

## ***Virtual Viking Videos***

### **Learning Prompts for teachers, parents and educators**

Explore some of the objects from York's Viking past with Oddny the Viking and Will the archaeologist! Each episode looks at a different kind of archaeological find and they are suitable for all ages.

We have provided prompts below for you to discuss the different objects featured with the children. There are also a few suggestions for activities that you can do with your children to help consolidate their learning.

The following activities support curriculum areas in literacy, science and technology, art and design and learning about our Viking past.

You will find answers and further guidance for completing these activities on the last page of this document.



## Viking Combs



*Examples of  
combs found at  
Coppergate,  
in York*

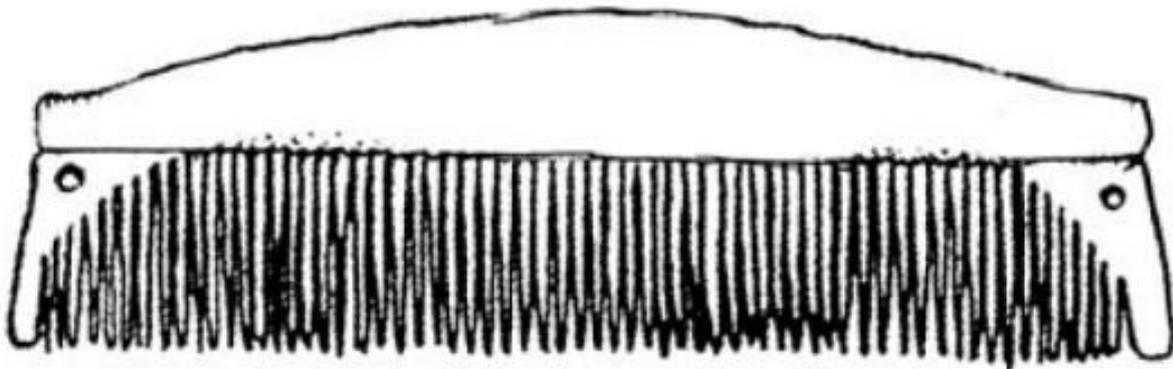


Watch video of Will and Oddny discussing Viking combs and see if you can answer the questions below.

- Which part of a comb is likely to break off over the course of 1,000 years?
- What did the Vikings carve combs from?
- Why might a rich Viking choose to buy a double sided comb?

190 combs or parts of combs were recovered from the Coppergate excavation, many of them revealing patterns and designs.

**Have a go at designing your own Viking comb** using the blank template below. You can use the photographs of the combs from the JORVIK Viking Centre as inspiration.

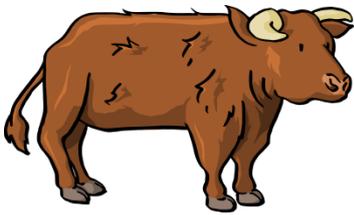
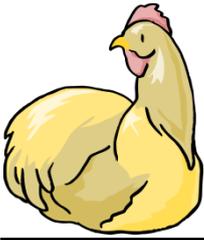


## Animal Bones and Ice Skates

- What animal's foot bone was recycled into ice skates?
- What other objects did the Vikings make out of animal bones?
- Why do you think the Vikings had plenty of animal bones to carve things from? What was the main reason for killing animals in the Viking age?

The Vikings used various animals for different products. **Write as many different materials or products that the Vikings could get from these animals:**



## A Viking Padlock

- What sort of person would make things out of metal in the Viking age?
- What other metal objects would be essential for everyday life in the Viking age? If you're stuck for ideas then try looking around your home and see if you can spot anything metal.
- What technique could archaeologists use to examine metal artefacts?



Below are some photographs of other Viking-age metal finds from the Coppergate excavation. **Can you work out what they are?**



## Answers to the Activities

Which part of a comb is likely to break off over the course of 1,000 years?

- *The comb's teeth*

What did the Vikings carve combs from?

- *Deer antler*

Why might a rich Viking choose to buy a double sided comb?

- *Double-sided combs would take much longer to make and therefore cost more money to buy. They were therefore a way for rich Vikings to show-off their wealth.*

What animal's foot bone was recycled into ice skates?

- *Horse*

What other objects did the Vikings make out of animal bones?

- *Pins for cloaks, hair pins, dice, spoons*

Why do you think the Vikings had plenty of animal bones to carve things from? What was the main reason for killing animals in the Viking age?

- *The Vikings slaughtered animals to eat. Since animal bones can't be eaten, they were recycled.*

**Cows** can be used for dairy products when they are alive. They are killed for beef, and their horns and bones could be recycling. Their skin was made into leather for making shoes, belts and pouches.

**Pigs** were kept alive to eat household waste! They were killed for their meat – ham, bacon and pork.

**Chickens** were kept for eggs and then killed and eaten.

**Sheep** were bred for their wool which was spun into woollen thread and woven into fabric. They could be eaten as mutton.

Can you work out what the Viking-age metal finds are?

The photos of metal objects show 1) a frying pan, 2) the head of a hammer, 3) a coin and 4) a knife.