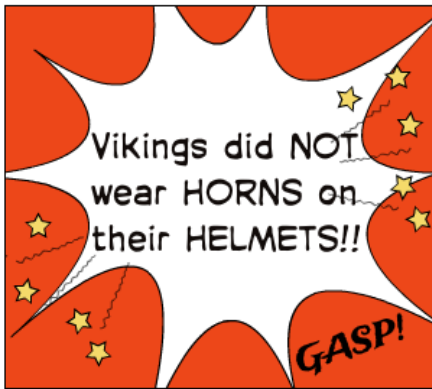




Vikings wore horned helmets, right? Everyone knows that!



But what if I told you that...





LET'S face it: no-one wants to live in cold, cold Scandinavia with shaggy old shorts!

IT'S A BIT NIPPY!

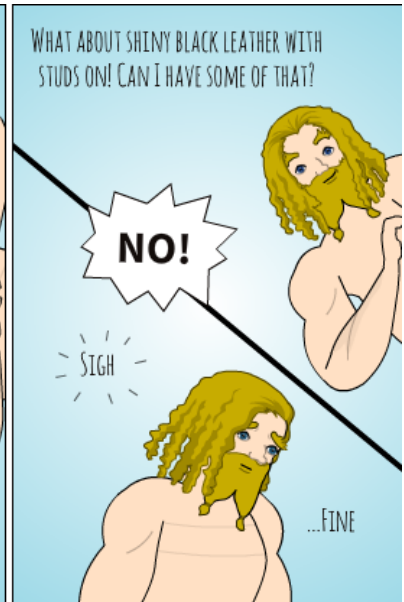


So what did Vikings really wear?

EXCUSE ME, COULD I HAVE MY CLOTHES BACK PLEASE?

Only if you wear proper Viking clothes!

OH ALRIGHT THEN...



WHAT ABOUT SHINY BLACK LEATHER WITH STUDS ON! CAN I HAVE SOME OF THAT?

NO!

SIGH

...FINE



Vikings used lots of different materials for their clothes, including wool and leather from their farm animals, and fibres from plants such as flax, hemp and nettles!

Women and girls would spend most of their time spinning, dyeing and weaving cloth. Fabric took a very long time to make by hand so no self-respecting Viking would wear tattered clothes!

Vikings used flowers, berries, roots, nuts and even insects to dye their clothes all different colours.



So THIS is what Vikings REALLY looked like!

Silver arm rings to use as money

Wool or linen tunic (called a Kyrtil)

Leather belt

Woolly trousers

Woolen cloak

Leg wraps to protect against undergrowth and help keep warm

Leather shoes

There, isn't that better than all that boring brown fur?



MUCH BETTER! EVEN MY HAIR IS COMBED!

Oh yes! Vikings liked to look good!



BUT...

What?



YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US ABOUT THE HORNED HELMETS!

Oh yes! Silly me...



Well for that, we can blame...

I KNOW I DO...

### The Victorians



Victorians LOVED History, but most of all they loved ADVENTURE! And TREASURE!

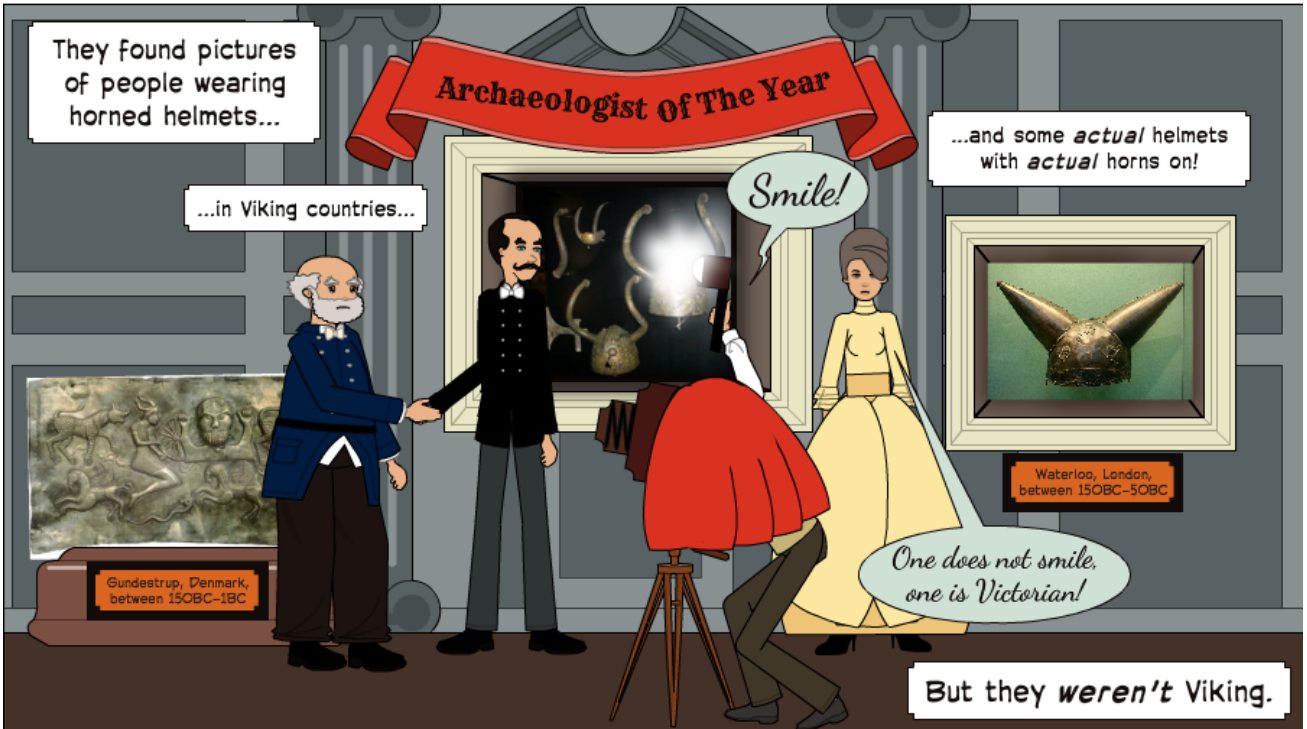
Bye darling, I'm off adventuring! Back in time for tea!

