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Dana Kraus "Bring Back"

Summary of Viking Story

The Vikings, a group of people from Scandinavia, explored and settled Iceland and Greenland between 800 A.D. and 1200 A.D. A Viking named Leif Erikson even explored as far west as Newfoundland in 1001 A.D. He called this area Vinland. Leif Erikson and his men never returned from their voyage to Vinland. The Vikings were not able to establish a permanent colony in Vinland/Newfoundland. The Viking's explorations during this time period were aided by a spell of warm climate called the Medieval Warm Period.

A Viking named Eric the Red was able to establish a settlement on Greenland during the 990s. The Vikings farmed and raised cattle. Their lifestyle and culture closely resembled European society of the time. When the climate cooled around 1350 A.D. (the Little Ice Age), the Greenland Viking's crops failed and their trading routes with Europe became blocked with ice. Unlike their neighbors, the Inuit, the Vikings choose not to adapt their life style to the arctic conditions of Greenland and so they were unable to continue living in Greenland.

Source: Mandia, Scott A. (see citation below) and *BBC – History – Leif Erikson* (see citation below)

Sources of Info on the Vikings

Web Sources

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Books

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Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. Penguin Group. New York, NY. 2005