



VIKING ART

Learning Objective:

To explore Viking art and identify its key characteristics and features.

WHAT DO YOU
ALREADY KNOW ABOUT
THE VIKINGS?



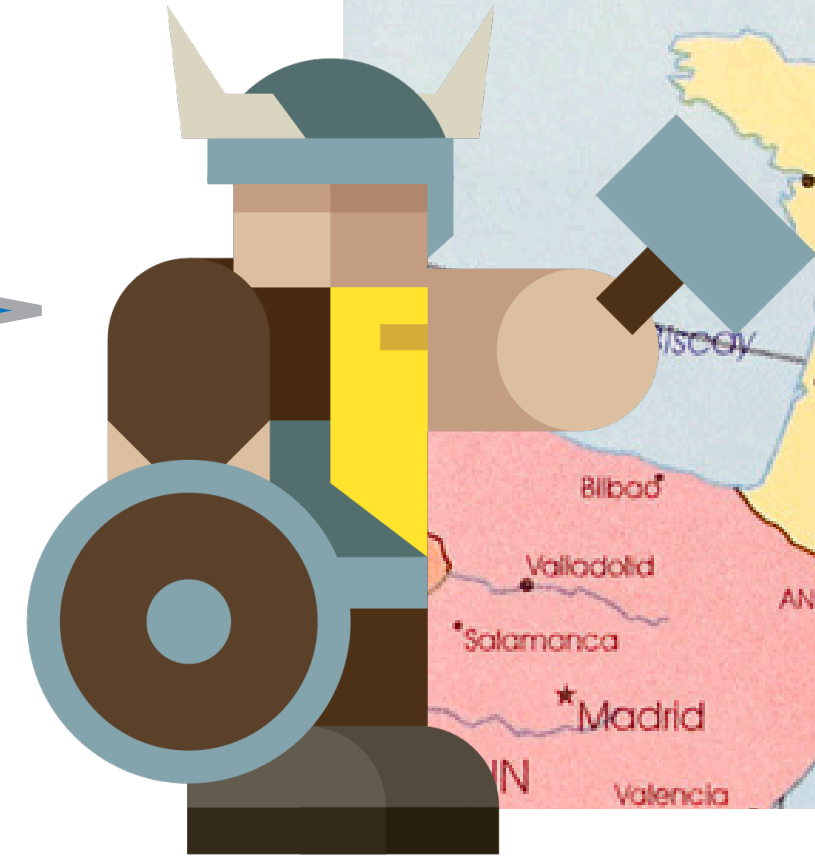
Think, pair, share your ideas.

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The Vikings came from three countries in Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The Viking period in history was between around the year 700 and the year 1100. During this time, the Vikings invaded other countries, including Britain. Some came to settle in these new lands and others came to raid and plunder.

CAN YOU FIND NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK ON THIS MAP?





Over the next few lessons we will be exploring
Viking art.



WHAT KIND OF ARTWORK DO YOU
THINK THE VIKINGS CREATED?

WHAT KIND OF MATERIALS DO YOU
THINK THEY WORKED WITH?

Let's have a look at some examples...



This is a picture stone. Picture stones were often used as memorials, although not often next to graves.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS, IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?

This is a brooch. Brooches were used by Vikings to hold clothing, such as capes, closed as they didn't have zips.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT VIKING
ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS, IMAGES
AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?

Here are some examples
of Viking jewellery.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT
VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS,
IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU
SEE?



By Nationalmuseet - The National Museum of Denmark from
Denmark - Viking gold jewellery - Hiddensee treasure - VIKING
exhibition at the National Museum of Denmark - Photo The National
Museum of Denmark Uploaded by palnatoke, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26755813>

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This decorated plaque is made from whale bone. These kinds of plaques were often found in female graves. No one is quite sure what they were used for.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT
VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS,
IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU
SEE?

This decorated wood panel is on
a surviving church in Norway.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT
VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS,
IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?



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This illustration shows the pattern that was engraved into an iron Viking axe head.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT
VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS,
IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?

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This is the handle of a
Viking sword.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN
ABOUT VIKING ART
FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS,
PATTERNS, IMAGES AND
STYLES CAN YOU SEE?



By Keeshu - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2595104>

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This Viking ring is made from gold and silver.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS, IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?

