

Viking Warriors

The Vikings are probably best known for their fierce warriors. They were expert fighters, extremely organised and very brave in battle.

Viking warriors are often shown in pictures wearing helmets with horns but they did not actually wear horned helmets in battle. Instead, the Vikings' helmets, which were made of leather or metal, would have been smooth and close fitting to the head – much more practical! It is thought that horned helmets were worn only in religious ceremonies.

The Viking warriors carried large shields (about 80-90cm in diameter), which were made of wood and covered in leather. Sometimes the shields would be reinforced with metal as well. They were held using a single hand grip on the back as this made them easier to move around.

The axe was a Viking warrior's main weapon but they also used spears and swords. Swords were considered very special weapons as they were often given to brave warriors who had proved their worth in many battles. Swords were often double edged with a ridge running down the full length of the centre of the blade.

The Vikings believed that brave warriors who died in battle would go to Valhalla. This was like a heaven for warriors and the place where their chief god, Odin, lived.



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