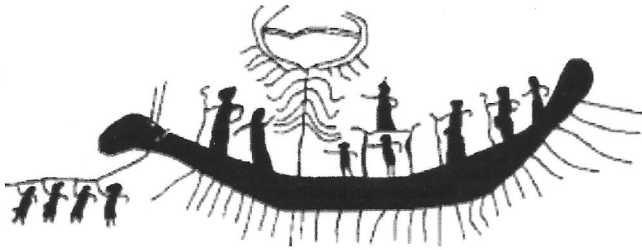


4. Viking longboats

The Ancient Egyptians had knowledge of sail construction. This is governed by the science of aerodynamics most probably the first sailing boat.



Predynastic Pretrglyphs
Egypt (6000 - 3000 BCE)



Viking boats came in many shapes and sizes, the most iconic and effective Viking vessel was undoubtedly the longship. Long, narrow and flat, longships were fast, durable and capable of navigating both choppy seas and shallow rivers. They were also light enough to be carried over land.



Typically equipped with rowing positions along their entire length, longships also utilised one big square sail, woven from wool. Steering came courtesy of a single steering oar at the back of the ship. Their symmetrical bow and stern design allowed longships to swiftly reverse without having to turn around. This was particularly handy when navigating icy conditions.