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This is part of the famous Oseberg ship which was excavated in 1904. It is one of the best preserved Viking ships that has been discovered. It was built around 820 and is the tenth oldest surviving ship in the world.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT
VIKING ART FROM THIS?

WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS,
IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?

This is a reconstruction of the
serpent head from the Oseberg
Viking ship.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT
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WHAT COLOURS, PATTERNS,
IMAGES AND STYLES CAN YOU SEE?



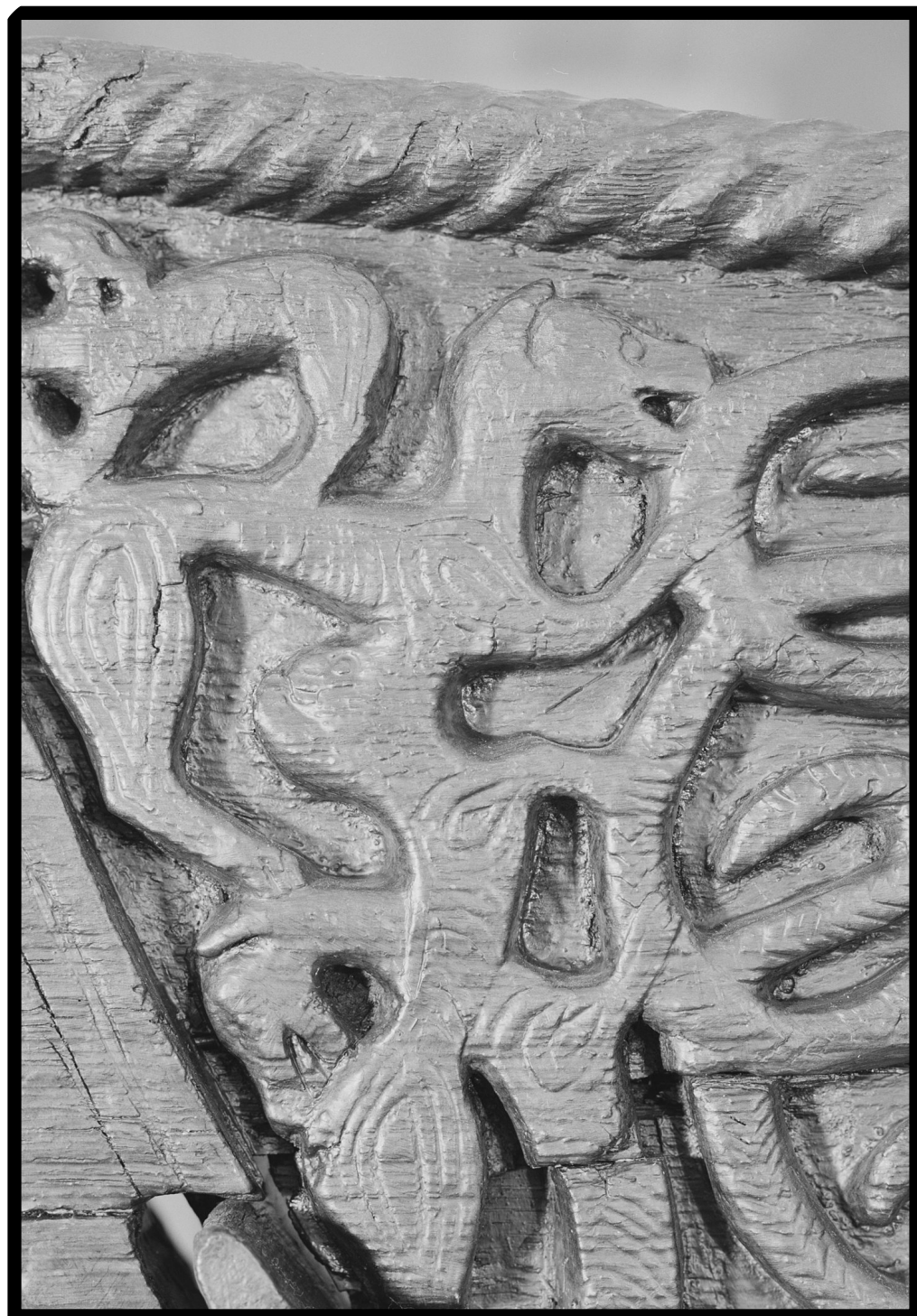
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Just like with any culture or civilisation, Viking art changed and evolved over time. Historians now recognise six distinct art styles from the Viking era:

THE OSEBERG STYLE



This style takes its name from the discovered ship. The main **motif*** of the Oseberg style (which lasted most of the 9th century) is a 'gripping beast' motif. Beasts are seen gripping borders, other creatures or their own bodies.

