

Main Idea:

Artifacts reveal that Vikings were the first Europeans in North America.

Vocabulary:

saga

Vinland

The Search for Vinland

Was Columbus First?

For many years, Christopher Columbus was honored as the first European to land in North America. In the 1960s though, this title began to change. New facts led many historians to describe him as *one* of the first Europeans to land in North America.

1

The Viking Sagas

For years, scientists and historians wondered if Columbus was really the first European on the North American shores. There are diary accounts of his voyage in 1492. But there are also older Viking **sagas**, or adventure stories, that tell about Vikings sailing to a place that sounded like North America. The sagas called the place the Vikings sailed to **Vinland** (also known as Vineland and Wineland). Year after year, people searched along the Atlantic coast looking for clues that Vikings, including Leif Eriksson, traveled to North America. No evidence was ever found to prove this hypothesis. Many people decided that the place called Vinland was just made up and that the Vikings never landed in North America.

2

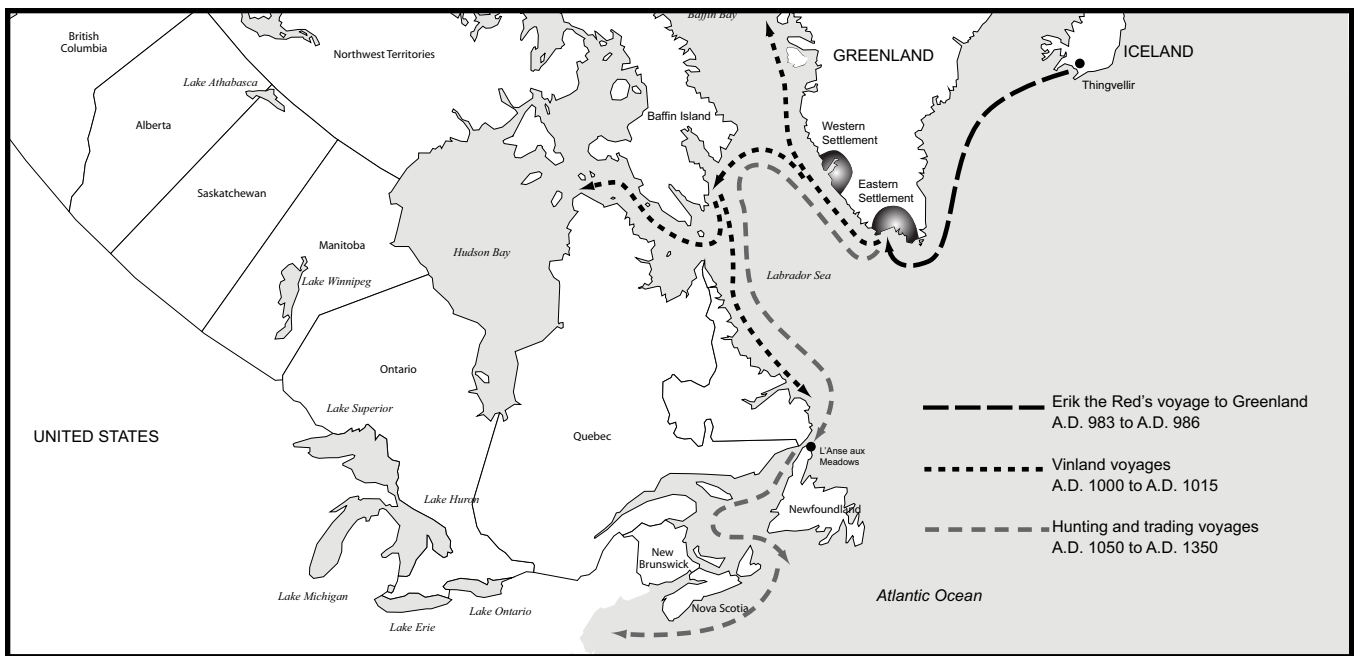
The First Viking Site

In 1960, researchers decided they would look again. They knew many other researchers had been tricked by fake artifacts. They also knew some people had told stories that were false. But still they believed that part of the Viking sagas might be true. They thought they could prove that Vikings



3

This photo shows L'Anse aux Meadows, the site where Viking artifacts were discovered in northern Newfoundland.



