



Viking Life

Viking War of Words

Vikings settled their arguments with weapons, but we're far more civilised today! In teams of four, debate some of the Viking-related issues listed. For each debate (between two teams), the other teams will be the audience and the teacher will be the adjudicator. This activity will take at least two lessons. Here's how to do it:

1. The class will split into six teams of four. Any remaining students can help out as timekeepers and advisors (who may make notes during debates to assist the rebuttal speakers).
2. Each team will randomly be allocated one of three debate topics and a position: either 'affirmative' (arguing that the statement is TRUE) or 'negative' (arguing that the statement is FALSE). The teacher, timekeepers and/or advisors should complete these allocations.
3. Based on the video clip (transcript also provided) and further research, each team should spend 20-30 minutes in discussion and making planning notes. Speaker roles should also be assigned, and a 'team line' (a catchy, memorable statement summing up the team's argument) decided. During planning, the timekeepers and advisors should move between the groups to check their progress and make suggestions. They can also organise the order of debates with the help of the teacher.
4. The debates will take place during the following lesson. Each speaker must speak for a minimum of 1½ minutes and a maximum of 2 minutes. It is vital that times are adhered to, or there will not be enough time for three debates. The timekeepers will need a stopwatch and a bell (or another alarm device) to ring at 1½ minutes and again at 2 minutes. If a speaker exceeds 2 minutes, the timekeepers should continually sound the alarm until the speaker stops. No marks will be awarded after 2 minutes.

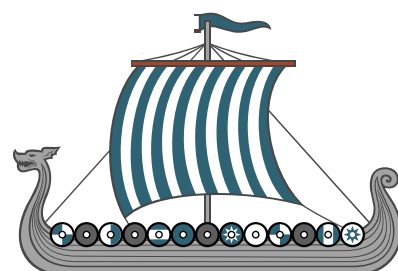
ROLES

Speaker 1

- Greets the adjudicator, opposing team and audience.
- Gathers the main arguments into an introductory statement. This statement is (or includes) the team line that each speaker on the team will repeat.
- Does not give specific examples or evidence; only an overview of what each of the following speakers will address.

Speaker 2

- Presents the main arguments for the team.
- Gives specific examples and evidence that prove A, B and C.
- States the team line.





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Speaker 3

- Offers a rebuttal of the main arguments made by the other team.
Presents more evidence to prove the team's argument (if time allows).
- States the team line.

Speaker 4

- Offers a brief rebuttal of the other team's rebuttal.
- Does not present any new arguments or evidence, but rephrases the arguments already made.
- States the team line.

MARKS

The adjudicator will award these to each speaker in three categories:

Matter (argument and evidence)	/2
Method (structure and teamwork)	/2
Manner (expression and eye contact)	/1

This makes a total possible score of 5 marks per speaker and 20 marks per team.

At the end of each debate, the adjudicator will declare a winning team, reveal the total team scores and give a few reasons for the scores.

DEBATE TOPICS

1. **Viking society functioned fine without literacy.**
2. **The Viking justice system was unfair.**
3. **Viking women were better off than many women in the world today.**

In consultation with the teacher, the class may devise alternative topics based on the material viewed in class.

PLANNING SPACE

