

CYCLOPAEDIA 35 – VIKINGS

BY T.R. KNIGHT (INNROADS MINISTRIES * ARTICLE SERIES)

OVERVIEW

Are you worthy to wield a legendary weapon? Can you pronounce words and names with more consonants than vowels? Do you enjoy ancient sagas that spin tales of epic battles to save the world?

When you hear the word Viking, what comes to mind for you? Do you think of barbarians wearing horned helmets and wielding axes, as often depicted in early cinema and art? Do you think of Norse seafarers who raided and traded all over Northern Europe? Do you think of explorers who may have been some of the first to visit North America? Modern views of Vikings often conflict with historical and archaeological evidence. We tend to romanticize these people and their mythology into noble savages, making them more into clichés and stereotypes.

Historically, the period from the late 700s to the Norman conquest of England in 1066 is called the Viking Age of Scandinavia. Through exploration, trading, raids, and mercenary expeditions, these northern Europeans spread all over Europe and into North America in their journeys. Their mythology and history merged as the tales of witnesses told their stories over the years.

What truly makes Vikings memorable are their verbal and written sagas and skaldic poetry that have passed down through the generations. This literature passes along the mythology, ethics, genealogies, and history of the people and their culture. Add to that the depth of archaeological findings in burial sites and buried villages and we have a more accurate picture of these people.

NORSE GODS

Vikings and Norse mythology often blend together in fiction and media. From comics to books to movies, the Norse gods are used as heroes, myths, gods, and legends. Here are some of the most well known.

- Balder
- Brage
- Forsete
- Froy
- Heimdall
- Loki
- Njord
- Odin
- Thor
- Ty
- Ull
- Vale
- Vidar

Following are sources of information pertaining to Vikings to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers in knowing where to start their research.

ARTICLES

The Viking Ball Game

By B.A., Thurber

Source: Scandinavian Studies v87 n2 (2015 06 01): 167-188

Women in the Viking Age.

Source: Viking age: a reader / S. 85-116

BOOKS

A Description of the Northern Peoples

By Magnus, Olaus

The Age of the Vikings

By Winroth, Anders

Cowboy Ninja Viking (comic)

By Lieberman, A.J.

The D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths

By d'Aulaire, Ingri and d'Aulaire Edgar Parin

Eaters of the Dead

By Crichton, Michael

Echoes of Valhalla: The Afterlife of Eddas and Sagas

By Helgason, Jón Karl

Gods and Mythos of Northern Europe

By Davidson, H.R. Ellis

The Greenlanders

By Smiley, Jane

Iceland: Its Scenes and Sagas

By Baring-Gould, Sabine

Ivory Vikings

By Brown, Nancy

The Long Ships

By Bengtsson, Frans G.

Magnus Chase and the Sword of Summer

By Riordan, Rick

Myth and Religion of the North: The Religion of Ancient Scandinavia

By Turville-Petre, E.O.G.

Norse Mythology

By Gaiman, Neil

Norse Mythology: A Guide to the Gods, Heroes, Rituals, and Beliefs

By Lindow, John

Ohthere's Voyages

By Bately, Janet and Englert, Anton

The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings

By Hayword, John

The Poetic Edda

By Crawford, Jackson

The Prose Edda

By Byock, Jesse L.

The Saga of the Volsungs

By Byock, Jesse L.

The Sea Wolves: A History of the Vikings

By Brownworth, Lars

The Songweaver's Vow

By Vanarendonk Baugh, Laura

Thor (comic)

By Lee, Stan and Kirby, Jack

Valhalla

By Madsen, Peter

Valkyrie (comic)

