

RAIDERS FROM THE NORTH



This detail from the **Bayeux Tapestry** shows **Norman** warriors sailing their warships to invade England.

Vikings used the threat of raids to demand money from other nations. These payments were called 'Danegeld' (say dane-geld). If foreign kings refused to pay, Viking raiders attacked their lands. Each Viking king or jarl recruited local farmers to fight for him in his own private army called a *lid* (say lith). He expected them to be fiercely loyal to him, and to each other. In return, he rewarded them with treasures, and protected them from rival armies.

GOING BERSERK

Viking armies had troops of special wild warriors, called berserkers (say bear-ser-kerrs). They wore clothes made from bearskin, and believed the skins gave them magic powers. Before fighting, they worked themselves into a fury, howling and chewing their shields.

COURAGE AND CONVICTION

The Vikings admired strength and courage in both men and women. While men were away, Viking women ran the farms and defended family land from attackers. Many Viking raiders never came back – they were killed fighting or lost at sea. Viking people were expected to face death bravely. Viking poets said, 'Cattle die, families die, we ourselves must die.'

DID YOU KNOW?

VIKING RAIDERS CAPTURED PEOPLE AND THEN DEMANDED A RANSOM (BLOOD MONEY) TO FREE THEM ALIVE.

This helmet was designed to give extra protection to the wearer's eyes and nose. The crest on top helped guard his brain.



WEAR A JARL'S HELMET

Jarls wore strong metal helmets to protect their heads and scare their enemies. No one will recognize you behind this nose guard!

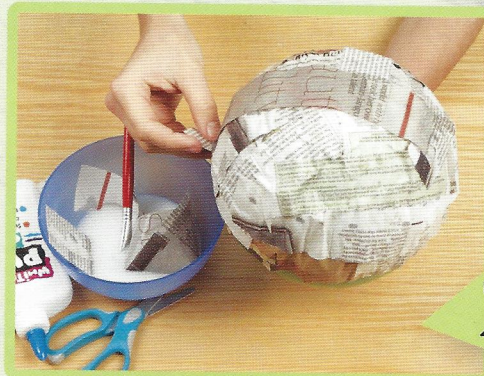
YOU WILL NEED:
BALLOON • OLD NEWSPAPER
• PVA MIXTURE (3 PARTS PVA,
ONE PART WATER) • SCISSORS •
THICK CARD • PENCIL •
CRAFT KNIFE • GLUE •
PAINT AND BRUSHES

1



Blow up a balloon. Dip torn-up strips of newspaper into PVA mixture. Stick them to the top half of the balloon.

2



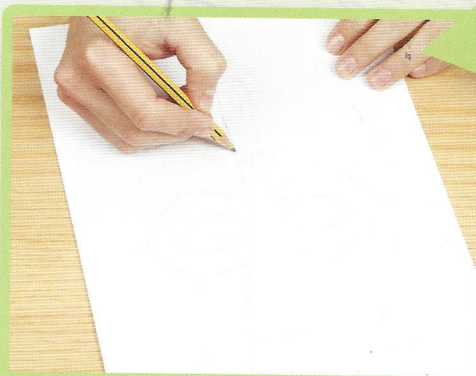
Build up several layers of papier-mâché strips. Leave to dry. (This may take several hours.)

3



Pop the balloon and remove it. Use scissors to trim the jagged edges straight, all the way round.

4



Draw the eye and nose piece onto card. Ask an adult to cut it out with a craft knife.

5



Glue the eye and nose piece to the papier-mâché helmet. When the glue is dry, paint the helmet gold.

If you want your helmet to shine, ask an adult to spray-paint it for you. Make sure they do it outside!

9

