Name: _____ Date: _____

Life in a Viking Village

Year 4 reading comprehension · Information text · 11 marks · About 20 minutes

Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings came from Scandinavia, in the north of Europe. They lived more than a thousand years ago. Some Vikings were famous for attacking other lands. Most, however, were farmers who worked hard to feed their families.

The longhouse

A Viking family lived together in a long wooden house. The walls were often made from planks or from twigs covered in mud. The roof was thatched with straw or covered with turf. There were no chimneys. A fire burned in the middle of the floor to give heat and light, and the smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.

Daily work

Everyone in the village had jobs to do. The men and women grew oats and barley, and they looked after cows, sheep and pigs. Families also caught fish in the rivers and the sea. Women made clothes from wool, and the blacksmith made tools and nails from iron.

Ships and trade

The Vikings built fast, strong ships called longships. A longship had a sail and a row of oars, so it could travel across the sea and up rivers. Some Vikings sailed to other countries to trade. They swapped furs, wool and iron for silver, silk and spices.

1. Where did the Vikings come from? (1 mark)

2. What were the roofs of Viking houses covered with? (1 mark)

3. Find and copy one word from the first section that means “fighting”. (1 mark)

4. Why was there a fire in the middle of the floor of a longhouse? (1 mark)

5. How did the smoke get out of a longhouse? (1 mark)

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6. The text says that most Vikings were farmers. What evidence in the “Daily work” section supports this? (2 marks)

7. Why do you think a longship needed both a sail and oars? (2 marks)

8. Write one sentence to sum up how most Vikings lived. (2 marks)

Writing task: Imagine you live in a Viking village. Write a diary entry about your day, using at least two fronted adverbials.

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