



History Pictures
for a Living Education
The Vikings



HISTORY PICTURES FOR A LIVING EDUCATION

THE VIKINGS



CHARLOTTE MASON BEEHIVE
MELTON MOWBRAY

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INTRODUCTION



History Pictures for a Living Education is a unique series designed to bring history to life for students and young people studying the events of the past. It consists of portraits of eminent persons; photographs and illustrations of arms, relics, artefacts, past fashions; historic sites and castles; architecture; artistic representations of historic events; plans; and maps, and is based largely off *Black's History Pictures*, a series published by A. & C. Black in the early twentieth century. An edition of *Black's History Pictures* was suggested as a suitable resource by Miss Charlotte Mason in the programmes she sent out to home schoolrooms throughout the United Kingdom and Empire at that time.

In recreating this series of picture books we have endeavoured to include many of the same images used in the originals (updating them to higher quality colour prints where possible) and in many cases utilising the same text. We have gone further however in expanding the series with considerably more content. All images are either available in the public domain or are being used under a creative commons licence. Credit has been applied where possible and where necessary. As in the original series “footnotes and occasional quarter pages of written matter have been added (*a*) to indicate a few issues connected with the subject of the picture; (*b*) to draw attention to the chief features illustrated; (*c*) to give a correct historical setting to the scenes represented; and (*d*) to make the picture-story continuous so that the collections can be studied by young pupils without risk of chronological confusion.” The text for this new series has been mainly derived from the following sources: *Black's History Pictures*; Nelson's *Highways of History* series; *The Pronouncing Dictionary of Mythology and Antiquities*; and original content from the founder of Charlotte Mason Beehive.

Designed primarily—but not exclusively—for home educators using the Charlotte Mason philosophy of education, this book can be used by students of all ages and forms studying British History. For home educators using Charlotte Mason's method of reading and narration, it is advised that children make use of the book either during the reading as a way to focus their attention and develop accurate representations of history in their mind's eye; or as an aid to discussion after a reading. After the lesson text has been read the students should put the pictures away while they narrate so that their minds can work independently of any external material. For young students who are not reading their lesson books independently yet the book may be viewed by the child while they listen to the reading. If you find the pictures distract rather than enhance their learning, however, then you may wish to put the pictures to one side until the reading has been completed.

After narration should you wish to discuss the pictures further, the following points may be considered to get started:-

- What is the artist trying to say about the character and/or event? How does this compare to the lesson text?
- What kind of imagery comes to mind? Does this differ to the imagery conveyed by the lesson text?
- Are there any special details in the picture that were not apparent from the days' reading?
- What do you notice about the people, clothes, weapons, landscape, etc.?
- Has the artist captured the spirit and likeness of the character / event?

We sincerely hope you have a pleasant and engaging school year using this new resource. For more new and original content from Charlotte Mason Beehive or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us through our website at www.charlottesmasonbeehive.co.uk.

RACHEL E. NORTH

JULY 2021

Sample

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Sample



No. 01.

Vikings Heading for Land.

From the painting by Frank Dicksee.

Shortly before the end of the eighth century the Danes, Northmen, Norsemen, or Vikings (i.e. Wick-ings, or “men of the fiords and creeks”), as they were variously called, commenced their attacks on England and Western Europe. They were fierce, wild heathens, who could not understand Christianity and the pursuit of peaceful arts.



No. 02.

How the Danes Came Up the Channel a Thousand Years Ago.

Alfred's Saxon warriors are shown awaiting the approach of the Viking "dragon" ships.



No. 03. A Viking Warrior

[left].

From *Black's History Pictures: Our Early History*.

The details are taken from objects in the British Museum.



No. 05.

Ely Looted and Burned by the Danes.

From the picture by Allan Stewart.

All through the ninth century, and far into the tenth, the Vikings continued their raids. They sailed up rivers or creeks as far as possible, and then landed, fired homesteads, slaughtered men, women, and children, and returned with booty and slaves before an army could be gathered to repel them. They sought out peaceful monasteries as offering rich spoil. Ely, founded about 670, was sacked by Danes in 870. It remained in ruins till 979.

Notice (1) the dress of the Danes; (2) the chest; (3) the crucifix; (4) Ely Cathedral burning in the distance.



No. 04. Reconstructed Viking Helmet, Sword and Shield.

Silar / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)



No. 06. Reconstruction of a Viking Longhouse, Fyrkat, Hobro. *Colliekar / CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)*

Vikings often lived in longhouses which were built in the style of a ship. Constructed primarily using wood, the walls were reinforced with clay, and long wooden beams were used to support the roof. The roof was usually thatched or made using wood.



No. 07. Threshing Flail.
Schweitzer / Public domain

Prior to industrialisation wooden flails were used to extract the grain from their husks. This process is called threshing.





No. 08. Viking Clothing and Jewellery. *Nationalmuseet - The National Museum of Denmark from Denmark / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)*

Vikings made all their own clothes which were fashioned out of wool, linen, leather, or silk. They favoured bright and bold colours, extracting the natural dyes from plants to colour the fibres. They loved to wear jewellery, such as rings, necklaces, and bracelets, which were largely made out of gold, silver bronze, pewter, or animal bones, depending on their social status.

No. 10. Viking Treasure [right]. *Marieke Kuijjer / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)*

This Viking treasure is all silver and is being housed at Leiden Museum, The Netherlands



No. 09. Viking Drinking Horns. *Mararie on Flickr / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)*

One of the most common images we have of Vikings is that of their drinking horns, which feature heavily in Scandinavian folklore. The horns were usually taken from cattle or goats.

