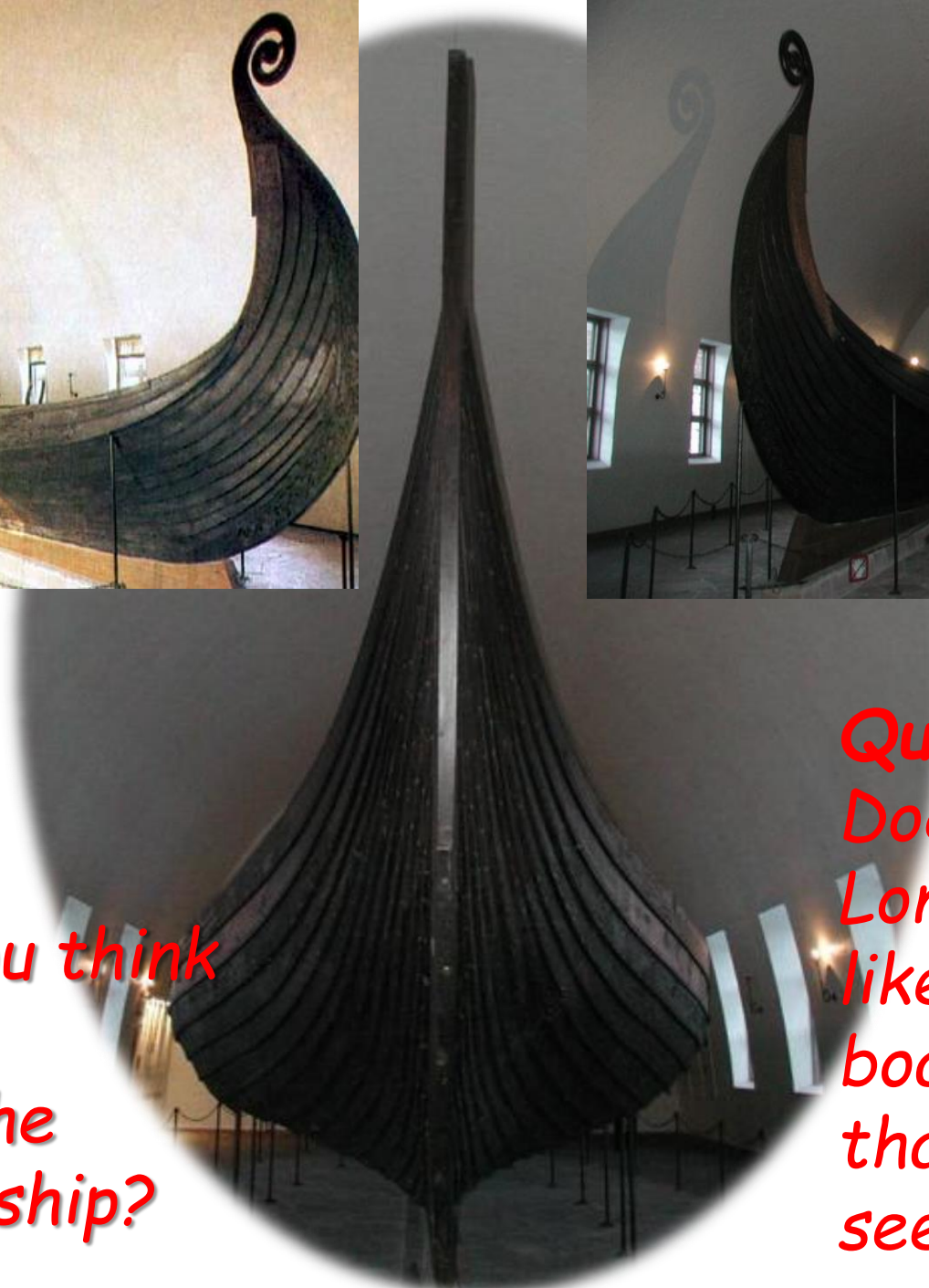
Viking longships were among the first ever ships to have a keel. **The keel is extremely important as it provides the ship with support in rough weather.**

The keel also enabled the ships to travel smoothly and quickly across the sea.

