

Ideas for children to dress as Vikings

- Dress in plain clothes without patterns.
- Large white/plain shirts (maybe parents' shirts etc.) with a belt tied around the waist.
- Girls could wear leather boots or fur lined boots.
- A shawl/blanket fastened around the shoulders with a badge or brooch.



Striking Vikings

AS FAR AS KIDS are concerned, Vikings rule. But not just any Viking, said our kid advisers. "You have to have the helmet and the hair!" enthused Nora, age nine. Not to mention great details, like "those straps across the chest," said ten-year-old Nicole.

Materials

- Gallon milk jug
- Scissors or utility knife
- 3 full sheets of newspaper
- Double-sided carpet tape
- Masking tape
- Papier-mâché glue (see page 133 for recipe) and paintbrush
- Brown bag, torn into 1- by 4-inch strips
- Duct tape
- Gold envelope seals
- Faux fur, sold in packages at discount stores or by the yard at fabric stores (you'll need a 14- by 24-inch piece to make a cape, and more for trim)
- 3 skeins of blond-colored yarn and ribbon (for a braided wig)
- Velcro Sticky-Back strips
- 2 yards of 1-inch-wide ribbon (boy's cape)
- Boots
- 2 aluminum pizza pans

A Viking's Helmet: Cut off the bottom of the milk jug (A) and discard the top. For each horn, twist a crumpled full sheet of newspaper and wrap it completely with masking tape. Attach the horns to the jug with double-sided tape and masking tape (B). Crumple the third newspaper sheet into a point and tape it to the helmet. Brush papier-mâché glue on the helmet and apply the brown paper strips, leaving the horns uncovered. Once they're dry, add duct tape trim and a gold seal. Use double-sided carpet tape to stick fur trim around the base of the horns.

If you're adding braids, make each one by tying the top of a thick bunch of 2-foot lengths of yarn. Braid the yarn and tie it with ribbon at the bottom. Flatten the top of the braid as much as possible and duct-tape it inside the helmet (C).

If needed, cut slits into the back of the finished helmet (D) for a larger fit.

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PAUL ZIMMERMAN; ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARTELLEN SULLIVAN



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