

The Vikings

Who were the Vikings?

- A culture originating in the northern part of Europe in **Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden.**
- **The Vikings were fierce conquerors, brave explorers, and skilled craftspeople;** they invaded and settled countries throughout Western Europe.
- **They were the first Europeans to discover America (in about AD 1000), almost 500 years before Columbus.**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxKw68Xo4eI>

Stories of an Unknown Land



- For a very long time, people had told stories about an unknown land between Europe and Asia.
- No one knew for sure if stories of a **New World** could be true.
- These stories began a new era called the **Age of Exploration**.
 - We will learn about this era in Chapter 4.

Leif Erikson/*Ericsson*/*Eriksson* – *birth unknown - 1020*

- **Leif Erikson was the son of Eric the Red, a famous Viking leader.**
- **Erikson started the first European settlement in Greenland in 985.**
- **After setting up the settlement in Greenland, Erikson continued on and sailed to Newfoundland, located in North America.**
- **Leif was a leader of Viking expeditions and may have been the first European to reach North America.**





Greenland

Iceland

Sweden

Norway

Russia

Newfoundland

Germany

France

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3GM3F7JZ2c>



Greenland

Europe

Africa

South
America

North
America

Newfoundland

Equator

Eriksson's Route:
1000 A.D.



Greenland

Iceland

Baffin Island

Western Settlement

Thingvellir

Eastern Settlement

Labrador Sea

Atlantic Ocean

North America

<http://www.history.com/topics/exploration/leif-eriksson>

Erik the Red's voyage
A.D. 983 to A.D. 986

Leif Eriksson
1000 A.D.

400 MILES