

True or False? Viking Names

Vikings were named after gods, e.g. Thor (the god of thunder); and many Viking names are still in use today, such as: Rolf, Harold and Eric. Some Viking leaders and kings were known by their nicknames however (but usually only after they had died!) Can you work out which of these were really Viking nicknames?

Olaf the Stout

Svein Blackeye

Eric Bloodaxe

Sigrid the Ambitious

Thorolf the Fearless

Bjorn Wolf Hunter

Harold Bluetooth

Balder the Terrible

Ivar the Boneless

Frey Redbeard

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As well as the Vikings, some English, French and German leaders and Kings were given strange nicknames. Check out some of these – they're all true nicknames of important people who lived during the Viking Age!

- **Charles the Bald** = Charles II, King of France from 840
- **Charles the Fat** = Charles III, King of Germany from 876. he was unable to repel Viking raids and was known for his cowardice
- **Charles the Simple** = Charles III, King of France from 898
- **Ethelred the Unready** = King of England from 978. his nickname means 'the ill advised'
- **Harald Finehair** = King of Norway from 860
- **Olaf the Saint** = Olaf Tryggvason, King of Norway from 995
- **Ragnar Hairy Breeches** = Ragnar Lodbrok, 9th century Viking chief
- **Robert the Devil** = Robert I, Duke of Normandy from 1026, a powerful but unpopular ruler and father of William the Conqueror
- **Sweyn Forkbeard** = King of Denmark (986) and of England (1014)