

Scandinavian Origins Answer Key

1. Sweden's coastline, rivers, and islands allowed Vikings to travel quickly by ship and reach other lands for trade and exploration.
2. Forests provided wood for building ships, homes, tools, and weapons, making them essential for daily life and travel.
3. The Baltic Sea connected Sweden to other regions, encouraging settlements near harbors and trade routes.
4. Water provided transportation, food, fresh resources, and sheltered places to build communities.
5. The passage describes how travel routes, settlement locations, and community growth were shaped by forests, coasts, rivers, and the Baltic Sea.

Teacher's Guide

- Introduce students to early Scandinavian geography before reading.
- Highlight bold terms to reinforce the connection between landscape and human activity.
- Encourage students to annotate the passage for clues about how physical features influenced Viking choices.

Differentiation Tips

- Provide a vocabulary list for students who need support with terms such as harbors, settlements, and gateway.
- Allow advanced learners to write a short extension paragraph about Viking expansion beyond Sweden.
- Pair emerging learners with stronger readers to discuss each question before answering.

Engagement Ideas

- Show a map of Viking travel routes and Swedish coastal features.
- Share images of reconstructed Viking ships to help students visualize how geography shaped ship design.
- Let students brainstorm how they might have lived differently if they were Vikings in inland Sweden rather than on the coast.