

VIKING CARVINGS AND PATTERNS



STYLES OF CARVINGS

The styles have changed slightly over time from their early origins in Sweden and Norway in the 8th Century to their later pieces found in England around 1100AD, but most still include intricate designs of animals and beasts. Artists and historians have recognised 6 distinct, yet overlapping styles within Viking art.

- **Osberg, 9th Century:** its main feature is the gripping beast with claws gripping borders and other creatures.
- **Borre, 9th -10th Century:** still has the beast, but often includes a triangular head and a cat-like face.
- **Jelling 10th Century:** animals are often s-shaped and intertwined.
- **Mammem, late 10th Century:** lions, birds, serpents.
- **Ringerike, 11th century:** as well as the naturalistic style, runestones became more prominent and animals became thinner, with almond eyes and curly tendrils.
- **Urnes, 11th and 12th Century:** a greyhound creature can often be found fighting with a serpent.

Many designs have counterparts within Anglo-Saxon art and Ottonian art.

HOW DID THE VIKING CREATE THEIR DESIGNS

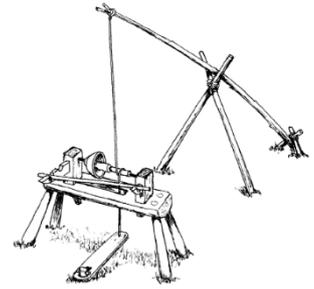
Most evidence of the tools the Vikings used comes from archaeological digs, but expert examination of the marks on the woodwork can also indicate techniques and tool usage.

The Bayeux Tapestry also shows ship builders at work utilizing a range of tools identical to those found in Viking Scandinavia.





Hundreds of tool types were used for various techniques, but perhaps most impressively, there was evidence of a Viking 'power tool' known as a pole lathe. The spring of the pole and the action of the person's foot on the treadle caused the repetitive force action of a tool carve into the wood. They would have used glue made from thinning cheese or from hide and boiled stag horns.



FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/viking-art>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kp3pUSgnlIE>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What century did early Viking carvings and patterns appear?
2. How many styles of Viking art have been recognised?
3. Which style depicts animals as s-shaped and intertwined?
4. What food item did they make glue from?
5. What was the "power tool" known as?