

Viking Towns



Objective

- Identify English towns that have names that are Viking/Norse in origin.



Equipment

- Enrich School Orienteering Map
- Orienteering control markers
- Activity Sheets
- UK Atlas (for follow – on activity)



Preparation

- Teachers can use the prepared Activity Sheets.
- Alternatively, they can select a specific set of orienteering control points for this activity and insert the numbers for these control points into the editable Activity Sheets.
- Talk to the children about how the names of towns and cities in the UK give us clues about their origins.
- e.g Towns and cities ending in ‘...chester’ were founded in Roman Britain.
- ‘Borough’ is an Anglo-Saxon word for a fortified town. Towns and cities ending in ‘...borough’ were Anglo-Saxon towns.
- Towns and cities ending in ‘by’, ‘thorpe’ or ‘toft’ have Viking (or Norse) names.
- Tell the children that they are going to capture Viking towns. They will be able to tell if a town is a Viking town from its name.
- Split the children into teams. Give each team an Activity Sheet and an orienteering map.



Instructions

- Each team must use their orienteering map to visit the control points indicated on their activity sheet.
- At each control point, they look at the second letter on the control marker.
- They write the letter next to the town/city on their Activity Sheet.
- They then look at its name and decide if it is a Viking town.
- If it is, they must put a cross next to it to show that they have captured the town.
- When they have visited all the control points, they return to the starting point and tell the teacher which Viking towns they have captured.
- The first group to have visited all the control points and correctly identified the Viking towns is the winner – they have captured the most Viking towns.



Other information

- There are three different Activity Sheets for this activity.
- As a follow-on activity, children could look at a map of England and locate the Viking towns that they have captured. Where are most towns with Viking names? (Most Viking place names are to the east of a line drawn from Chester to London. This was the ‘Danelaw’. The Saxons lived to the south and west of this line.)
- Answers: (Viking towns)
Activity Sheet 1: Whitby, Derby, Corby, Scunthorpe
Activity Sheet 2: Cleethorpes, Wetherby, Lowestoft, Mablethorpe
Activity Sheet 3: Langtoft, Moorthorpe, Rugby, Maltby

