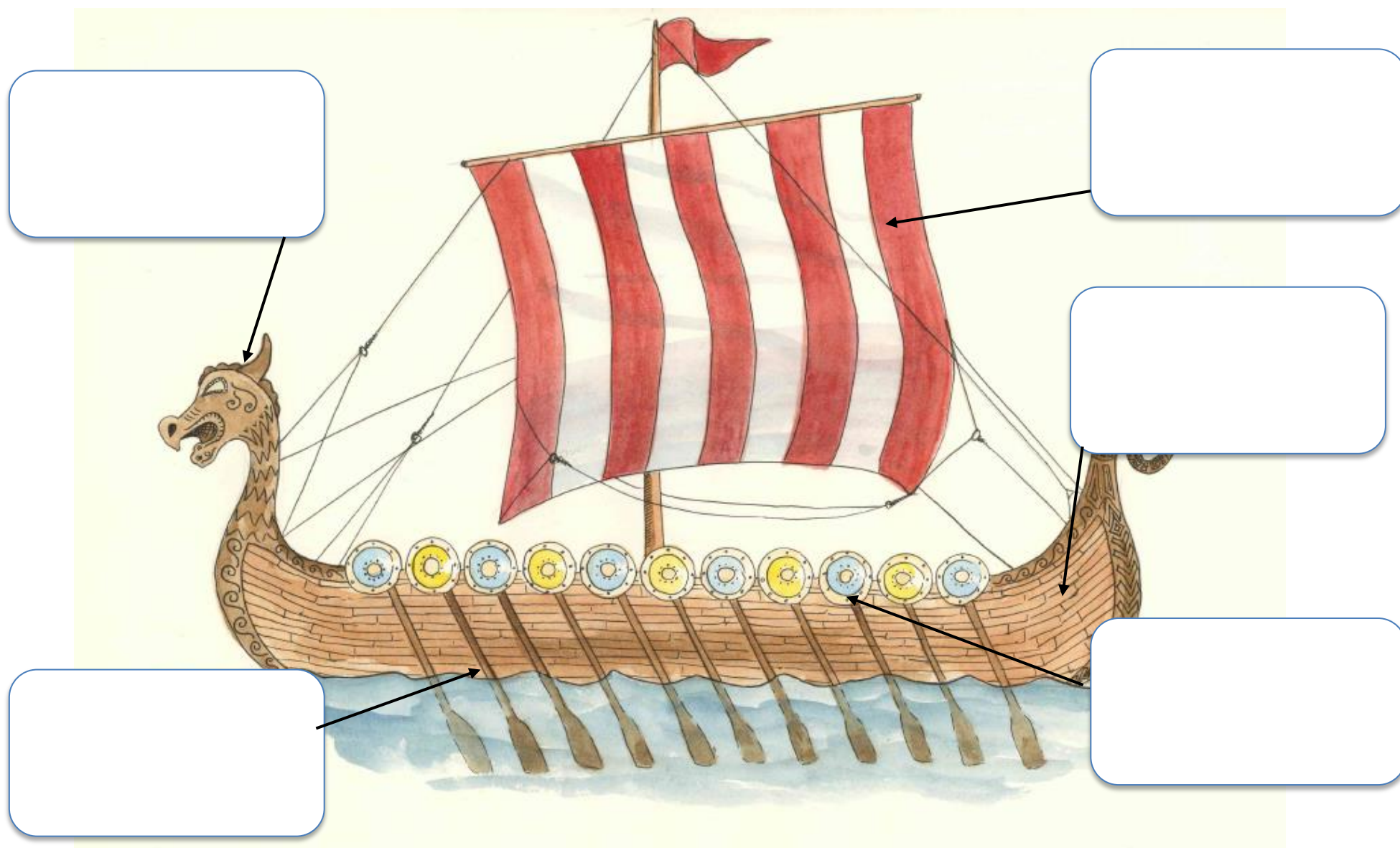
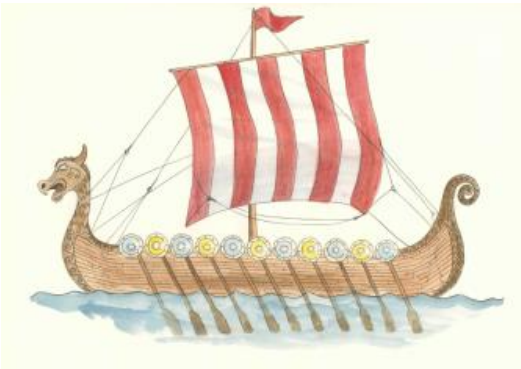


Name Date:





Read the fact boxes carefully.

Choose and write an appropriate tile from the following list for each fact box:

Sails, Oars, Clinker-built, Shields or Figureheads.

Cut out the fact boxes and stick them in the correct places on the longship diagram.

Add an appropriate tile to each of your fact boxes.

These were made from wood and iron. They were hung on the outside of the ship so that they could be reached quickly during an attack!

This was carved from wood to look like a monster – often a dragon or sea-snake. It was designed to frighten the Vikings' enemies!

The longships were built from overlapping planks of wood. They were light and flexible, able to bend and twist with the waves.

If there was not enough wind for sailing, the Vikings would have to row. They sat on storage chests and rowed with long wooden oars.

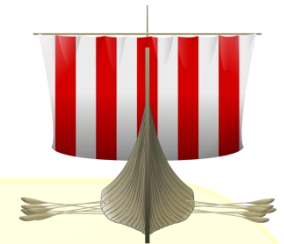
These were large and square, and made from woollen cloth. The cloth was coated in lanolin (sheep grease) to keep it waterproof.



Name Date:

Read the passage below and highlight the key information.

Annotate the Viking longship diagram with the information you have found out. Remember to précis (summarise the most important parts) so that your annotations will fit on the diagram!



The Vikings' incredible shipbuilding skills helped to make their invasions successful. Their longships (also called 'dragon ships') were clinker built, meaning that each ship was made from overlapping planks of wood. This made them easy to build and repair, and also meant that they were flexible enough to twist and bend in rough seas without breaking. The long, narrow shape of the boats meant that they could sail in very shallow waters – useful for Vikings invading beaches or rivers!

A carved figurehead was fitted to the front of the ship, and was often shaped like a menacing creature such as a dragon or a snake, to frighten the Vikings' enemies. This could be taken on and off, so that it could be stowed away safely during storms or on rough seas.

The ships had large, square sails, which historians think were made from woollen cloth. Lanolin (grease from sheep's wool) would have been used to make the sails waterproof. At night, the sail could be taken down and laid across the ship to make a tent to sleep under. If there was not enough wind for sailing, the Vikings would row through the sea with oars. There were no rowing benches on board, so the Vikings probably sat on storage chests instead. There would have been between 40 and 60 men on each longships, taking it in turns to row.

When the ship was in port, the Viking crew would hang their shields along the outside, so that they would be easy to grab for use in an attack. The shields were wooden, and painted bright colours. In the centre of the shield was an iron boss, which protected the Viking's hand as he held it. The shields would have been waterproofed with grease, to prevent them from becoming heavy with water from the waves or rain.