By Thomas, Roy and Buscema, John

Viking Age: Everyday Life During the Extraordinary Era of the Norsemen

By Wolf, Kirsten

Viking Age Iceland

By Byock, Jesse

The Vikings

By Roesdahl, Else

Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga

By Fitzhugh, William and Ward, Elizabeth

Viking Raiders

By Civardi, Anne and Graham-Campbell, James

The Viking Spirit: An Introduction to Norse Mythology and Religion

By McCoy, Daniel

The Viking World

By Brink, Stefan and Price, Neil

The Viking World

By Graham-Campbell, James

The Vinland Sagas

By Author Unknown

GURPS Vikings - RPG

Hnefatafl - Tabletop Game

Jarl - Tabletop Game

Jórvík - Tabletop Game

Jotun: Valhalla Edition - Video Game

Midgard - Tabletop Game

Mythic Iceland - RPG

Northgard - Video Game

Odin's Ravens - Tabletop Game

Pillage & Plunder: The Viking Longship Game - Tabletop Game

Ragnaroll - Tabletop Game

Ragnarok Online - Video Game

Raiders of the North Sea - Tabletop Game

Raventhorne - Video Game

Rolemaster: Vikings - RPG

Rune - RPG

Rune - Video Game

Saga - Tabletop Game

Shieldwall - Tabletop Game

Shipwrights of the North Sea - Tabletop Game

Skyrim - Video Game

Thor - Tabletop Game

Thunder & Lightning - Tabletop Game

Valhalla Chronicles - Video Game

Vikings - Tabletop Game

Viking: Battle for Asgard - Video Game

Vikings On Board - Tabletop Game

Vikings Gone Wild - Tabletop Game

Vikings: Nordic Roleplaying for Runequest - RPG

Vikings: The Board Game - Tabletop Game

Viking Squad - Video Game

Vikings: Warriors of the North - Tabletop Game

Vikings: Wolves of Midgard - Video Game

Villainous Vikings - Tabletop Game

Volgarr the Viking - Video Game

Völuspá - Tabletop Game

War of the Vikings - Video Game

Yggdrasil - Tabletop Game

Yggdrasill - RPG

GAMES

878: Vikings - Invasions of England - Tabletop Game

AD&D HR1: Vikings Campaign Sourcebook - RPG

A Feast for Odin - Tabletop Game

Age of Mythology - Video Game

Asgard's Chosen - Tabletop Game

The Banner Saga - Video Game

Bloodforge - Video Game

Blood Rage - Tabletop Game

Champions of Midgard - Tabletop Game

Explorers of the North Sea - Tabletop Game

Fate of the Norns: Ragnarok - RPG

Fire & Axe: A Viking Saga - Tabletop Game

For Honor - Video Game

Gone Viking! - Tabletop Game

CINEMA

The 13th Warrior
Alfred the Great
Beowulf
Beowulf & Grendel
Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands - TV
Die Nibelungen
Erik the Viking
Grendel
Hammer of the Gods
How to Train Your Dragon
The Island at the Top of the World
Outlander
Pathfinder
The Long Ships
The Norseman
The Secret of Kells
Severed Ways
Sword of Vengeance
Thor
Thor: The Dark World
Thor: Ragnarok
Valhalla
Vikings - TV
The Viking
The Viking Queen
The Viking Sagas
When the Raven Flies
The Wild Hunt

LOCATIONS

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/meadows>

Lofotr Viking Museum
<http://www.museumnord.no/en/lofotr-viking-museum/>

VikingsCon
<https://vikingscon.com/>

The Viking Ship Museum - Norway
<https://www.khm.uio.no/english/visit-us/viking-ship-museum/>

The Viking Ship Museum - Denmark
<https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/en/#top>

Visit Iceland - Vikings
<https://guidetoiceland.is/history-culture/vikings-and-norse-gods-in-iceland>

Visit Norway - Vikings
<https://www.visitnorway.com/things-to-do/art-culture/vikings/>

PEOPLE

Eric Bloodaxe
Freydis Eiriksdottir
Leif Eriksson
Ingvar the Far-Travelled
Sweyn Forkbeard
Ivar the Boneless
Gunnar Hamundarson
Harald Hardrada
Guthrum
Bjorn Ironside
Ragnar Lodbrok
Eric the Red
Egil Skallagrimmson
Gardar Svavarsson