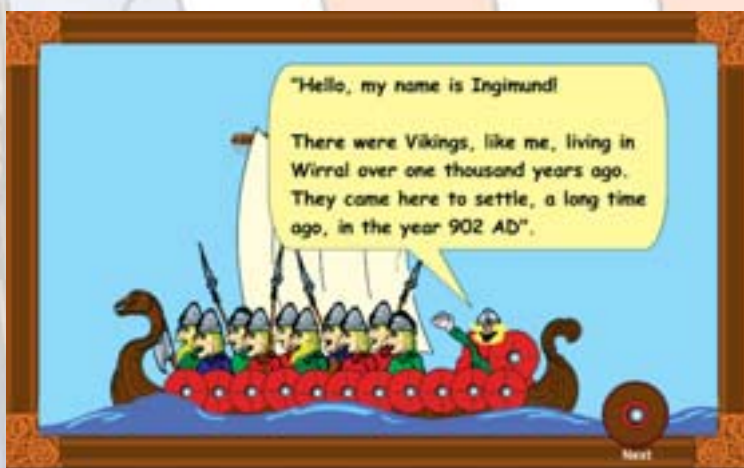




If you are looking for the Vikings – look no further!

INTRODUCTION

Credible, reliable and stimulating information on the Vikings can be more than a little difficult to find. The Internet is full of historical reference material, but it would take hours to sift through it all and in the end how much can you trust? However, thanks to a dedicated team in the north west, teachers can now access a creative and captivating website – all about the Vikings in Wirral.



A NEW APPROACH

As soon as you enter the **Vikings in Wirral** website, you know that you have found something unique. Designed to support the teaching and learning of Key Stages 2–3 local history, the user is guided around the website by a yellow-bearded cartoon character. Based on an original idea from Steve Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Borough Council), the site has been developed by the Wirral Learning Grid team (part of the Wirral Borough Council Education and Cultural Services Department) in close association with

Professor Stephen Harding of the University of Nottingham. Steve is an expert on the Vikings in the north west and author of *Viking Mersey* and *Ingimund's Saga*.

Steve, who himself was brought up on Wirral, explains. "When I was a youngster I learnt a few facts about the Vikings in our area, particularly relating to the local place name 'Thingwall' which is where the Wirral Vikings had their parliament. But we learnt nothing at all at primary or secondary schools about these people other than they were 'baddies' from whom we were rescued by Alfred the Great. It was only by chance that, as a final year student, I picked up a book and discovered all this fascinating heritage. So when Learning Grid team approached me about the Vikings in Wirral project I had no hesitation in joining the team".

TREASURE CHEST

Once you have entered this treasure chest of a site, you are taken through a series of themes. The site includes sections describing how the Vikings arrived in Wirral, place name evidence, historical records such as the three fragments, Harald Harfagre, Viking government, farming and fishing, DNA, Christian Vikings and acts of expansion. Pupils' learning is also reinforced by 22 video sequences covering Meols, Viking Tranmere, Viking road signs, Viking field names and stonework, St. Bridgets and the Hogback tombstone.

PREPARE TO MEET THE VIKINGS

The website is due to go live in February 2006 and will be freely available on the Wirral Learning Grid site at the following address:

<http://www.wirral-mbc.gov.uk/vikings>