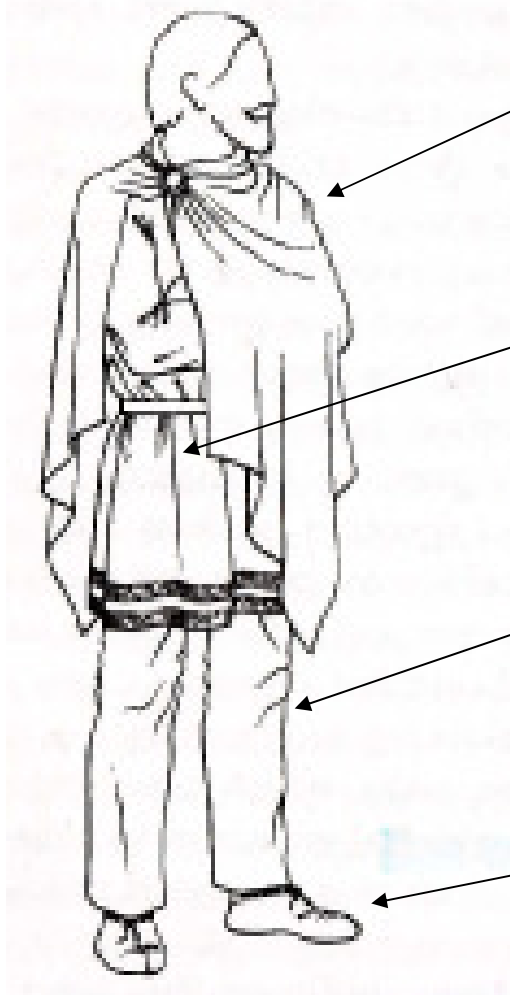


# Viking Clothing



# Men's Dress



A woolen cloak was fastened by a brooch

A shirt of wool or linen was fastened with a leather belt

Trousers could be knee-length or ankle length

Leather shoes needed tough soles

# Warrior Dress

The Viking warriors who wore swords carried them on their belt or on a strap across their chest.



Other weapons included war axes and spears and they frequently wore iron helmets (which did not have horns!)





This is a cloak worn by very rich men.

The Norse name for it was *mōđul* but the Irish called it a *matal* and the English “mantle”.

They were expensive items because of the fur trimming and the embroidery along the edge.



In Norway and in England both women and men wore these cloaks but the Irish who imported them from Norway valued them so much that they were only used for kings.

Sometimes, though the Irish just imported the furs and sewed them on the cloaks themselves



# Arm-rings and brooches

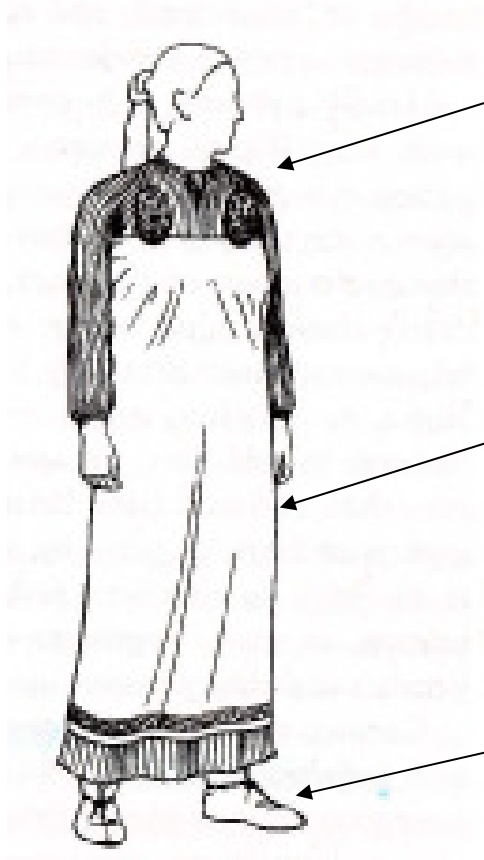
Rich Viking men wore silver bracelets on their arms which they could cut up and use as money. These were very popular with the Irish who prized them highly.



Others wore huge silver brooches in their cloaks which were so big that the pins sometimes hit people passing by.



# Women's Dress



In the summer a light dress of linen served as foundation but in winter it would be wool.

