The Barbarians: The Vikings Movie Worksheet

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the movie. The questions are listed in the order they appear in the film. You do not need to use complete sentences in your answers.

1. Where did the Vikings come from 1200 years ago? What one object recovered in many burial sites across Scandinavia reveals more about Viking civilization than anything else?

2. What was the basic economic unit of Norse life? What innovation did the Vikings come up with around AD 700 because of the short supply of land and wealth in Scandinavia?

3. What was the greatest thing about Viking longships or what made these boats great? Who were the first victims of the Viking Raids?

4. What was the fiercest weapon of the Vikings and why? Why did Vikings often target monasteries?

5. What metal was most valuable to Vikings? What about the European geography made the continent so easy to raid by the Vikings?

6. Where did Ragnar the Dane attack in 845? How was he able to get to this inland city?

7. What did Ragnar's men do to the soldiers he captured on his raid? How does Charles the Bald respond to Ragnar's raid on his city? Did this work?

8. What areas did Norwegian Vikings colonize in the late 900's? How did Erik the Red advertise his colony in a way to get people to settle there?

9. What continent did Erik's son Lief discover in the year 1,000? Where did Erikson and his group build a village?

10. What did Lief Erikson do in Greenland at the request of the King of Norway? Why did the leaders of Vikings promote this path of action?

11. What “test” using the Beserker did Christian missionaries use to convert reluctant Vikings?

12. Where does the defeated Viking heir Harold Hadrata flee to after he and his brother were defeated in the year 1030? What does Harold realize about trade in his new home?

13. What is Harold the leader of by 1038? During this time, what trick did Harold use to light a city they were besieging in Sicily on fire?

14. Where does Harold go in 1046? What happens to Harold's nephew shortly after his arrival and what does this make Harold?

15. How does Harold unite all Scandinavians and defeat the insurrection against him in 1047? How are gold and personality used to achieve power in Viking society?

16. What purpose does Harold have for Oslo? What is Harold's next target after Oslo becomes a
success?

17. What happens to Harold and his troops in York in 1066? How many of Harold's ships return to Norway from this campaign?

18. How had Viking success sewed the seeds for the Viking downfall by 1100?

Short Essay:
The subject of this series by the history channel are the various “barbarian” tribes that dominated Europe in the early Middle Ages (500-1000). This particular episode covers the Vikings, one of the more infamous of these people. Though known for their aggressive nature and brutality, as the show points out, the Vikings were also renown traders and explorers. At the end of the film, the narrator makes the comment that the Vikings did not destroy Western Civilization but enriched it. After viewing the story of the Vikings in detail, write a short essay of 1-2 paragraphs explaining this statement.