

# THE VIKINGS



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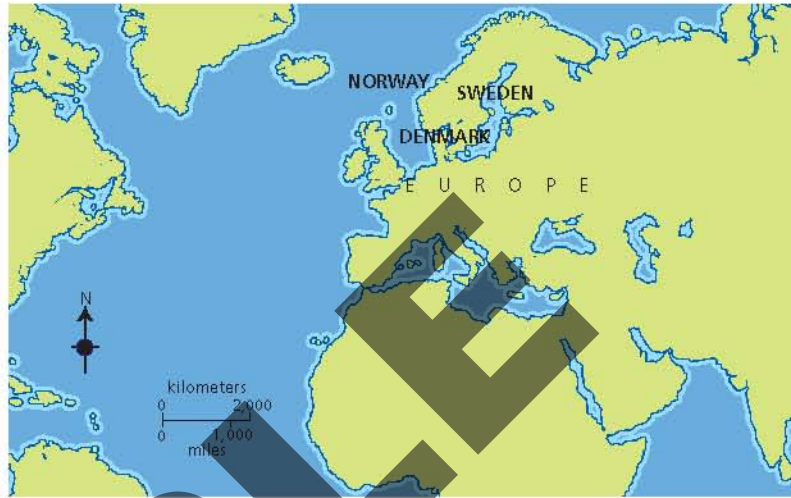
# WHO WERE THE VIKINGS?

The Vikings were bold and adventurous seafarers from Scandinavia. They lived in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark between AD 800 and AD 1100.

They were superb sailors who traveled by water around the islands, lakes, and **fjords** of their

homelands. They also voyaged across rough open seas in their **longships** and settled in many European lands.

Everyday life in the Vikings' own lands was harsh, and people had to be tough to survive. The Vikings admired people who were brave and had a fighting spirit. In addition to being explorers and **settlers**, some Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors who went on armed raids in search of gold and treasure. For 250 years, Viking raids terrorized Europe. Still, most Vikings were peaceful people: farmers, anglers, traders, and skilled craftspeople. They built farmhouses and bustling towns and enjoyed music, storytelling, and good food.



▲  
The Viking homelands

▼  
Viking ships shown on Viking coins



The Vikings discovered new lands, built cities, and invaded foreign countries. They carried their skills, ideas, and language wherever they settled. Traces of Viking **civilization** can still be found in many European lands.

A fjord in Norway

