

Life on a Viking Farm



One of the main reasons the Vikings invaded and settled in Britain was to seek more farmland - good quality farmland where the Vikings could support their families.



Most Vikings were farmers. In areas where soils were good, small farming communities grew. The population in these areas increased rapidly and soon there were too many people to be supported by the land.





Some families were forced to cultivate poorer land, and sometimes the crops would fail. This made life hard during the winter months. Many farmers were driven overseas to find new agricultural land to settle on and farm.



Viking farms had to be largely self-sufficient. People produced their own food, cloth, leather goods and tools.

Most farmers owned their own land, and some paid landless men to help them run the farm.

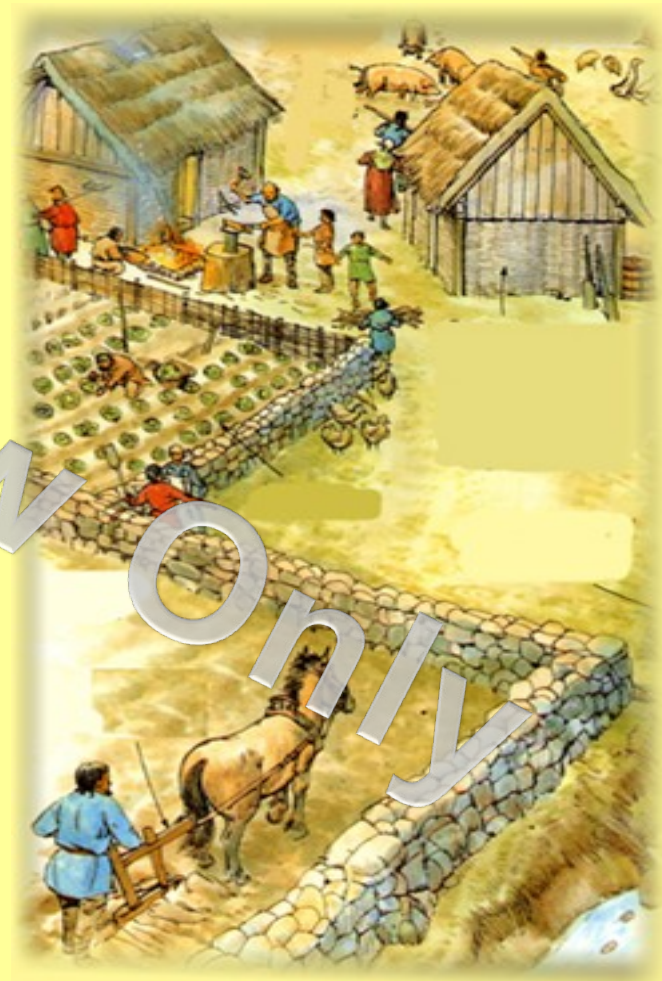


Wealthy landowners had slaves to fetch and carry, spread manure on the fields, chop wood, and dig up vegetable matter and dry grass to use as fuel.



Farming Throughout the Year

During the spring, farmers began preparing their land for planting crops. In summer, there was less to do on the farm, so farmers went on raiding or hunting expeditions.



Farming Throughout the Year

In autumn farmers would harvest crops and stock up food. In winter, some farmers went hunting to bring home extra food and furs.

