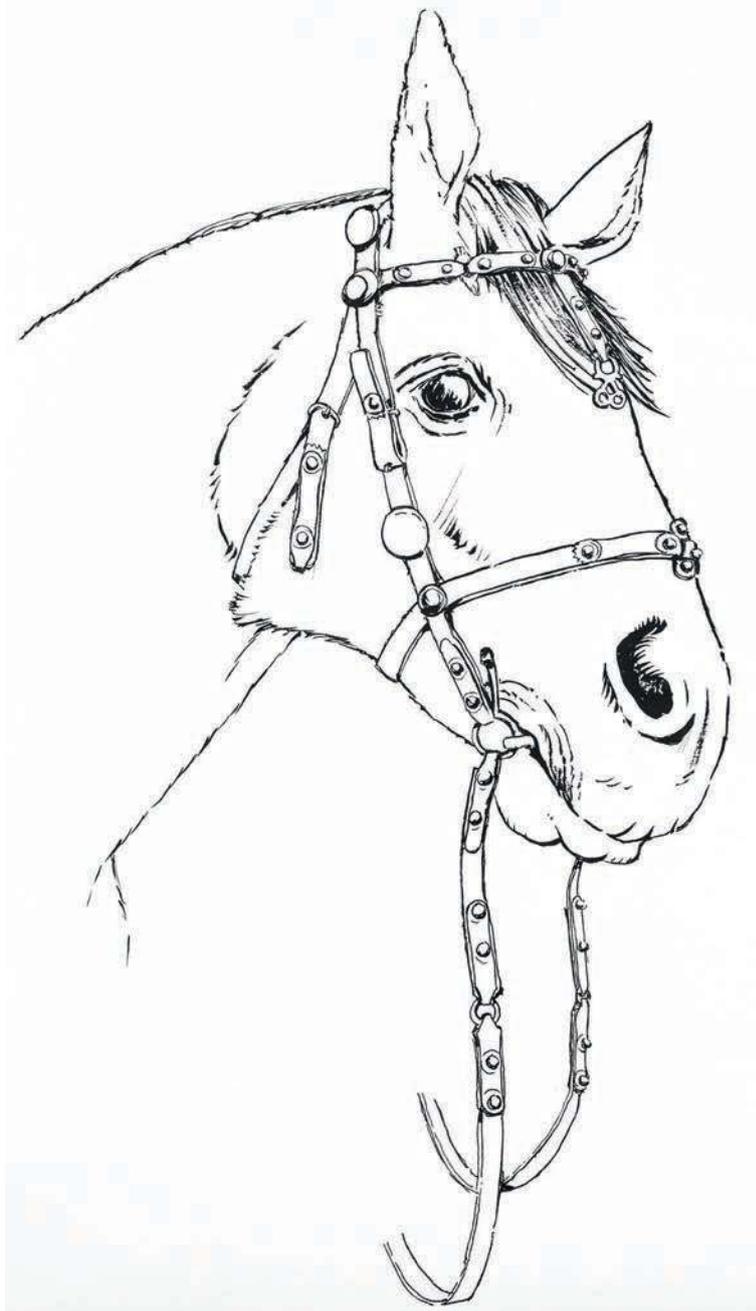

Horses

Throughout Viking history, horses had many purposes. They served as a source of pride, social status and were essential for heavy farm work.

As well as farming and status, horses were considered a respected, valued and sacred animal. The offering of horses to the gods was very meaningful, as they were believed to be able to carry messages or requests to the gods. As an animal, horses were trusted to find their way to the gods, providing their own transport and knowing the way to the next life. Knock-y-Dhooney and Balladoole ship burials both contained horse bones, which accompanied their master into the afterlife. The parts of the horse's bridle and harness were beautifully decorated indicating the importance he placed on his horse.

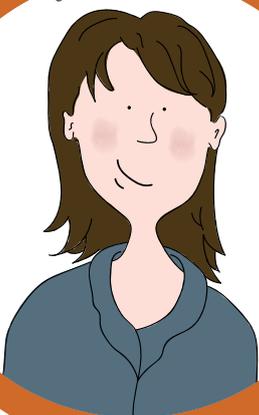


Symbols of Status

Displaying wealth was very important in Viking culture. Throughout the Viking world precious metals and traded possessions were a symbol of affluence and power. Like many peoples throughout history, the Vikings demonstrated their wealth and status by wearing beautiful clothing and jewellery, or by having expensively ornamented weapons. Wealthy and significant Vikings were buried with their most treasured belongings, which provide clues in understanding the lives of their owners.

The Isle of Man was also considered a trading centre during Norse rule. During times of unrest, prized possessions were often concealed in the ground in the later hope of retrieval during more peaceful times.

This highly decorated bronze horse pendant may have been lost at a Viking market. The original pendant is displayed at the House of Manannan.

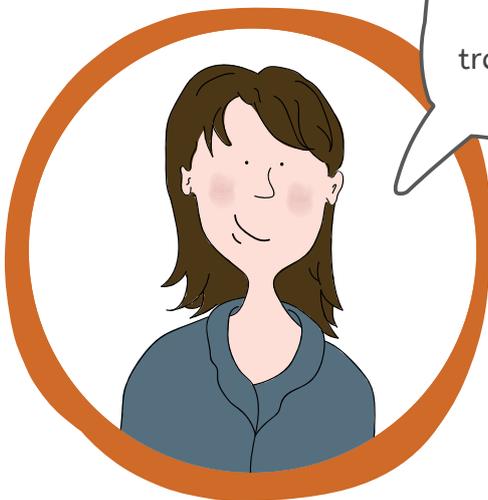




Horses

Horses Bridal Jewellery

This fitting from a harness belt is based on one of several bronze strap ends found in the Balladoole ship burial on the Isle of Man. The man had been buried wearing his riding spurs. Metal fittings like this one protect the loose end of a leather belt, and provide a weight, which causes the end of the belt to hang vertically.



Many Viking objects discovered on the Isle of Man originated from different parts of the world. This tells us that the Vikings travelled widely by sea and traded with other countries.

Draw your decorative bridal

