Jorvik Viking Centre, Coppergate

This text is taken from a guidebook about York, which is a very old city in the north of England. The guidebook was specially written for children and young people. There are some difficult words in this text, so a glossary is provided. The name 'Jorvik' is the Viking name for York and is pronounced 'Yorvik'.

This world famous centre is built on the site of an archaeological dig that was started in 1976. A complete Viking village has been recreated, with houses, workshops and a **quayside**. The 'time cars' take you back to Viking times and you can see, hear and smell what life might have been like in Jorvik in the tenth century.

An exhibition shows how it has been possible to recreate the faces of the Viking inhabitants of Jorvik. Using a skull found in 1986, realistic 3-D models have been produced using computer technology. Gradually the Viking figures on display are being replaced by these models. There is also an exhibition of treasures found during the **excavations**: combs, belt buckles and jewellery.

As you leave the Centre, don't miss the chance to see a coin being made, as it was in Viking times. A round piece of **pewter** is placed between two dies and a sharp blow with a hammer makes impressions on both sides of the coin. Jorvik's city mint made silver pennies and it was second only to London in its importance as a coin-producing centre.

The Jorvik Centre is a very popular attraction in York. To avoid queuing it is best to visit first thing in the morning, although buskers do provide entertainment while you are waiting during the day.

Open: Apr–Oct, daily 9am–7pm. Nov–March, daily 9am–5.30pm.

Closed: Christmas Day.

Tel: (01904) 643211.



Check that these details are up to date before visiting.

From *Pathways to Literacy: City of York*
Gill Matthews

Glossary

excavations large-scale digging causing holes
pewter a metal that is a mixture of tin and lead or some other metal
quayside an area usually made of stone or iron, where boats are landed and launched, or loaded and unloaded