

Good Morning Primary 5,

Welcome to this week’s STEM challenge!

I hope you have enjoyed your introduction to the Vikings and have already learned some interesting facts. This week your STEM challenges are all about the Vikings. I have set three Science tasks, using chillis and one Engineering and Maths task (which includes a little bit of art) for you to try.

Science Tasks

This week your Science task has a Biology focus, looking at growing plants and making food.



Vikings ate different things throughout the year because plants grow at different times of the year. For example, many fruits are only available in autumn, but leafy plants can also be eaten in spring and summer. Can you make a table showing which fresh foods are available in each season?  Can you make a healthy menu for a summer feast?



It is harder to grow crops in Scandinavia where Vikings come from because it is colder there. One of the reasons the Vikings came to Britain is because it is easier to grow food here. Can you find out where common food plants that we eat today are grown (eg lemons, plums, barley, potatoes)?  Can you make a table showing whether plants can grow in colder places like Norway or only in hotter places like the Mediterranean?  What other things and conditions do plants need to grow?



Vikings used microorganisms to make different kinds of foods such as skyr (a type of yoghurt), beer and mead (a drink made from fermented honey and water). Can you find out which modern foods and drinks are made using microorganisms?  Are the microorganisms that are used to make food different from microorganisms that spoil food?

Engineering and Maths Task

The Vikings travelled the seas in ships. These ships came in all different sizes, depending on what they would be used for: trading, exploration, colonisation or war. However, they were usually slender and flexible with symmetrical ends and perhaps some decoration like dragon’s head or circular designs at the bow and stern.

Your challenge: Can you design and build a Viking ship? Your ship can be any size you wish and made of any materials, however, it must be able to float. If you need to, use the internet to research what Viking ships looked like and explore what materials might be useful in helping to make your vessel float. DO you have any spare wood lying around?!

You can make your Viking ship as straight forward or complicated as you like, so if needs be, take lots of time to build your ship. I look forward to seeing photographs of your efforts on TEAMS 😊.