

Sample: Middle Ages

Unlike other curricula which depend on certain books, *TruthQuest History's* commentary brings depth to any reading. Our topic-specific booklists simply show the rich possibilities! Relax; choose from whatever is available.

(*Starred books were in-print at the time of this writing.)

L This *Middle Ages* guide merges two former guides: *Dark Ages* and *High Middle Ages*.

18É Viking Raids!

You knew it was coming! I told you in the last section Europe was on the eve of *yet another* invasion! "How is that possible!?" you ask. Well, we know that pagans—who let their own impulses rule as gods in their lives rather than acknowledging the supremacy of God and His laws—are quite happy to prey on the weak. That is barbaric. Do you see? Paganism automatically creates barbarism. Pound, pound, pound this truth into your head! When *you* are tempted to be your own god by acting on your own wrong impulses, remember that you would be acting like a pagan...which would lead you to do barbaric things, things which hurt others. When the world around you says it wants to be free of God's laws and makes that 'freedom' sound happy-go-lucky, a red flag better go up in your heart! For their quest is just a pretty description of paganism...which *will* lead to barbarism. And to what does barbarism lead? *Destruction! Suffering! Pain!*

Those three words describe all too well the new raids being unleashed on Europe by the pagan barbarians of the north—the Vikings. These Northmen (Norsemen) were horrifically cruel, for they held the Teutonic *Big 2 Beliefs* we studied earlier. They swept out of Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden) and brought indescribable waves of cruelty, devastation, and bloodshed which absolutely astounded Europe! Even the monasteries were not safe, for these pagans had no respect for Christianity. When the dreaded Viking ships were sighted, the monks bravely hurried to protect their precious illuminated manuscripts and silver chalices, but it was no use; the monasteries were chief targets due to their relative wealth. The Europeans quaked at the very word *Viking*, for their brutality shocked even the folks of the Dark Ages...and that's saying a lot! The peasants clung even more desperately to their feudal liege lords in hope of protection.

It wasn't just a handful of remote coastal outposts they hit, for their amazing boats—the longships—were faster than anything else on the water. They were also agile, and most importantly, they could run in extremely shallow waters. They dashed up the many rivers of Europe and struck in the very heartland! No one was safe! Not the folks in Scotland, England, Ireland, Spain, Frankland, Germany, southern Italy, or...⁷⁶ Well, you get the idea! The Vikings even established trading posts in remote parts of Russia, and it is said a Viking captain named

⁷⁶ Miller & Guerber 109.

Rurik ruled a great part of Russia himself; some Vikings even made it to Byzantium where they became bodyguards to the emperor!⁷⁷

Remember, the kings and dukes of Europe were busily pursuing their own goals—trying to get the other people's land—instead of obeying God's commands to govern rightly the lands they already had! This selfishness made them distracted, weak, disorganized...and foolish. When the first raids came they seemed to think they were a fluke and would never happen again; they went on their merry way, feathering their own nests. But don't we do the same? Aren't we out for what Francis Schaeffer calls "personal peace and affluence?" Aren't we more focused on feathering our own nests than quelling the world's growing dangers? Don't we assume trouble will come to other, faraway people: surely our shire can't be touched! Doesn't modern philosophy say there is no one to fear since there really is no evil (or else it would have to acknowledge the need for a Savior as well as the existence of a God who has the right to determine what is good and evil)? Well, let the 800s be a lesson to us: if we are selfish and distracted and weak, those who are cruel—and there *are* cruel people in this world—*will* take advantage. Remember what the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us: nothing is new under the sun.

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| * <i>Story of the World: Volume 2</i> , by Susan Wise Bauer, Ch. 14a, 14c | Gr. 3-6 |
| * <i>Story of the Middle Ages</i> , by Christine Miller & H.A. Guerber, Ch. XLIV | Gr. 4-8 |
| <i>Middle Ages</i> , by Dorothy Mills, Ch. VI, Pt. 1 | Gr. 6-12 |
| <i>Dark Ages</i> , by Isaac Asimov, pp. 189-193 | Gr. 8-12 |
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| <i>Vikings</i> , by Kate Petty (Small World) | Gr. K-2 |
| * <i>Birthdays of Freedom, Vol 2</i> , by Genevieve Foster, pp. 21-22 | Gr. 2-5 |
| <i>Looking at History</i> , by R.J. Unstead, pp. 53-54 | Gr. 2-5 |
| This is listed for those following English history through this wonderful book. | |
| <i>Stories of the Norsemen</i> , by Johanna Johnston | Gr. 2-7 |
| * <i>Growing Up in Viking Times</i> , by Dominic Tweedle | Gr. 3-7 |
| * <i>Usborne Time Traveller Book of Viking Raiders</i> , by Civardi/Graham-Campbell | Gr. 3-7 |
| <i>Viking Longboats</i> , by Margaret Mulvihill | Gr. 3-7 |
| <i>The Everyday Life of a Viking Settler</i> , by Giovanni Caselli | Gr. 3-8 |
| * <i>Going to War in Viking Times</i> , by Christopher Gravett | Gr. 4-7 |

⁷⁷ Miller & Guerber 110.

