

# Viking-age brooches



## Teachers' information

A brooch is a piece of jewellery held on to clothing by clasps or a pin.

Both men and women in the Viking-age wore jewellery and brooches, often made from precious metals and decorated with complicated designs. Pins and brooches were not just a fashion accessory, but essential for holding clothes in place.

Women dressed in layered garments, with a long under-dress and a short over-dress, like a pinafore. This was held in place at both shoulders by pairs of brooches. This style was fashionable throughout the Viking world. Viking men wore a single brooch that held their cloaks at the shoulder. Evidence also suggests that cross-shaped pairs of brooches were worn at the shoulders by male clerics in the early church.

During the session your class will have discovered more about the brooch below.

## Discuss as a class

Can your class remember what these faces were thought to show? Who do you think made them and why?

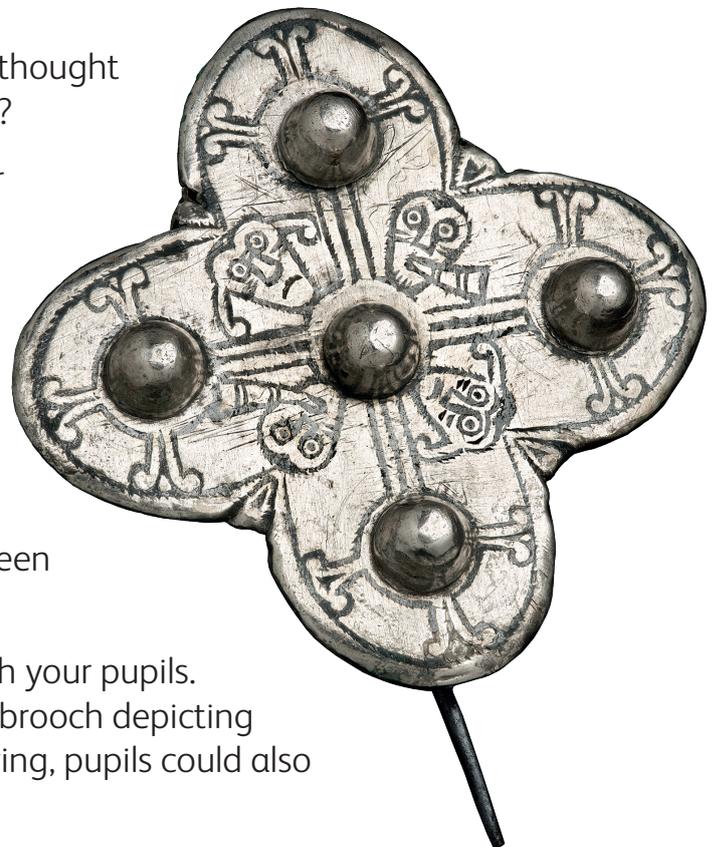
This brooch is one of a pair. It is made from silver and it is decorated with images which show the sense of hearing with ringing ears and trumpets. The matching brooch in this pair has images representing the sense of sight.

The shape of this particular pair of brooches is known as 'quatrefoil'. Whilst these are related to the disc brooches more commonly found in Viking-age hoards, this 'cross' shape has never been found before.

Use the *Draw a Viking-age brooch* worksheet with your pupils. Pupils can be creative about what they think the brooch depicting the sense of sight would look like. As well as drawing, pupils could also make a 3D version using recycled materials.

We'd love to see your pupils' brooches.

Share your results via our Twitter page [@NMSEngage](#) using the [#NMSSchools](#)



The Galloway Hoard: Viking-age Treasure

# Draw a Viking-age brooch

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's the brooch that's about the sense of hearing.  
Now design your own brooch to show the sense of sight.

