Viking Runes

It is believed that the Germanic people, including the Norse Vikings, had developed a written alphabet as early as 100AD.

The Norse culture was mostly an oral (spoken) culture. Although the Runic alphabet could be used for writing, it was mostly used for memorial purposes, or to identify an object or for magical reasons, for cursing or healing.

The Vikings would use the Runic alphabet to write or inscribe messages, these could be found on:

1. Cliff walls, rocks and buildings as graffiti
2. Art and craft objects, put there by the gold and silversmiths, wood carvers, etc. who made them
3. Trade markers, noting the name of the owner of a pile of trade goods
4. Magical charms and talismans
5. Religious objects
6. Weapons, a sword, for instance, might have a name carved in runes on it

How to make:

1. Research the Viking alphabet online or in a non-fiction book
2. Find sticks, short branch, stones or pebbles or cut out some cardboard circles to make your own Rune messages
3. Grab something to write with – chalk, pen or pencil
4. Use the guide below to help you write a secret message or magical spell
5. Write on to your sticks or stones

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