



Vikings wrote with runes,
and runes are the oldest known writing system in Scandinavia.

1. DECODE RUNES

Runes were often carved on big rune stones that were raised in the memory of great deeds or the fallen. One rune stone tells about the origin of runes, but researchers have not been able to decode it entirely. Can you find out what the runes are saying? Use the rune key for help.

CHIMPTTIT

XOM

OMIT

GAVE RUNES TO PEOPLE.

HE PIERCED HIMSELF WITH A _____

SKMFR

TO THE _____

PORM

TRMM

HUNG THERE FOR 9 _____

MNS

AND LEARNED
THE RUNES.

Runes were also used for everyday messages. They were carved in pieces of wood or bone. What kind of a message is a servant carrying to his master, who has spent too much time in local dances?

HIMNR IS TMMIO
IN COM HOMM

2. WRITE YOUR OWN NAME WITH RUNES

RUNE KEY

This rune key helps you to decode runes. It tells you the letter and the magical meaning of the rune. Every rune has many magical meanings.

					TH	W	AE	B	O/Ö
					Gateway	Joy	Defence	Growth	Home
F/V	K/C	I/Y	S	L	A/Ä	H	P	E	D
Wealth	Wisdom	Rest	Health	Flow	Messenger	Disruptive forces	Happiness	Movement	Breakthrough
U/Y	G	J	T	NG	R	N	Z	M	
Strength of will	Gift	Harvest	The Warrior	Birth	Journey	Responsibility	Protection	The Self	The Unknown



3. RUNE MAGIC

The word rune meant secret in old Norse and runes were indeed believed to have magical powers. People asked runes for advice and got answers to their questions.

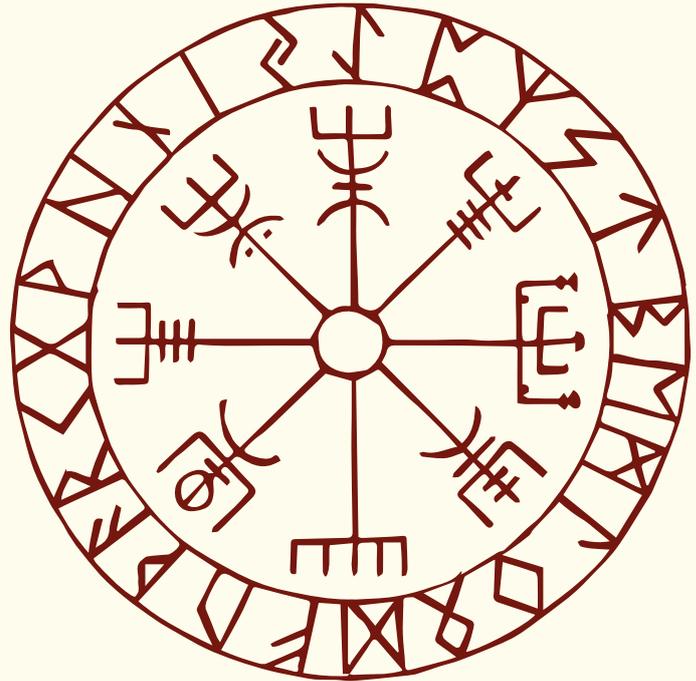
Make your own magical rune set. Draw or carve the runes into pebbles or small pieces of wood. You can also make temporary runes on small pieces of paper. You can store your runes in a pouch.

ODIN'S DRAW

Concentrate on your question, close your eyes and pick one rune. Check out the rune's meaning from the rune key and consider what kind of an advice the rune is giving you. Is it telling you to be cautious or brave? Is it speaking about success or about waiting patiently?

ASKING THE NORNS

In Viking mythology, Norns rule over the destiny of gods and men. Concentrate on your question and draw three runes. The first rune tells about the past, the second about the present and the third about the future. Can you interpret their message?



4. SUNDIAL

There were no clocks in the Viking time but the sun set the pace of life. Now you get to make your own sundial!

YOU NEED

- A straight stick, ca. 50 cm
- Some pebbles
- A watch (phone's watch will work well)



DID YOU KNOW?

- A sundial only works in sunny weather during daytime.
- Your sundial will look a bit different if you do it in the summer or in the winter, because the length of the shadows varies with the seasons. Shadows are shorter in the summer and the sun is up for long, whereas in the winter the shadows are long and Finland only experiences a few hours of sunlight every day.

DO THIS

1. Find a sunny place and push the stick into the ground vertically.
2. Every hour (at 10, 11, 12...), place a pebble where the shadow of the stick lands. You can also mark the hour on the pebble.
3. If you want your sundial to be perfect, you should start early in the morning and continue late in the evening.