

## Salme Ship Burial Sword

Discovered in Saaremaa. Part of a burial with multiple warriors. Early 8th century.



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Who did the sword belong to? Did it like its master?

Which enemy was the sword raised against? Did it agree? Was the sword brave or a coward?

How was it made by a skilled smith? Does it remember the time “before”?

Does the sword think the burial was orchestrated for itself and the other objects rather than the humans? Is it perhaps an “arrogant” object?

Bonus emotion: → Be proud!

### Käku Silver Hoard

Found in Estonia. A hidden stash of silver jewelry and coins, possibly buried during a time of unrest in the 11<sup>th</sup>.



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Who might the treasure have belonged to?

Where did the silver as a material come from? How was the trip?

What would the coin normally have paid for, if it wasn't hidden away?

Was the war, that made your owner hide you, a scary experience?

How did it feel, being buried for centuries and suddenly coming to light again?

Did the treasure realise how much time had passed underground?

Bonus emotion: → Be fearful!

## Bone Comb

A finely carved medieval comb from Sweden, made from animal bone.



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Was the comb just for personal grooming or also a status object?

Did the comb have friends (like a brass mirror, or scissors) in the house?

Did the bone material feel proud to have been transformed into a beautiful object?

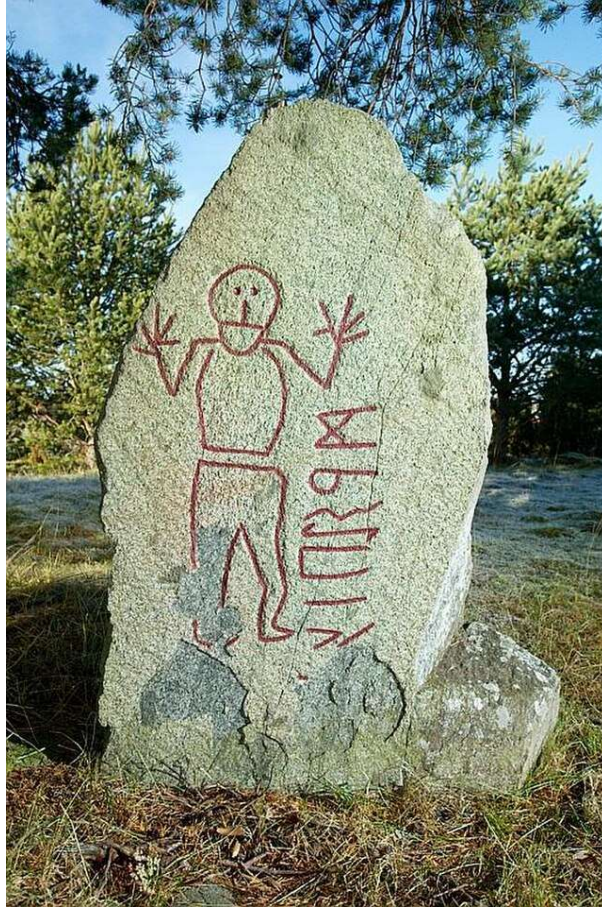
Whose hair did the comb perhaps unravel?

Was it a gift between lovers? How was it received?

Bonus emotion: → Be confident!

## Rune Stone

The strange Krogsta stone from Sweden: Not many runes, but a mysterious figure...



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Who may have carved it, and did the chisel tickle the stone?

Did strangers who walk past stop and admire the stone?

What was written on it? Was it an important message?

Who may be depicted on it? Is that person perhaps magically “trapped inside”?

Did people ever worship, misinterpret or vandalise the stone?

Bonus emotion: → Be happy!



## Glass Bead Necklaced

Colorful string of beads found in a grave in Gotland, Sweden.



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Were the beads made locally or were they imported? From where? How was the trip?

Did the jewels like their wearer?

Were they worn only on special occasions or daily?

How does the single bead get along with its beady neighbours?

Are they jealous of the others' colours?

Does the constant "click" get on their nerves?

Does the single silver one think she's better than the rest?

Bonus emotion: → Be excited!

## Game Pieces

The amber gaming pieces from Kuddby entertained their owner in the 9<sup>th</sup>.



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Which medieval game could they have belonged to?

Did they provide for nice leisure, on long winter evenings by the fire?

Were games used to teach children strategy? Did this game bring families together?

Were the game pieces ever mistaken for something else (ie. chocolates)?

Is there one piece missing (looks like they were 24 to begin with), what happened to him?

Bonus emotion: → Be jealous!

## Leather Shoes

These 9thc Viking shoes from the Oseberg ship burial are well-preserved & still a pair.



**What perspective could you take on this object? Here are some suggestions:**

Which streets, or lands, may these shoes have walked?

Were the ways paved, or grassy, or muddy, or rocky?

How does the pair get on with each other? Do the two shoes interact like an old married couple, or do they dislike each other?

How do they feel being displayed in a glass case for everyone to see?

Bonus emotion: → Be insecure!

## Animal Bones (cattle & goat)

Historical rubbish pits contain very similar materials – discarded bones for instance.



**What perspective could you take on these objects? Here are some suggestions:**

Are these bones frustrated they landed in the garbage, whilst other bones went into works of art, or were transformed into useful objects (like combs, dice, flutes)?

Did the animals know each other during their lifetime? How did they get on?

How was a farmstead with livestock organised? Were the animals well-kept and happy during their lifetime?

How often was meat on the table, or was it served for special / ritual occasions?

Bonus emotion: → Be bored!



## Byzantine Pottery

This pottery is of Greek origin, but medieval. Some elite Viking warriors served the Byzantine emperor as the “Varangian guard”, and travelled the Mediterranean.



**What perspective could you take on these objects? Here are some suggestions:**

Did these items meet the Varangian warriors? Or perhaps belong to one?

Do the Greek plates remember a feast with Vikings present, who ate out of them?

Were the foods on the plate different than usual that day? How so?

Was the tableware afraid to be shattered by the fierce Norsemen?

How do they feel about being in a museum and not being used anymore?

How do the plates, cups and bowls interact with each other?

Bonus emotion: → Be sad!