This map shows the routes of Viking trips.

actually did travel to North America. They began to search for artifacts. They found a site that had the remains of houses believed to be built by the Vikings. Earlier researchers had thought these homes were American Indian burial grounds.

4 In 1962, a team of archaeologists, led by historian Helge Instad and his archaeologist wife, Anne Stine, began to excavate this site in Canada. The site was located in northern Newfoundland. The archaeologist team found various artifacts believed to be Viking artifacts. The artifacts were similar to objects Vikings who landed in Iceland and Greenland had used. They found remains of Vikings houses, boats, tools and other



This bronze ring pin was found at the excavation site in northern Newfoundland.

items. The artifacts did not match tools or objects that American Indians used.

The more artifacts the team uncovered, the more they felt the artifacts proved that parts of the Viking sagas were indeed true. They believed they had solid proof that Vikings (both men and women) really did sail to and stay in North America almost 500 years before Columbus. Though they could not prove all parts of the sagas, they believed the artifacts were not fakes. Other researchers agreed. In 1978, the United Nations designated the site where the archaeologists had found the artifacts a World Heritage Site.

Unanswered Questions

Today there are still more questions to answer about the Vikings and their explorations. Are there more places where the Vikings visited? How much of the Viking sagas are factual? Is North America really Vinland? Perhaps you will be the person to discover the answers to these and other important questions.

Questions

- What is the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - The artifacts proved some information about the Vikings.
 - The artifacts made Helge Instad famous.
 - The artifacts were found in Vinland.
 - The artifacts were from the sagas.
- The United Nations gave the place where Viking artifacts were found special recognition in the _____.
 - 1400s
 - 1500s
 - 1960s
 - 1970s
- The site where the artifacts were found in Newfoundland is called _____.
 - Iceland
 - Vinland
 - St. Lawrence Rivers
 - L'Anse aux Meadows
- Which of the following can you infer from the fourth paragraph?
 - Instad knew little about archaeology.
 - All of the details in the Viking sagas were true.
 - The artifacts found were fakes like the ones found by other scientists.
 - The homes that were found did not belong to American Indians.
- Which of the following is a fact?
 - People believed Vinland had been made up.
 - Before 1960, many early researchers were foolish.
 - Columbus should not be honored as an explorer.
 - Leif Eriksson was a more skilled explorer than Columbus.
- In the second paragraph, the term *hypothesis* means _____.
 - evidence needed
 - a clue to a solution
 - an idea to be proved
 - the answer to an experiment
- Which of the following details is *most* important to the main idea of the lesson?
 - Christopher Columbus kept a diary of his voyage.
 - Instad and Stine began excavations in 1962.
 - Leif Eriksson was a famous Viking explorer.
 - Vinland is also known as Wineland.
- The Vikings arrived in North America around the year _____.
 - 500
 - 1000
 - 1490
 - 1960
- One of the artifacts found by the Instad and Stine team was a(n) _____.
 - pin
 - axe
 - pot
 - helmet
- Which of the following can you infer from this lesson?
 - Most of the Viking sagas were true.
 - The diary accounts of Columbus's voyage were false.
 - American Indians used tools similar to those used by the Vikings.
 - It is possible that there are other undiscovered Viking sites in North America.
- Which of the following is an opinion?
 - Historians wondered if Columbus was the first European to reach North America.
 - Some people believed the Viking sagas might be true.
 - Scientists should have believed that Vinland was real.
 - Researchers had been tricked by fakes.
- Which of the following is closest to a *saga*?
 - a fable
 - a fairy tale
 - a story about a hero
 - an encyclopedia entry

Main Idea:

Although pesticides can be helpful for growing crops, they can also be damaging to the environment.

