

DLR - Artefact 9 (Viking Weapons) Transcript

[Audio: background music, light and upbeat, Viking shield, Horns, Nasal Helmet and Viking Axe. Person talking to camera.]

(Setting: Warehouse, historical dolls,

(Large sign with text and images:

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- Deliver an enriched curriculum,
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- Inspire Creative teaching and learning,
- Books and artefact loans,
- Topic and bespoke collections,
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- Free delivery.

Images include: The skeletal jaw of a dinosaur, Lady's Miao Boots (China/Thailand), children reading Viking books and examining ancient Viking pottery, child holding a rock.)

(Adam Bushnell) Hello, my name is Adam Bushnell and I'm an author from County Durham and today I'm working with Durham Learning Resources. I'm in their warehouse with all of their incredible and amazing artefacts. They're available for schools to loan.

(Object: Adam Bushnell picks up a large black and yellow Viking Shield.)

(Adam Bushnell) So, imagine having some of these artefacts in your classroom and imagine the creative writing opportunities. That's what I'm going to be talking to you about today is a writing activity based upon these Viking artefacts.

(Adam Bushnell) This is a Viking shield the bit in the middle is called the boss and the boss was used for hitting. This is for protection but it's also a weapon as well.

(Action: Adam Bushnell picks up yellow and black Viking Shield and moves the Shield back and forth to show what the 'Boss' is used for. The Boss is found in the middle of the Shield. It is circular, large and pointy.)

(Adam Bushnell) Over here, this is called a 'Nasal Helm' because that bit goes over your nose like this, and that again is for protection.

(Object & Action: Adam Bushnell places the Nasal Helmet over his head to show how the Nasal Helmet has a nasal plate which runs from the forehead down over the bridge of the wearer's nose. The Nasal Helmet is a bronze colour.)

(Adam Bushnell) But this great axe here was very much not for protecting. You could hit with the butt of it, and you could slice with that blade it was a deadly Viking weapon.

(Object & Action: Adam Bushnell lifts a large axe with wooden handle and a sharp blade. Adam Bushnell begins to demonstrate how a Viking would use this weapon. Adam Bushnell then sets the weapon down.)

(Adam Bushnell) Now after a hard day's raiding, the Vikings loved nothing more than to gather together in a place called a Mead Hall, and 'Mead' was a honeyed wine that they used to drink. They drank from horns; they didn't have horns on their helmets that was made up in the movies.

(Object & Action: Adam Bushnell lifts the large pointed grey horn up. The horn is from a cow. He then places the horn on the Nasal Helmet to show that this was a myth.

(Adam Bushnell) Now, this horn comes from a cow the Vikings discovered that when you cut off the horn from a cow. It didn't hurt the cow; it was a bit like us having our fingernails or toenails trimmed and when the horn grew back. It grew back shorter and less sharp, so it was safer to farm the animals by cutting off their horns.

(Action: Adam Bushnell shows where they cut the horn.)

(Adam Bushnell) Then, they wondered what they could do with these horns. It looks like you could use it as a weapon but if they dropped it, it would shatter like glass well they scooped out the middle and they used the bone marrow and things like that in their cooking and with these horns themselves they're used for drinking out of.

(Action: Adam Bushnell shows how they could use the horn as weapon, by moving it back and forth. Adam Bushnell then places his hand inside the horn and pretends to scoop out the bone marrow. Adam Bushnell then lifts the horn to his mouth and pretends to drink out of the horn.)

(Adam Bushnell) They could cut the end off and they could blow into it but they also discovered that when you put this horn into boiling water it goes squishy and you can mould it into different shapes and you can mould it into a shape like a cup holder but they also made balls and spoons and combs for their hair and they even made little windows in their houses made out of horn from cows.

(Action: Adam Bushnell takes the horn and blows into it to show how they could use it as a blow horn. Adam Bushnell picks up a small item made from cow's horn to show how malleable the horn is when boiled. The horn could be made into many other things like a cup holder. Adam Bushnell places the horn into the cup holder made out of a cow's horn.)

(Adam Bushnell) But their favourite thing to do is to take a feasting horn like this and to drink that honeyed wine mead and to boast of the things that they had done that day.

(Action: Adam Bushnell drinks out of the cow's horn.)

(Adam Bushnell) Vikings had boasting competitions which basically means they like to show off and so what they would do in the Mead Hall after drinking lots of the honeyed wine. They'd start boasting about the things that they'd done.

(Adam Bushnell) They'd say, "Did you know, that with this helmet I headbutted seventy-two dragons and knocked them out!"

(Action & Object: Adam Bushnell lifts the Nasal Helmet and slaps it to imply how hard, sturdy the helmet was.)

(Adam Bushnell) "I threw this shield, and it went all the way around the world and when it came back, I caught it in my hand and stuck to the boss was a hundred golden coins."

(Action& Object Adam lifts the Viking shield and points to the 'Boss' in the centre of it.)

(Adam Bushnell) "With this axe I chopped off 1000 frost giant heads, I'm the greatest Viking that ever lived!"

(Action & Object: Adam Bushnell picks up the large axe as he speaks.)

(Adam Bushnell) That is the kind of boasting that Vikings used to do. They had boasting competitions and they used something called 'hyperbole.' Hyperbole is exaggeration, it's a bit like when your parents say to you, or your family that you live with say to you, "I've told you a thousand times to pick up those socks!" and you're thinking to yourself, it was only 900 times I was counting.

(Adam Bushnell) Or when your teachers say to you've asked you a million times to do that and you're thinking well it's a couple hundred off a million.

(Adam Bushnell) Or when your friends say to you oh I've just walked like a thousand miles to get to school and you think well you only just live over there why have you done that.

(Action: Adam Bushnell points when he says the words "over there.")

(Adam Bushnell) It's that kind of exaggeration that's what the Vikings did and perhaps YOU could write your own Viking boasts.

(Action: Adam Bushnell points at the camera when he says "YOU" with expression.)

(Adam Bushnell) You could write down that you swam through something, that you lifted something, you ran around something, you defeated something and don't just say you defeated one thing.

(Action: Adam Bushnell uses his fingers to represent each example given.)

(Adam Bushnell) Use hyperbole and exaggerate it.

(Adam Bushnell) When you read out your boasts you don't just read them out like....

"I defeated a whole family of Ogres."

(Adam Bushnell uses a monotone voice when saying the above sentence.)

(Adam Bushnell) You would say....

"I defeated a whole family of Ogres!"

(Adam Bushnell projects his voice loudly as he says the sentence above.)

(Adam Bushnell) Think of Dwyane Johnson, think of The Rock, and that's how you should read out your boasts. You could maybe even have a 'boast off' in your classroom like the Vikings did to see who can do the best boast.

(Adam Bushnell) Instead of drinking honeyed wine called mead you could turn your classroom into a Mead Hall but stick with the water.

(Action: Adam Bushnell holds the Viking horn which they used to drink from.)

(Adam Bushnell) Enjoy writing your boasts everybody.

(Text: Navy Blue Screen with text saying 'Durham Learning Resources' logo and a 'Durham County Council' logo.)