

Heritage Hunters - Vikings

THE
ROMAN
BATHS
BATH

The Roman Baths looks after objects and archaeology from the area so this means we have things from other time periods – not just the Romans!

One of our special things is a Viking sword. It was found buried outside the walls of Bath, but we don't quite know how it got here.

It has some Viking writing on it that says:

“Ulfberht made me”

We know Ulfberht was a Viking blacksmith who made lots of high quality weapons. He wrote his name on all his swords to show he was the one who made them.



Viking wrote using runes, and they look a bit different from our alphabet today.

They wrote their names on their favourite objects, like you might write your name in your school uniform, so everyone know who it belongs to.

Or, like Ulfberht, they wrote names on things they had made that they were very proud of.

Here is the Viking runic alphabet.



a b c d e f g h ij k l m



n o p q r s t uvw x y z

Activity - Write your name like a Viking!

You could also write your address, birthday, today's date.

Find out some other facts about the Vikings – write them in runes too!

Activity – Make a Viking Shield

Viking warriors usually brought their own equipment to battle. They wore their everyday tunics and breeches. They carried spears of different weights, bows and battle axes. A warrior carried a shield about 1m across that was made from wooden planks. It had a boss in the centre made of iron and a rim made of either leather or iron. If you would like to make a Viking shield you will need:

- A template – see the next page, some tin foil or a silver bottle top, colours for decorating your shield, glue, a strip of card to make a handle. You might also like some card to stick the shield to, in order to strengthen it.