Vocabulary:

DDT
pesticides

Pesticides: Two Views

Do you know what pesticides are? **Pesticides** are chemicals that are used to kill insects and animals that eat crops. Why do people use pesticides? Why do some people believe that we should not use pesticides at all? Read the two views below to find out. 1



Pesticides Help Crops Grow

Do you like to eat fresh fruits and vegetables from the farm? Many of these treats would not be available if it weren't for pesticides. 2

Farmers grow crops in order to make a living. When the crops are harvested, farmers sell them to stores and restaurants. This is how farmers make money to buy the things that they need to live. Many farmers also depend on the plants that they grow to feed their families. When a farmer plants a crop, he or she needs to make sure that it is safe from insects that want to eat it. If insects eat a farmer's crop, there will not be enough for the farmer to sell or to use to feed his or her family. 3

There are many insects that will try to eat a farmer's crops. The chart below shows common crops that farmers grow, and the many different kinds of insects that like to eat them. As you can see from the chart, farmers need help to protect their crops from all of these damaging pests. Pesticides help farmers protect their crops by killing these pests before they can eat the fruits and vegetables that farmers grow. 4

Common Pests



Crop	Common Pests
beans	bean aphid, Mexican corn maggot, European corn borer,
corn	seed corn maggot, corn flea beetle, corn earworm, European corn borer
eggplant	flea beetle, Colorado potato beetle
potatoes	Colorado potato beetle ("potato bug"), flea beetle, garden centipede, peach aphid, potato leafhopper
tomatoes	aphids, cutworm, flea beetle, Colorado potato beetle, hornworm, whitefly

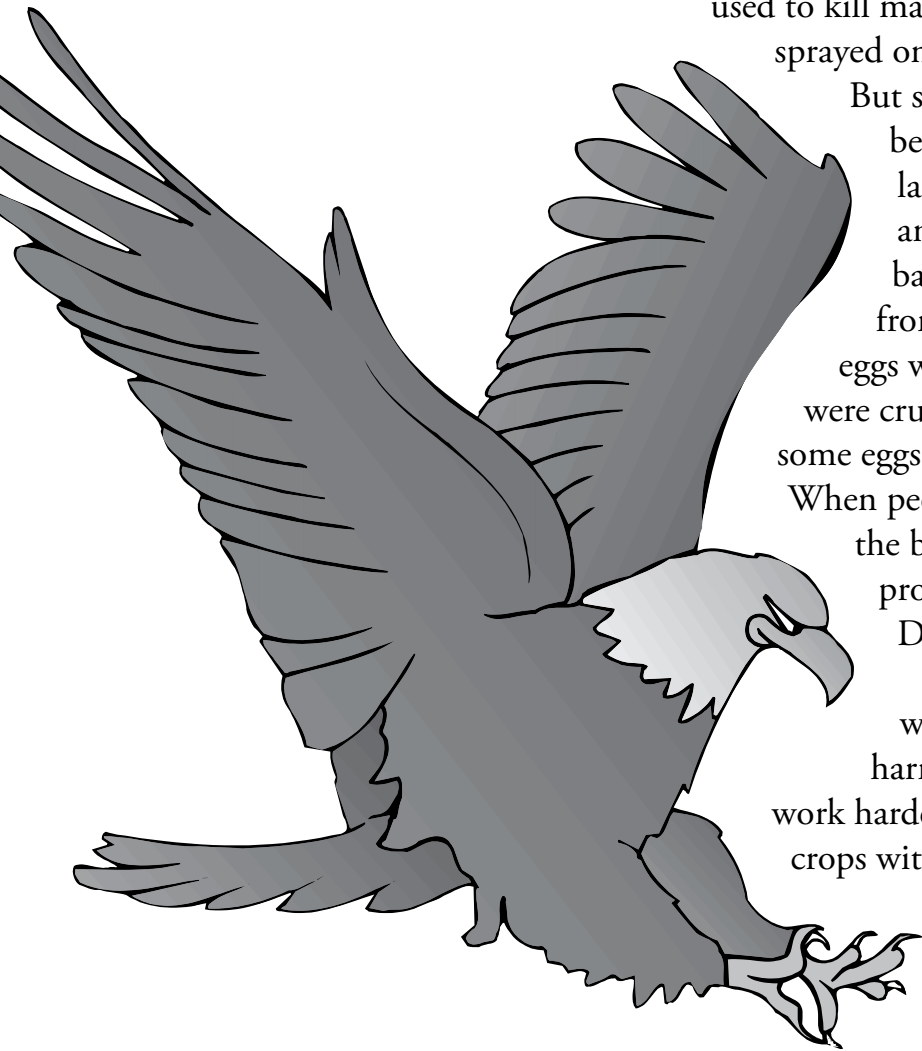
Pesticides are Harmful to the Environment

