



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#39

THE UNFINISHED SAGA—SKIT

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The Unfinished Saga

A Skit by Bodil Petersen Bratvold

PERSONS NEEDED:

A narrator and four Vikings (men or women) for the skit. Some people could make costumes and scenery.

MATERIALS, SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Four Viking costumes

LOCATION:

Vinland

TIME:

Around Leif Erikson Day or in October

PREPARATION:

At least two weeks

A Scandinavian accent could be used in the skit. Tyrkir was a German who went with Leif. In the poem, Thorvald is Leif's brother and Bjarni is Bjarni Herjolfsson, an earlier explorer.

INTRODUCTION:

Leif Erikson bought a ship from Bjarni Herjolfsson, and engaged a crew of 35 men to explore lands west of Greenland.

TIME:

Between 990 and 1000 A.D.

CHARACTERS:

Leif Eriksson, Tyrkir, Erik, Thor

Act 1:

Leif Erikson and three of his men stand in a clearing before one of their huts or Leifsbudir (Leif's booths.) It is autumn.

- LEIF: This land is different from Markland* or Helluland.*
- TYRKIR: Thank goodness it isn't cold and rocky like Helluland.
- THOR: Markland wasn't so bad. The longship anchored easily there and it had forests and beautiful white sand—not black volcanic sand like Iceland. I thought Markland was a good place to camp and settle.
- LEIF: Yes, but this is even better. The weather is warmer here and the salmon are huge. We won't even have to gather winter fodder for the livestock.
- ERIK: *(bent over with hand on back)* That's fine with me! I ache from towing the longship up the river to this lake. How long will we stay here?
- LEIF: At least through the winter.
- THOR: Is this the land Bjarni sailed past 15 years ago?
- LEIF: I think so, but everything is so different. We need to go out and explore the land every day. We must hunt and build more shelters, too.
- THOR: Well, let's get busy!

**Helluland*

Baffin Island

**Markland*

Labrador

**Vinland*

Newfoundland and probably the North American Continent

Act II

Later:

TYRKIR: *(runs into the clearing, breathless and babbling)* Leif! Leif! I've found—I've found grapes!

EVERYONE: Grapes! Real grapes!

LEIF: This is unbelievable. The wine in Greenland and Iceland has always been imported.

THOR: Now we can make our own wine. Where are the grapes, Tyrkir? Show us.

(Thor and Tyrkir leave.)

ERIK: Leif, so many things grow naturally here, not just grapes, but self-sown wheat too. This would be a good place to settle.

LEIF: Yes, but we must be careful of the Skraelings. Now they are just curious, but they watch us when we hunt.

ERIK: They admire our metal knives and axes.

LEIF: We must not trade our iron tools. We can trade with red cloth and milk, but not with anything metal. We must be cautious.

ERIK: How long will the Skraelings trade only cloth and milk for food and furs? They seem restless.

LEIF: We must appear peaceful. Our survival here depends on their acceptance of us.

Act III

The crew gathers. It is now Spring.

THOR: What are we taking back to Greenland?

LEIF: We will take back grapes and vines, and all the timber the ship will hold.

ERIK: The timber will be worth its weight in gold.

LEIF: If we take grapes they will dry out. What good are dry grapes?

LEIF: We have to prove that grapes do grow here. I plan to name the land VINLAND—the “Land of Grapes.”

THOR: That is a good name.

EVERYONE: Yes! Yes!

CONCLUSION: *Poem—“The Unfinished Saga”*

The Unfinished Saga

Serpent prow aimed westward,
Cloaking the wind with its sail,
A longship rode the waves
And whispered a Viking tale.

Sailing seas uncharted
And seeking a land of dreams,
Freemen of the longship
Awaited the land birds’ screams.

Where was the forest land
With tall trees that mast the sky?
Where was Bjarni’s land?
Where did Thorvald go to die?

Where was Leif’s Vinland home?
Are the sagas really true?
Where did the wild grapes grow?
If only we had a clue.

Bodil Petersen Bratvold