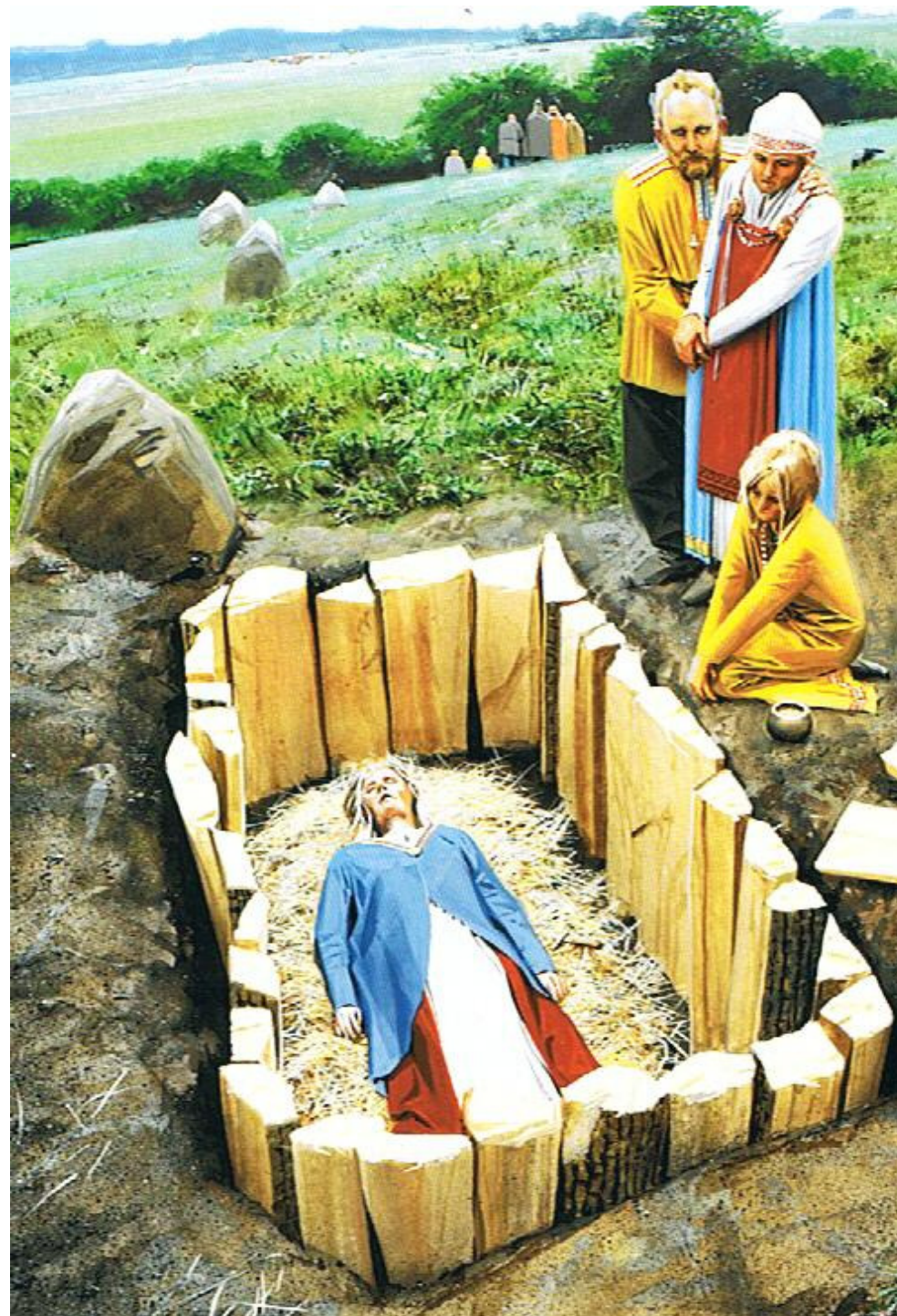
An overdress was held in place with straps and brooches

Leather shoes were worn with woolen stockings

Notice how the women are all wearing slightly different dresses.

The lady in the grave is the richest and also the oldest.

The woman standing is working at messy jobs all day so she wears an apron while the young girl is not married and has less duties around the house and farm.





# Children's Dress



Children wore the same clothes as their fathers and mothers.



# Vikings used dyes from plants to colour their clothes



Gorze for yellow



Woad – for blue



Lichen for brown

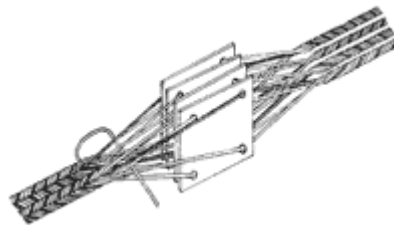


Elderberries  
for pinks and purples

They also used to trim their clothes with braids and embroidery in different colours



They wove the braids on bone tablets like these...



# Viking men and women kept their hair neat and combed



Combs and hairpins were made from carved animal bones which were taken from the rubbish heaps and recycled.

# Headgear



Viking men and women often wore caps and scarves and in cold climates, furry hats.

This girl is wearing a hood that was very fashionable in Viking Dublin as well as in English cities like London, Lincoln and York.



# Brooches

Many Viking women wore brooches which showed where they had been brought up or where their families had settled.

Disc brooch from  
England



Trefoil brooch from  
France



# Ring-pin brooches

An Irish-style brooch that the Vikings became very fond of was known as the ring-pin.



These were used not only in Ireland but throughout the Viking colonies in the North Atlantic as far away as Greenland and Canada.



Ring pin from  
L'Anse aux  
Meadows,  
Newfoundland





Clothing, brooches and hairstyles helps us to identify where men and women came from in the Viking world.