<i>They Lived Like This: The Vikings</i> , by Marie Neurath	Gr. 4-7
* <i>Viking Times</i> , by Antony Mason (If You Were There)	Gr. 4-7
* <i>Viking Town</i> , by Jacqueline Morley (Metropolis)	Gr. 4-7
* <i>Viking World</i> , by Julie Ferris (Sightseers) Use this 'travel guide' to get around Viking territory.	Gr. 4-9
<i>Viking Warriors</i> , by Tony Triggs	Gr. 4-10
* <i>Technology in the Time of the Vikings</i> , by Peter Hicks	Gr. 4-12
<i>The Vikings</i> , edited by John D. Clare (Living History) This series is a favorite of mine, because photos of costumed re-enactors show many interesting aspects of daily life. It just went out-of-print, but is probably still in most public libraries.	Gr. 4-12
<i>The Northmen</i> , by Thomas Chubb A wonderful, older, narrative book.	Gr. 5-10
<i>The Story of Britain</i> , by R.J. Unstead, pp. 51-53 This is listed for those following English history through this wonderful book.	Gr. 5-12
* <i>Viking</i> , by Susan Margeson (Eyewitness)	Gr. 5-12
* <i>Viking Longship</i> , by Lynda Trent	Unknown
* <i>The Vikings</i> , by Denise Allard (Picture of the Past)	Unknown

Activities

<i>Food & Feasts with the Vikings</i> , by Hazel Martell	Various
* <i>Make This Viking Settlement Cut Out Model</i> (Usborne)	Various
* <i>Story of the Vikings Coloring Book</i> (Dover)	Various
* <i>Viking Ships to Cut Out & Put Together</i> (Bellerophon)	Various
* <i>The Vikings</i> , by Gillian Chapman (Crafts from the Past)	Various
* <i>The Vikings Treasure Chest</i> Kit contains activities, objects, maps, games, etc.	Various

Fiction/Historical Fiction

- Snorri and the Strangers*, by Nathaniel Benchley (History I Can Read) Gr. 1-3
- * *Yo, Vikings!* by Judith Schachner Gr. 1-3
I have not seen this, but have only read it described as a modern girl's exploration for info on Eric the Red...which leads to her getting a used Viking ship!
- The Sailor Who Captured the Sea*, by Deborah Lattimore Gr. 1-4
An exquisite book! Can our hero protect an illuminated manuscript from the Vikings?
- * *Viking Adventure*, by Clyde Robert Bulla Gr. 1-5
Do not, do not miss this wonderful story of a Viking boy's journey. Now reprinted!
- The Falcon of Eric the Red*, by Catherine Coblentz Gr. 3-8
- Hakon of Rogen's Saga*, by Erik Christian Haugaard Gr. 3-12
Son of a slain chieftain must become leader in his father's place.
- Pangur Ban*, by Mary Stolz Gr. 4-12
This is the moving tale of one Irish boy's yearning to illuminate manuscripts and his heroic effort to save his works from Viking ravages. It has been *highly* recommended to me. It was in-print recently and is probably in many libraries still.
- Sigurd & His Brave Companions*, by Sigrid Undset Gr. 4-12
- Black Fox of Lorne*, by Marguerite de Angeli Gr. 5-12
A truly wonderful story! I surely hope you can somehow find a copy of it.
- Dublin Crossing*, by Sandy Dengler (Heroes of the Misty Isle) Gr. 5-12
Christian series: Irish girl survives Viking raids.
- * *Beorn the Proud*, by Madeleine Polland Gr. 6-12
Viking teen encounters the Christianity of a captured Irish girl.
- Blood Feud*, by Rosemary Sutcliff Gr. 7-12
Boy is taken as Viking slave, travels to Byzantium/Constantinople.
- Judith of France*, by Margaret Leighton Gr. 7-12
Fictional tale of Charlemagne's granddaughter, whose adventure only begins when, due to Viking raids, she must hurry to her wedding with a Saxon king.
- * *The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow*, by Allen French Gr. 8-12
Respected older story.
- Viking's Dawn; Road to Miklagard; Viking's Sunset*, by Henry Treece Gr. 8-12
Treece's books are always gripping and rugged. This one covers a young Viking and a captured Moorish slave.

* *Raiders from the Sea*, by Lois Walfrid Johnson (Viking Quest)...and rest of series Unknown
This series of fictional tales, set in Viking times, is published by Moody Press!