A large oar at the stern steered the ship.



Question!!!
What do you think
of the
design of the
Viking Longship?



Question!!!
Does the
Longship look
like any kind of
boat or ship
that you might
see today?

Size matters!

- The smallest longships had 26 oars, some had as many as 70 oars!!! How many oars would there be on each side of the ship?

Longships were expensive to build and to crew. Only the rich Viking Kings could afford to have such vessels... Like me!



FORM THE VIKING TELLS US ABOUT THE VIKING BOATS!

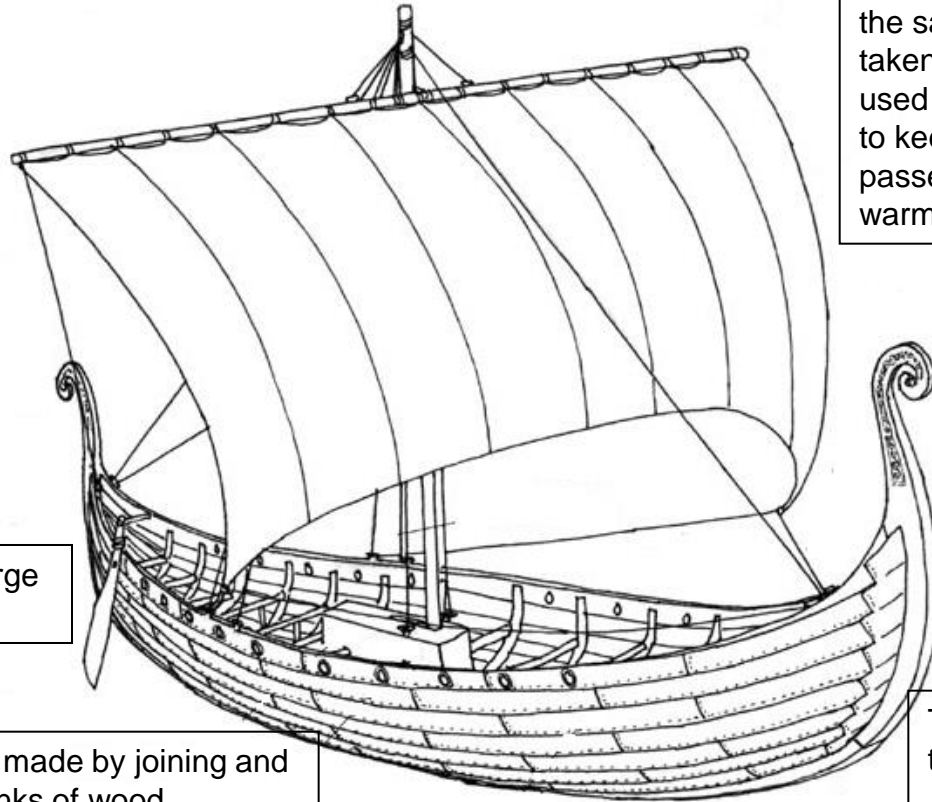
[Watch this clip \(website link available from the class pages for this week\)](#)

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zgmxpv4>

You can also watch the video on the class page which gives extra information about the Viking ships and how they were made.

Task 1 Viking Longships

Circle the 2 false statements



The sail was made from linen and leather, or wool

In bad weather the sail was taken down and used as a tent to keep passengers warm and dry.

When at sea, the Vikings removed the dragon or snake heads so they did not get damaged.

The ships were made with 2 large pieces of wood joined together

The ships were made by joining and overlapping planks of wood,

The ships were narrow at the ends to make steering faster and easier

The ship was made water-tight with blutack.

Task 2

Write some facts about the Viking Longships and explain why they helped the Vikings to raid.

