

# Open House

Most Vikings lived on farms in 'longhouses'. Each longhouse was really just one big room...



## Trouble and Turf

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1. This is an Icelandic-style longhouse with stone walls and a turf roof to keep the heat in. (Imagine having to mow the roof!)
  2. Looks like someone's 'raided' the food stores and got merry on the mead...
  3. Women made fabrics on large looms. (That goat loves wool – to eat!)
  4. It was good Viking worship to hang a sacrificed animal over your doorway.
  5. While the Viking men were off raiding, the women ruled the roost. They had their own weapons, and knew how to use them!
  6. A big stew pot was hung in the centre of the longhouse. The fishy, fatty stew could be there for days. (Bleugh!)
  7. One report of Vikings washing says that a person blew their nose in the bowl then passed it round for others to wash in. 'Snot very hygienic!'
  8. A longhouse didn't have a chimney – just a hole in the roof. This kept the heat inside – along with the smoke.
  9. The only light came from whale blubber lamps. (More smoke!)
  10. Animals were sometimes kept inside the house. They may have poned, but they warmed the place up a bit. (S'pose the goats gave central bleating!)
  11. This luxury longhouse has an indoor loo AND an outdoor one! Each one was just a plank with a hole over a ditch.
  12. Thralls had to do the dirtiest and toughest work (12A)... and they had to sleep on the floor, not in wooden bunks like everyone else (12B).
  13. The sick were left outside in a tent till they got better – or deader.