

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Vikings: Warriors, Explorers, and Skilled Traders

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Viking trade routes had a significant economic impact on the regions they connected. They facilitated the exchange of valuable commodities such as amber, furs, wool, spices, and silks. This trade contributed to the economic prosperity of Viking society and the regions they traded with. Culturally, these trade routes led to the exchange of ideas, technologies, and cultural influences. Vikings brought back not only goods but also stories, customs, and knowledge from the regions they visited, enriching their own culture and the cultures they interacted with.
2. As a Viking trader returning from a voyage, I have acquired a variety of goods. These include furs, which are highly prized for their warmth and use in clothing; timber, essential for shipbuilding and construction; and spices and silks, luxurious items that are both valuable and coveted. These goods hold significance in Viking society as they contribute to the economy, provide essential resources, and reflect the cultural and economic exchanges facilitated by Viking trade.
3. The Viking slave trade had significant ethical implications. It involved capturing individuals during raids and selling them as slaves in various markets. This practice subjected people to inhumane treatment and exploitation. While it was a part of the economy during the Viking Age, it had severe consequences for the societies involved, including trauma and the loss of individuals' freedom and dignity. It is essential to acknowledge the ethical concerns and human suffering associated with the Viking slave trade.
4. The enduring legacy of Viking trade can be seen in modern economies, global trade networks, and cultural exchanges. Viking trade routes and their impact on various regions laid the foundation for global trade networks. The exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures that took place during the Viking Age continues to shape our interconnected world today. The commodities traded by the Vikings, such as timber and spices, remain integral to modern economies. Additionally, the cultural exchanges initiated by Viking traders contributed to the rich tapestry of global culture and history, fostering a sense of shared heritage among diverse societies.

