

1/LARS: We have been waiting so long for your visit. We want to hear about the history of Leif Ericsson and Eric the Red.

2/ANNA: I have red hair. Didn't Eric the Red have red hair?

3/MOTHER: Lars, Anna! Be patient. I'm sure our guests will tell us both stories. They know the sagas of our people. Isn't that so, father?

4/FATHER: Your mother is right, children. Our visitors are very special, just like the stories they tell. They are skalds, storytellers who go from house to house telling the stories of the Viking people.

1/LARS: What is that?

5/SKALD 1: It is a harp. Most skalds carry harps because we sing some of the stories.

6/SKALD 2: Singing a story makes it easier to remember.

4/FATHER: Singing can make work easier too. The Scandinavian people have always had work songs: there are songs for rowing, songs for cutting wood, songs for weaving, and even songs for sheep-shearing.

3/MOTHER: The sagas you will hear are the stories of great people and their heroic deeds. They have been handed down from generation to generation.

1/LARS: Then I will listen carefully.

- 4/FATHER:** You must listen carefully, so you can transmit the stories accurately.
- 2/ANNA:** Can we ask questions when we don't understand?
- 6/SKALD 2:** Of course, but we better start telling the story or we will not get to the next house until next week.
- 5/SKALD 1:** To tell the story of Leif Ericsson, we must start with his father, Eric the Red.
- 2/ANNA:** Was his hair as red as mine?
- 5/SKALD 1:** I think it was a fiery red, or else he wouldn't have been called "the Red." Unfortunately, he had a fiery temper to go with the fiery colour of his hair.
- 6/SKALD 2:** That fiery temper got Eric into a lot of trouble. He killed a man in Norway and was asked to leave. He had to pack his belongings and sail away from his homeland.
- 1/LARS:** Where did he go? Did he have a good ship?
- 5/SKALD 1:** Eric did have a good ship. It was a clinker built ship which means that the wood overlapped rather than fitting together smoothly.
- 4/FATHER:** Ships were the prize possession of the Vikings. They said special prayers for selecting the correct trees to make the ships, then they let the trees age before using them.