

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a *drekar*?

- A. a Viking town
- B. a merchant ship
- C. a longship
- D. an ocean-going ship

2. The author tries to persuade the reader of what?

- A. Vikings were only violent pirates and raiders.
- B. There was no connection between the Vikings' success and their ships.
- C. Viking ships were more advanced than ships today.
- D. Vikings were not simply pirates and raiders.

3. The Vikings considered speed an important quality in a ship. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A. The hulls of the *drekar* were shallow and fat so the ships rode high in the water
- B. The *drekar* had very large sails and space for many oarsmen.
- C. The *drekar* were light enough to be carried from one body of water to another.
- D. The *drekar* could be driven right onto beaches to allow soldiers to jump over the side.

4. Read the following description of the *knarr*: "The *knarrs* would have looked similar to the *drekar*s except they were longer, fatter and taller, and the space dedicated to cargo left less room for oarsmen. These were the backbones of the Viking empire, which they used to carry everything from gold coins to timber, spices and fine fabrics."

What can you infer about the *knarrs*?

- A. They were not designed for warfare.
- B. They were faster than the *drekar*s.
- C. They were designed to carry soldiers.
- D. They were used for the same purpose as *drekar*s.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. why Vikings are known as violent pirates
- B. the different kinds of Viking ships
- C. how Vikings decorated their ships
- D. the two methods used to build Viking ships

6. Read the following sentences: "Viking ships were so advanced for their time they often were the biggest, tallest and most **striking** ships many people had ever seen. The Vikings made them even more intimidating using bright colors and intricate designs."

What does "**striking**" mean in this sentence?

- A. violent
- B. dangerous
- C. impressive
- D. delightful

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Vikings designed and used their ships for multiple purposes, _____ warfare, trade, and travel.

- A. finally
- B. although
- C. ultimately
- D. including

8. Describe the *knarr*.

9. Describe the differences between Viking ships and other ships at the time.

10. Explain whether Vikings should be known mostly as pirates and raiders. Support your argument using details from the passage.

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8. Describe the *knarr*.

The *knarr* was an ocean-going ship. It had cargo holds built into the bow and stern. They were longer, fatter, and taller than *drekar*s , and had less space for oarsmen.

9. Describe the differences between Viking ships and other ships at the time.

Students should mention the following points:

Viking ships were built using the clinker system; other ships were not. Viking ships did not have deep keels like other ships. Viking ships were more advanced than other ships at the time.

10. Explain whether Vikings should be known mostly as pirates and raiders. Support your argument using details from the passage.

Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

Sample answer: Vikings should not be mostly known as pirates and raiders. While they did raid and destroy towns, they were also traders and merchants. They built towns and markets of their own. Their ships reflect their dual roles: they built *drekars* for warfare and *knarrs* for transporting goods. Their empire was built on both raiding and trading.