Focus on:

- how they were made and why the design of the Viking longship was so useful when raiding:
 - clinking – overlapping planks made the ships strong and flexible
 - high prow to move easily over waves
 - able to go in either direction- which made it easier to land and set sail quickly and change direction on narrow rivers.
 - Shallow hull meant they could go far upstream and attack areas that other ships couldnot reach
- Why did they have fearsome dragons on the prow? When did they use them?

Optional: Design your own Viking Ship!

Sail, usually red, green, blue

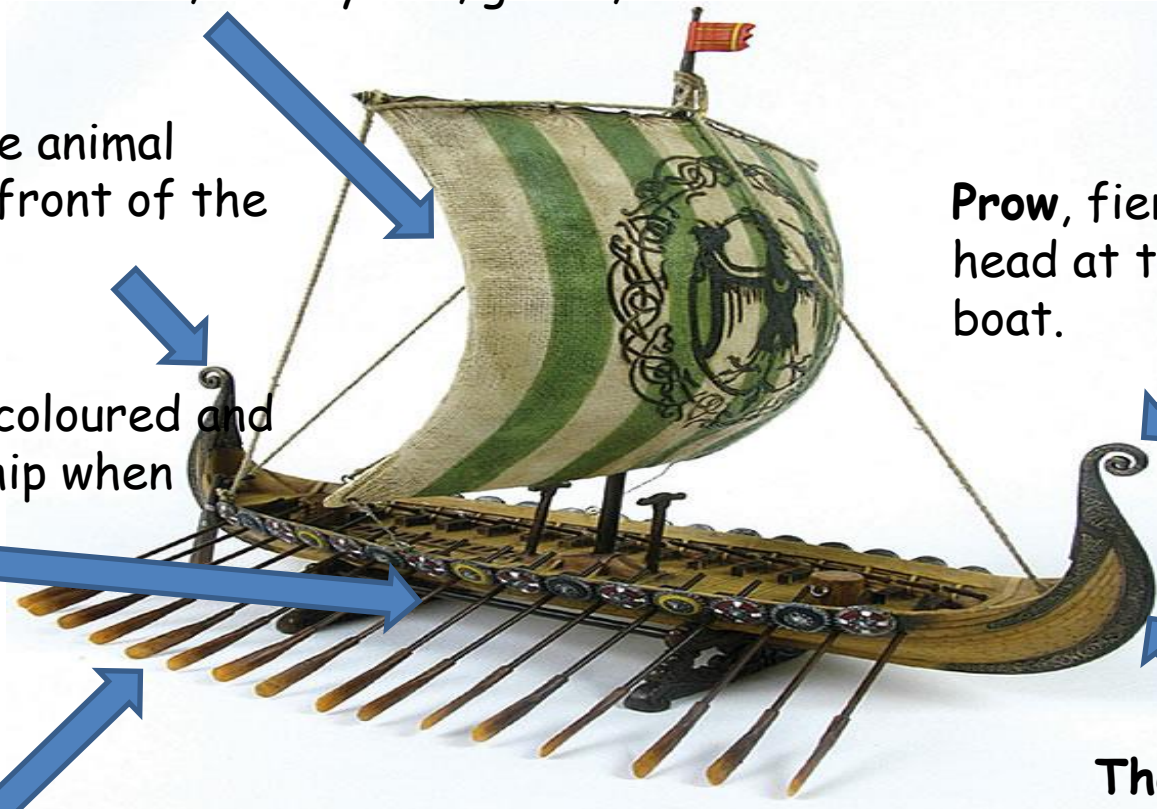
Stern, fierce animal head at the front of the boat

Prow, fierce animal head at the back of the boat.

Shields, brightly coloured and hung on side of ship when entering port

The Keel gave the ship support

Oars would be used as well as the sail for speed or without the sail when no wind





Design a model of a Viking Ship

- What Parts need to be included?
- What materials will we need to use? Give reasons for each choice
- How big is it going to be?
- How will we use the materials to construct the Viking shape?