

Viking Longships

The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

Appearance

The front end of the ship would have a carved figure head to scare off enemies and be intimidating.



Speed

They were long and narrow for travelling quickly through the water. This was important for surprise attacks and speedy getaways!



Power

The ships were powered by wind in a wool sail or manpower by rowing with oars if there wasn't any wind available.

Steering

One man would steer the ship by using a big steering oar at the back (stern) of the ship.



Room

A typical longship would have enough room to fit around 50 - 60 people inside. Eating and sleeping were done on the deck as there was no shelter on the ships.

Protection

The Viking men's shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both men and women during battles.