

## Reading 1 Making a Longhouse

Vikings built houses like ships - up to 100 feet long with oval sides and sloping roofs. The main, boat-like room could house up to fifty people (plus livestock during a freezing winter).

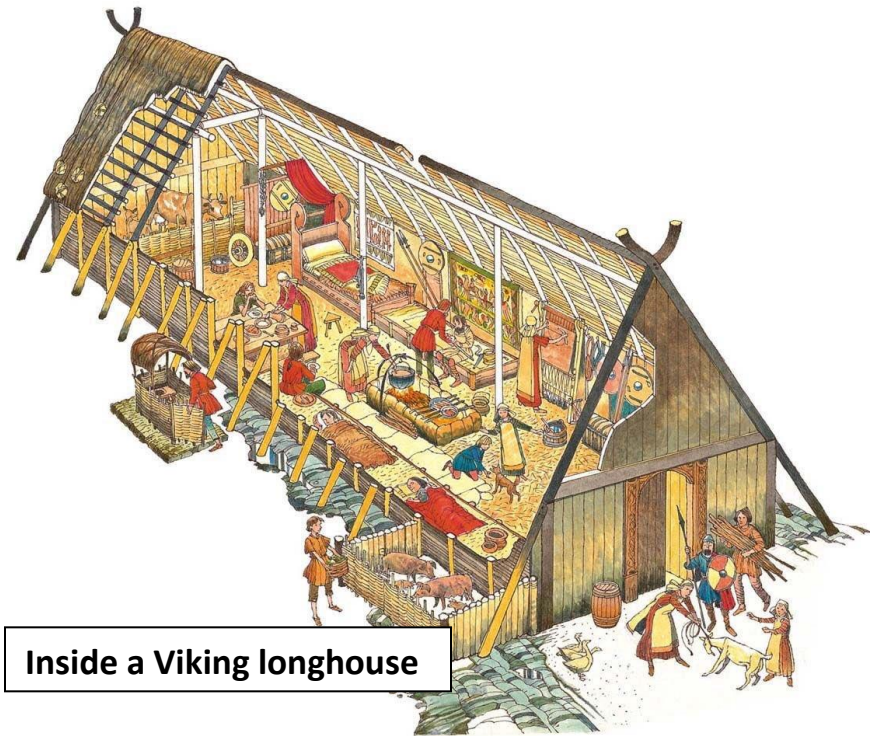
### Building a Longhouse

1. Dig holes 1 metre deep, every 2 metres around the perimeter.
2. Set the posts in the holes.
3. Lash pre-cut, rough lumber onto the wooden frame with green twigs.
4. Daub thick mud into the joints between the boards to seal out the weather.
5. Hoist the roof joists above the two widest points of the building.
6. Raise the centre beam between the end joists and attach all three sections together securely.
7. Attach all other roof joists to the centre beam.
8. Weave branches between the joists to support the outer roof layer.



### Questions

1. Who would live in the longhouse during the winter?
2. Which words means the same as 'lift'?
3. Why is it important to 'seal out weather'?
4. How does the layout help you to follow the instructions?



Inside a Viking longhouse

As with all our reading activities, they can be printed off or read online and answered on paper, in home learning books, etc.

The answers are on the last page. No peeking until you have finished.

Have fun!

## Answers

1. Who would live in the longhouse during the winter?

**Accept: up to 50 people plus their livestock.**

2. Which words means the same as 'lift'?

**Accept: 'hoist' and 'raise'.**

3. Why is it important to 'seal out weather'?

**Accept any explanation linked to keeping warm/dry during the winter.**

4. How does the layout help you to follow the instructions?

**Accept any explanation about the use of numbers to enable the reader to follow the steps in order.**