



Craft 2: Writing in Runes

The Vikings wrote on stones and sticks. Their system of writing was called Runes. Runic writing has been found on everything from giant stones to tiny pieces of horn, seal tucks, metal jewellery, and weapons.

Did you know!

One of the most famous Runestone is the Jelling Stone in Denmark, which was made by King Harald Bluetooth. You might have seen his name before because the runes that make up Harold Bluetooth's initials, HB, are used in the modern Bluetooth logo on phones and computers.



Runestones were large stones carved with pictures and writing in runes. These stones were placed so that people could admire them and learn about the bravery of a person who had died. Household items like a wooden comb had the owner's name written on it in rune. Each rune, or letter in the Viking alphabet, was made up of a series of straight lines, because they were carved on objects. It took time to carve each rune, so not much was written down.

Activity: Use the Runic Alphabet (called Futhark), to write your name.