Unlike the Vikings, the Victorians mostly put their treasures in museums



But they weren't always very good at working out what they had!

Hmmmm...



They found pictures of people wearing horned helmets...

...in Viking countries...

### Archaeologist of The Year

...and some *actual* helmets with *actual* horns on!

Smile!

One does not smile, one is Victorian!

But they *weren't* Viking.

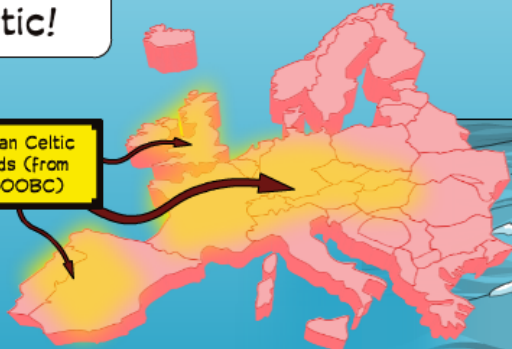
Gundestrup, Denmark, between 150BC-1BC

Waterloo, London, between 150BC-50BC

They were Celtic!

The Celts pretty much ruled Europe until the Romans came along. Even today the native languages of Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Cornwall and Brittany in France are descended from Celtic.

Pre-Roman Celtic homelands (from about 600BC)



FEELING A LITTLE BLUE DEAR?



IT'S WOOD!\*

\* WOOD: BLUE DYE THAT CELTS PAINTED THEMSELVES WITH FOR BATTLE.

Victorians didn't just love the STUFF they dug up from ancient civilisations, they also loved their STORIES.

Epic tales of GOOD and EVIL, ADVENTURE and ROMANCE, HEROES and VILLAINS...



...and GODS and GIANTS and DWARVES and MONSTERS and DRAGONS and MAGIC and TREASURE and WITCHES and PRINCESSES...

...just like the Viking Myths!

Serpents!

ELVES

GODS

WAR

A Horse with 8 Legs! (Spiderhorse?)

DRAGONS

HEROES

DWARVES

ZOMBIES (YES REALLY)

WITCHES

MAGIC

GIANT WOLVES

BLOODTHIRSTY BATTLE COWS!!

MONSTERS

LOVE

TROLLS

SHAPESHIFTERS

GIANTS (several kinds)

Then all they needed was imagination, and a German composer who didn't know when to stop.

Richard Wagner  
1813-1883



Wagner wrote an opera about Viking Gods and Heroes...

Hmm, it's a bit short...



...that was  
**FIFTEEN HOURS**  
LONG!!

YES I KNOW IT,  
I CAN'T HELP IT!

OH BRUNHILDA, YOU'RE SO LOVELY!

My bum has gone numb...

Hurry up you two,  
I need a wee!

**FIFTEEN HOURS!!** It had to be performed over four days! And it told the story of a **MAGIC RING**, a **VIKING HERO** and a **VALKYRIE** (a Viking 'angel') who fall in love. And of course lots of **GODS** and **BATTLES** and **GIANTS** and **DRAGONS** and **BETRAYALS** and **MURDERS!**

And **HELMETS** with  
**HORNS!!**

And the idea just kind of  
...**STUCK!**



For more myths and legends, classroom resources and the truth about Vikings and Anglo Saxons, check out our website at [www.vikingschoolvisits.com](http://www.vikingschoolvisits.com)



You can even arrange for a Real Viking or Anglo Saxon to visit your school, museum or community group!

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