



## What am I?



20 minutes



- What am I? activity sheet per pupil
- What am I? answer sheet, one or two per table, or shown on a projector



Archaeologists find out about the lives of people in the past by looking at the objects that they leave behind. Sometimes we don't know straight away what something is when we find it and have to look for clues for what it might be. Explain to the class that they are going to be archaeological detectives and look at two objects to see if they can work out what they are.



Following your introduction give each pupil a What am I? activity sheet. This has pictures and clues about the objects. Decide how much information you want to give the class before they start. The activity can be done alone or discussed in small groups.

If pupils are not able to guess from the clues, offer them some more information. For example we know that these objects are from about the 9th century, and that this object belonged to a Viking. You can ask if anyone has heard of the Vikings. Do they know where Vikings come from? What do they know about them? Perhaps one thing pupils may know is that Vikings are famous for fighting. This might help give a clue.

When everyone is finished you can reveal the answer: these are from the handle of a Viking sword! Reveal the answer sheet with an illustration of what archaeologists think it might have looked like. This is a good opportunity to talk about how we don't always know the whole picture so have to see if there are clues, or whether it is like anything else we already know about – for example think of all the objects in a museum display, and how we can compare objects with them.



During the Anglo-Saxon period we know that Viking invaders made it to the area that is now Cambridgeshire. At Hinxton archaeologists found the remains of a Viking sword. The grip is made from walrus ivory and the pommel (the bottom of a sword's handle) is iron so both have survived in the ground. These objects tell us about where people have travelled from and what might have happened – if we have found a sword was there a battle? What would someone have a sword for?