

LEARNING GUIDE

EXPEDITION GREENLAND

Solveig's Strength and Auður's Prosperity

EPISODE 2

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Objectives

Expedition Greenland - Solveig's Strength and Auðr's Prosperity is inspired by *Eiríks saga rauða* (The Saga of Erik the Red) and *Grænlendinga saga* (The Saga of the Greenlanders), the Norse expansion west across the north Atlantic and the retelling of key events in these sagas. The film tells the fictional story of two women who participated in the discovery of these new lands while emigrating to Greenland and establishing the first settlements there.

This Learning Guide is intended to help educators raise awareness about the Norse seafarers settling Greenland, as described in two medieval Icelandic sagas, and to stimulate students' curiosity about the Hiberno (Celtic) and Norse cultures. It can also serve as a launching point for discussions of gender roles and the use of symbolism and the other narrative and film techniques used to tell the story.



Before Screening the Video

- 1 How common is it for people of different cultures to interact in today's world? What normally happens when this meeting of cultures occurs? What do you think happened when the Hiberno (Celtic) and Norse cultures interacted 1,000 years ago? Why would their meetings be different from those of today?
- 2 How did people travel long distances before the advent of the car, train, or airplane? What sorts of things do you think they brought with them on these journeys? What were the risks involved with this sort of travel?
- 3 What types of things do you associate with the Norse culture? Why do think there are elements of Norse culture found over a large part of Europe and in Greenland?
- 4 Consider life in the year 1000. What kinds of things would be different? Name some technologies that you use today that did not exist then. What kinds of technologies did exist at that time? Do you think survival would be more difficult at that time? Why?
- 5 How was Greenland different before the arrival of Norse? Who discovered Greenland? Why did he and the Norse first come to Greenland?
- 6 What do you know about Greenland? Where is it and why would this location make it a likely landing place for people from Europe?



After Screening the Video

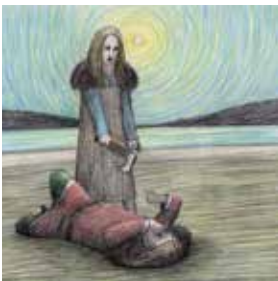


- 1 Why do you think the screenwriter and director had the film narrated by a woman? How would the film have been different if the central characters had been male?
- 2 We see ravens in the film. What were they used for? What other tools are used for navigation? What are some of the other symbols used in the film?
- 3 What kind of animal is used by the Norse for trade? What games are made from the most valuable parts of this animal? Why was this kind of trade important?
- 4 What is a Völva? Why is she brought to Erik the Red's long house on Greenland? What did she prophesize for the Norse?
- 5 Who found the next Norse colony? Where was this located?
- 6 How long did the Norse live in their colonies? Why did the Norse eventually leave Greenland? When did the Norse leave Greenland? What was their impact on this landscape versus the other indigenous peoples of the region?



Follow-up Projects

- 1 Many people alive today have Hiberno-Norse ancestry. How did these two cultures come to blend? What was the outcome of these two cultures meeting? Report your findings to your class.
- 2 Research the Norse culture. Where did the Norse originate? Why did they travel so extensively and what other places did they visit? What is the Norse culture most widely known for? Report your findings to your class.
- 3 Boats were an important part of Norse culture. Research the boats constructed and used by the Hiberno (Celtic) and Norse cultures. Describe the types of boats, highlighting their benefits and drawbacks and the materials and type of construction used. Report your findings to your class.
- 4 Research rune stones and talismans. What were they used for and where have they been found? Make a miniature version of a rune stone, using the runic alphabet, or a talisman with a symbolic inscription. Write your name out in runes. Present these items and your findings to your class.
- 5 Beyond being the narrator of the film, women played a critical role in the settlement of Iceland and Greenland. Why? Research the roles of women in Viking-Age Celtic and Norse societies and cultures. Prepare a report on your findings to share with your class.
- 6 Research the types of materials and techniques they used to make their clothing and the sails for the Viking ships. Report your finding to the class.



* For a list of educational resources, including websites, books, and films on the Hiberno (Celtic) and Norse cultures, and for further information on the making of the film, consult the Production Notes, available for download from the websites:
<https://macleod9.com/expeditiongreenland/public/>
<https://macleod9.com/norsewomenssaga/>



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