

Name _____

Word Count: 191

Vikings

When you hear the word *Viking*, what comes to mind? 10
 You might think of ships and of long journeys, and as far 22
 as we know, you'd be right. The word *Viking* comes from 33
 an old word that means "to take an expedition on the sea." 45

Today, we use the word *Viking* to talk about people who 56
 lived in Scandinavia around than one thousand years ago. 65
 The historical Vikings were skilled navigators and sailors, 73
 traveling for long distances in their ships. Traces of Viking 83
 activity have been found across Europe and as far south 93
 as northern Africa, as far east as Turkey, and as far west as 106
 Canada. Viking explorers were probably the first Europeans 114
 to arrive in North America, hundreds of years before 123
 Christopher Columbus. 125

The Vikings traveled in boats called *longships*. Longships 133
 were built of wood and were equipped with both sails and 144
 oars. These ships were lightweight enough to carry over land 154

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when necessary, and they were also tough enough to survive 164
large ocean waves. 167

In their journeys, the Vikings raided, traded, and explored. 176
They left few written records, but the legend of the Vikings 187
has survived for centuries. 191

Number of Errors

1	2	3	4	5	6

Accuracy (%):

Reading Rate (Words Per Minute):

