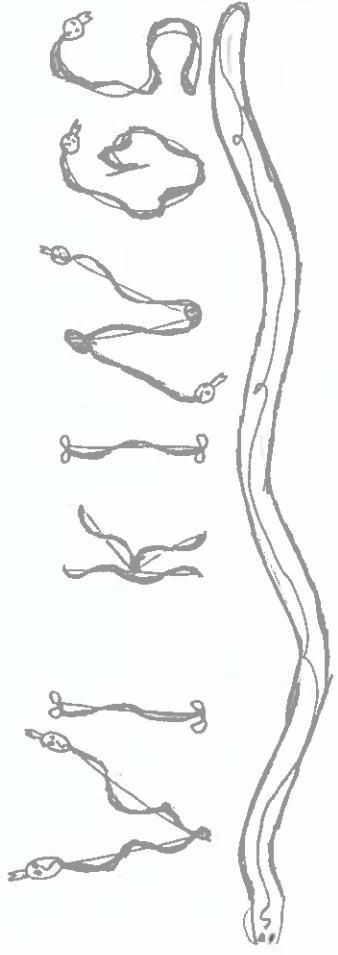


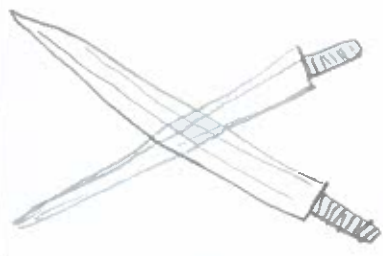
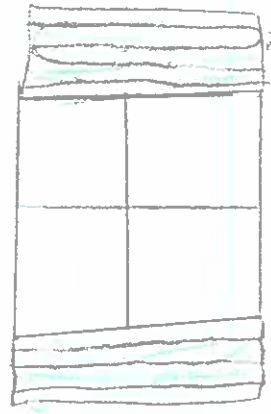


Have you ever wondered what conditions the vikings lived in? What about their types of food? For hundreds of years archaeologists have slowly been discovering more about the vikings from all sorts of evidence. Whether it is rusty old letters or stone cold clay, more is being discovered.

Inside the viking house

The light was dim inside a viking house. There is a smoky smell from the logs burning on the peat fire. They had no chimneys. Just a small hole in the thatched roof to lead the smoke into the air. A fire in the stone central hearth is lit, warming up the family. There may just be one risky glass window, with small wooden shutters, to block out the natural light. There could sometimes be tapestries, brightly woven to give a sense of a picture, but there was no carpets. Sweet rushes were scattered all over the floor to create a scent, better than smog. When soiled, they are swept away, and put outside the home. Only the wealthy could afford to have a wooden bed frame, but

anyone who was not, had to sleep on built-in ledges, day and night. Mattresses were made out of straw or moss, but they didn't have any springs. The worn blankets could either be made out of wool or animal skins. The houses were small, only one room if you were poor, but more if you were wealthy. There would be a spinning wheel in the corner so the girls could learn how to spin.



Valuables

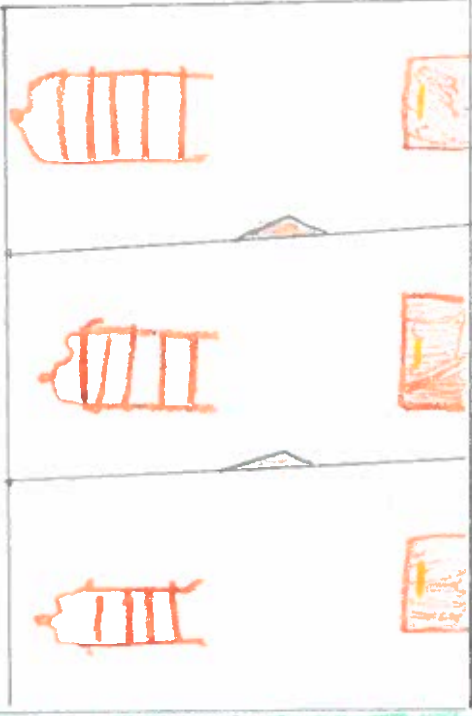
A big problem with the vikings were things. They stole all of another vikings jewellery and silver so they kept their valuables in a locked chest, with the key on them at all times. Tools, weapons and clothes were all kept in separate chests, so when vikings went into battle, there would be small lamps on tables

and hung from the ceiling. These were not electric though. They were made out of something called soapstone, carved into the shape of a lamp, and filled with oil and a wick. These lamps glowed with the slightest breeze of air. Pottery were a common thing in vikings. They brought silver, jewellery and they would drink mead all night long.



Sleeping and spare time

If you were wealthy, you slept in a grey bed frame, with the best of the best mattresses available, and you would have slept in separate rooms. You would usually have a chest at the end of where you



sleeping and barrels hung from the ceiling filled with food and other essentials. In a young man's spare time, he would play lots of board games and football and when he was not playing games, boys were taught how to farm and rear animals,

Row a boat, and use the sail on a longboat. In a girl's spare time, she collected berries (the were no poisonous mushrooms, and other vegetables to cook. She learnt how to spin on a spinning wheel, weave to make clothes for the winter, prepare and cook different foods, and milk cows on her soother. Barn or sometimes were there one sheep and cows.