

MEMORIAL STONES



Runestones are large, standing stones that have carved words and pictures on them. There are thousands of Viking runestones that can still be seen today. Most are in Sweden and there are around thirty in Britain.

The writing uses **runic** letters, an ancient alphabet also called **futhark**, used by Vikings. The words found on runestones are usually memorials to loved ones and important people that have died - similar to gravestones.

Imagine you are a skilled stonemason and have been asked to carve a runestone for an important Viking.

Look at the examples of words and pictures from real runestones and then design your own. Think about what images / shapes you would like to use and what words you would like to say about this powerful person.

What name will you give them? Here are some examples of Viking names: (male) Magnus, Sigurd, Torstein, Vidar, Harald, Gunnar, (female) Astrid, Frida, Hilda, Inge, Gudrun

Can you write a name in runic letters on your stone? Use the runestone outline, alphabet, designs & phrases on the following pages to help you.





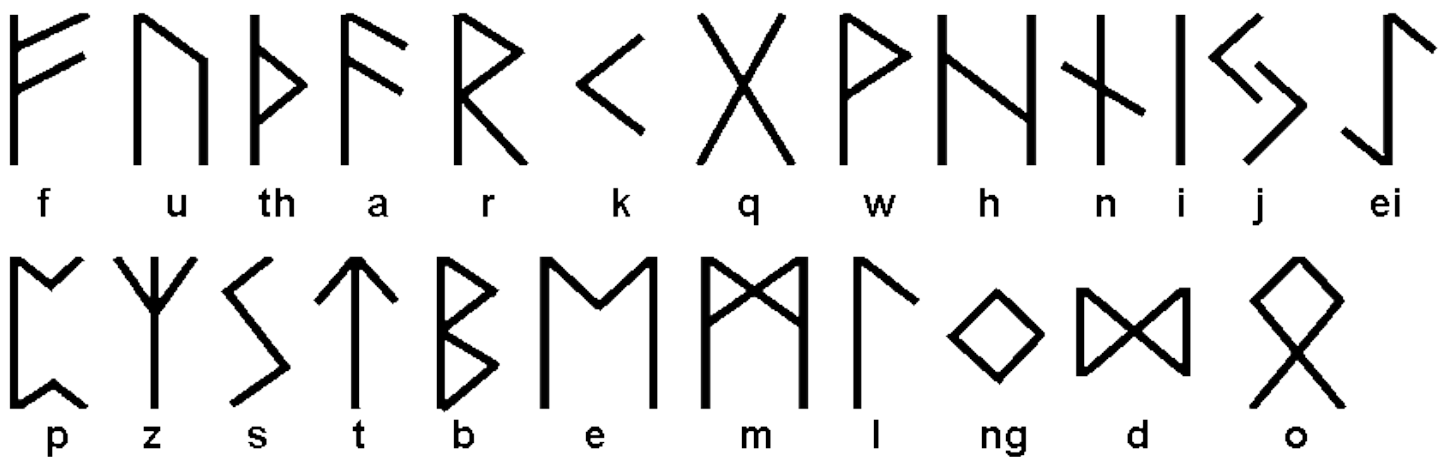
Viking art had complicated patterns of twisted shapes and knots. They often used animals such as snakes, wolves, birds & horses & creatures such as dragons in their designs.





Here are some examples of words and phrases similar to those found on runestones.

- *This stone was raised for Igor a brave man who died in the west*
- *Harald and Sven raised this stone for their father who died on a Viking raid*
- *Tosti raised this stone for Gunni his brother who travelled by sea*
- *Odindisa was a good sister to Sigmundr*



Online resources

<https://en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-viking-age/power-and-aristocracy/rune-stones/>

<https://emidsvikings.ac.uk/collections/viking-designs/>