Pesticides may make it easier for farmers to grow large amounts of food, but they are not always safe for the environment. Sometimes, pesticides that are used to kill insects can be harmful to people or other animals. 5

One animal that has been greatly harmed by the use of pesticides is the bald eagle. The bald eagle was once a very common bird in the United States. Bald eagles were once found all over the country. But bald eagle populations began to decline as people moved into more and more new areas where the eagles lived. Then, during World War II, many people began to use a pesticide known as DDT. **DDT** is a pesticide used to kill many common farm pests. DDT was sprayed on plants to protect them from insects. 6

But small animals ate the plants that had been sprayed. And bald eagles and other large birds ate some of these small animals. The DDT began to hurt the bald eagles. The adult birds became sick from the poison. They also began to lay eggs with thin shells. Often, these shells were crushed because they were too thin. Even some eggs that were not crushed did not hatch. When people realized that DDT was destroying the bald eagle population, they worked to protect this beautiful bird. Eventually, DDT was banned.

Today, we no longer use DDT, but we still use many pesticides that can be harmful to the environment. We need to work harder to find new ways to protect farmers' crops without putting the environment at risk. 7



Questions

- What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - Insects often eat farmers' crops.
 - Farmers grow crops in order to make a living.
 - Many farmers depend on their crops to feed their families.
 - Although pesticides can be helpful for growing crops, they can also be damaging to the environment.
- Which of the following happened first?
 - DDT was banned.
 - People began to use DDT as a pesticide.
 - Bald eagle populations declined as people moved into new areas.
 - People discovered a link between DDT and decreased bald eagle populations.
- Which of the following pests eats tomatoes?
 - whitefly
 - peach aphid
 - garden centipede
 - European corn borer
- Which of the following can you infer from the sixth paragraph, which begins "One animal that has been greatly harmed..."?
 - Bald eagle populations would not have decreased if DDT hadn't been used.
 - There are more bald eagles in the United States today than ever before.
 - DDT was popular because it killed many different kinds of insects.
 - DDT is not harmful to people.
- Which of the following is a fact?
 - DDT harmed bald eagles.
 - Pesticides should be banned.
 - There is no reason to stop using pesticides.
 - Farmers should grow different kinds of crops.
- The word *pesticide* means _____.
 - insects that eat crops
 - a popular farm product
 - dangerous sprays that harm wildlife
 - chemicals used to kill insects and animals
- Which of the following details best supports the main idea of the lesson?
 - The bald eagle is a national symbol
 - Farmers sell crops to stores and restaurants.
 - People began to use DDT during World War II.
 - Sometimes pesticides are harmful to people and animals.
- Which of the following paragraphs is arranged in sequential order?
 - paragraph 1
 - paragraph 2
 - paragraph 5
 - paragraph 6
- Which of the following pests preys on the greatest number of different crops?
 - whitefly
 - flea beetle
 - garden centipede
 - European corn borer
- Which of the following can you infer from this lesson?
 - We need to use pesticides carefully.
 - Farmers do not care about the environment.
 - The Colorado potato beetle is the most damaging pest.
 - Americans didn't care what happened to the bald eagle.
- Which of the following is an opinion?
 - Pesticides kill pests that eat farmers' crops.
 - Farmers want to protect their crops from pests.
 - We still use pesticides that can harm the environment.
 - We need to work harder to protect both crops and the environment.
- In the sentence, "But bald eagle populations began to decline as people moved into more and more new areas..." the word *decline* means to _____.
 - deny
 - migrate
 - decrease
 - become extinct