THE BORRE STYLE

The Borre style continued with the 'gripping beast' motif but animals now had a triangular head, a cat-like face with round eyes and protruding ears. Geometric knots and patterns were also features of this style.



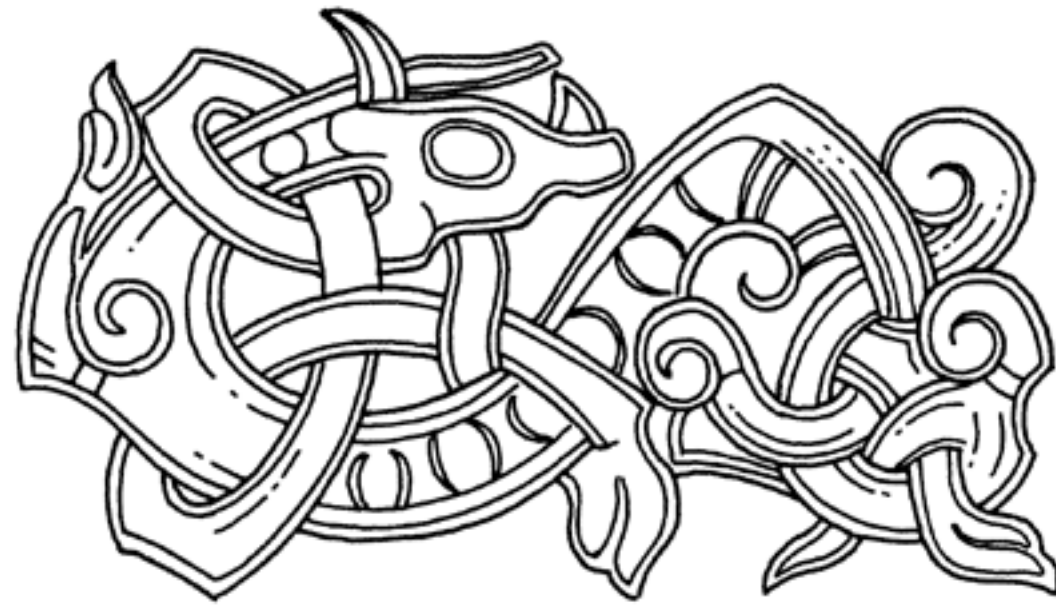
By Casiopeia - fotografiert von Casiopeia, CC BY-SA 2.0 de,
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**A motif is a decorative image or design, often used in a repeating pattern.*

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THE JELLING STYLE



The Jelling style often overlapped with the Borre style. It was used for about 75 years from the beginning of the 10th century. Animals are S-shaped and intertwined. Their heads are usually seen in profile as opposed to front-on.

THE MAMMEM STYLE

The Mammem style was popular in the first half of the tenth century and gets its name from an axe that was found at Mammen in Denmark. This style used animals such as lions, snakes and birds in its designs, as well as plants and leaves.



This is a replica of a chest that was found at the Mammen excavation site.

THE RINGERIKE STYLE

The Ringerike style gets its name from Ringerike in Norway where red sandstone was used to carve patterns. Animals in the Ringerike style were often very long and thin. Runes (Viking writing) were becoming more popular and were used a lot in this style of art.



THE URNES STYLE

The Urnes style was the latest style of Viking art which lasted from the mid-11th to mid-12th centuries. The main features of this style are animals that are interwoven into tight patterns. They have long, almond-shaped eyes and their faces are in profile.



THE OSEBERG STYLE



THE BORRE STYLE



THE JELLING STYLE



THE MAMMEM STYLE



THE RINGERIKE STYLE



THE URNES STYLE



WHICH OF THESE STYLES OF ART DO YOU LIKE
BEST? WHY?

ARE YOU READY
TO GO AND EXPLORE
SOME VIKING ART ON
YOUR OWN?



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Plenary:



WHAT HAVE WE
FOUND OUT ABOUT VIKING
ART TODAY?

HOW WOULD YOU
DESCRIBE THE STYLE AND
FEATURES OF VIKING
ART?

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