



Ιπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

The World of Languages and Languages of the World

The Vikings: Villages and Violence

Let's learn about how the Vikings
influenced English



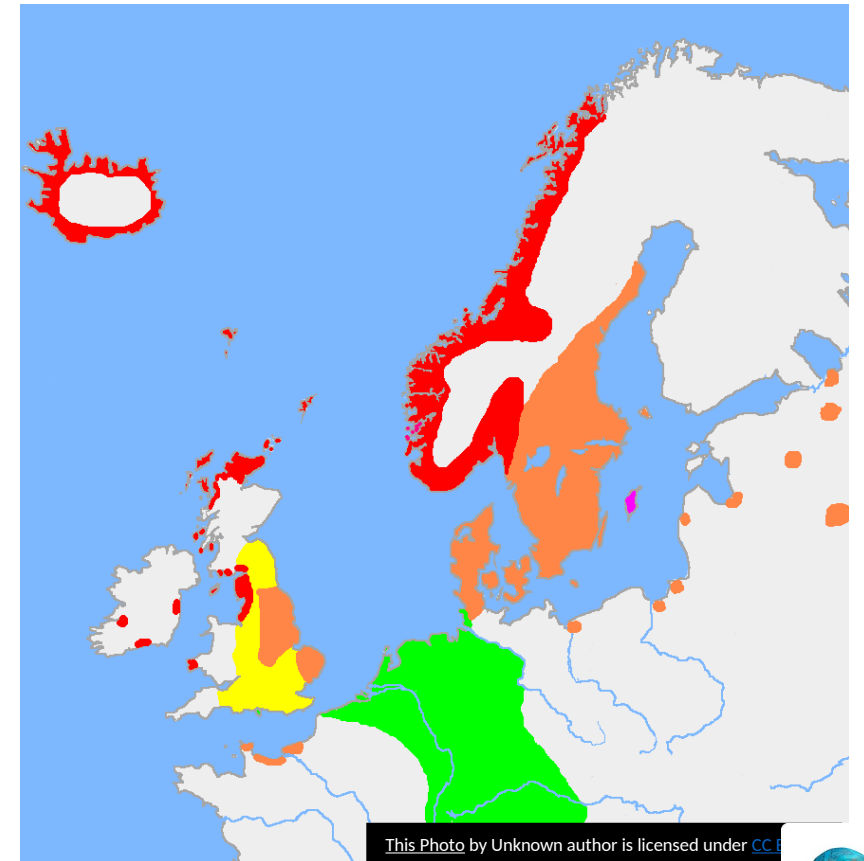
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Old Norse

Old Norse was the language of the Vikings, used for six centuries from about 700 CE in Scandinavia and throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

The Old Norse language had a major impact on English, for example through the Viking gods who gave names to most of the days of the week – “Sun day”, “Moon day”, “Tiw’s day”, “Wodan (or Odin)’s day”, “Thor’s day”, “Frigg day” - as well as a great many other words.

For a long time, Old Norse was written using runes, an alphabet specially devised for carving into stone or wood.



Bloodthirsty Vikings: Their Legacy

What images spring to mind when you think of Vikings?

Many of the words we adopted from them were concerning **violence!**

Knife	Spear
Gun	Anger
Slaughter	Berserk
Ransack	Hell
Club	Die
Take	Rotten
Stagger	Ransack
Hit	Ugly



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**But interestingly, many
adopted words also
concerned everyday life.**

Happy

Hug

Husband

Cake

Gift

Glitter

Egg

Sky

Bull

Get

Give

Want



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Scandinavian Influence

- 35,000 Scandinavians settled in England from the 9th Century. And brought their language of Old Norse with them.
- We can see by the Old Norse words that were adopted, what sort of relationship they had with the Anglo-Saxons. They are day to day words, such as "husband" and "take" which shows they were living alongside each other and that the Vikings were integrated. Borrowing basic words shows intense, prolonged contact after invasion.
- The North Sea was a trade route, not a barrier, and the Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons had been trading and mixing long before the Viking raids. It was a culturally and politically complex situation.
- Around 150 words still remain from Old Norse.



Grammar from Old Norse

We have our 3rd person pronouns they, their, them from Old Norse. This is fundamental to the grammatical structure of our language.



Let's hear what Old Norse would have sounded like.

Click in the video and listen from 2 minutes 40 to three minutes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ASsCH17cbA



Place Names

- Kirk - church
- Dale - valley
- Thwaite - cleared area
- By - farm
- Wetherby - sheep farm
- Fell - mountain
- Foss - waterfall
- Gate - roadway

Old Norse place names can be found predominantly in Yorkshire and Cumbria and up into Scotland, especially in Orkney and Shetland.

Are there any Old Norse place names near you?




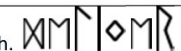




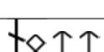




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Runes

UK Linguistics Olympiad Activity

- The table contains the names of eleven Old Norse gods, written in runes.
- Nine of these gods are listed below in modern English, using our alphabet and in alphabetical order.
- The names given below are either based on the gods' original Old Norse names, or on their roles in nature; for instance, the god of the dawn might be listed either as 'Dawn' or as Delling (his original name).
- Remember that the modern version of the name may not be quite the same as the original Old Norse name – think what happened to their names in our days of the week!
- **Baldur, Dallinger, Day, Earth, Freya, Freyr, Ithun, Night, Sun**

a. 		g. 	
b. 		h. 	
c. 		i. 	
d. 		j. 	
e. 		k. 	
f. 			

UK
LO

Runes

- Write the modern name for each of these nine gods in the table next to the cell containing its rune spelling.
- Using the Roman alphabet, work out the two missing names and write them in the appropriate cell.
- Using runes, write the names of the gods Tyr, Ran and Sif in the table below.

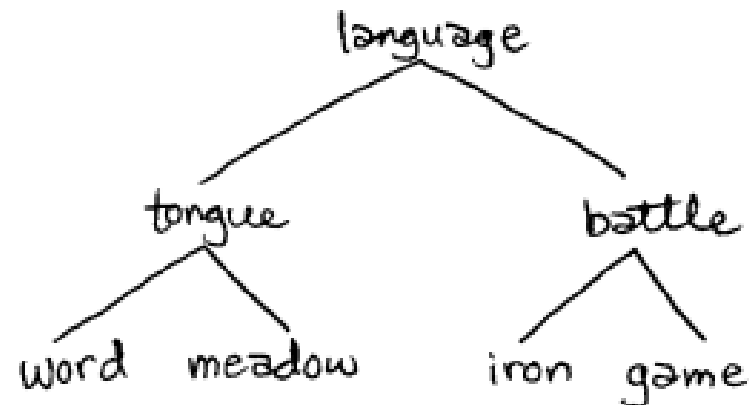
l. Tyr	m. Ran	n. Sif



Kennings: Both an Old Norse and Old English structure

- Pen-pusher
- Book-worm
- Sky-scraper
- Dead-end
- Hot-pot
- Tear-jerker

- A kenning, which comes from Norse and Anglo-Saxon poetry, is a stylistic device.
- It is a two-word phrase that describes an object through metaphors.
- A kenning poem can also be seen as a riddle: the words used have to be unravelled to reveal their true meaning.



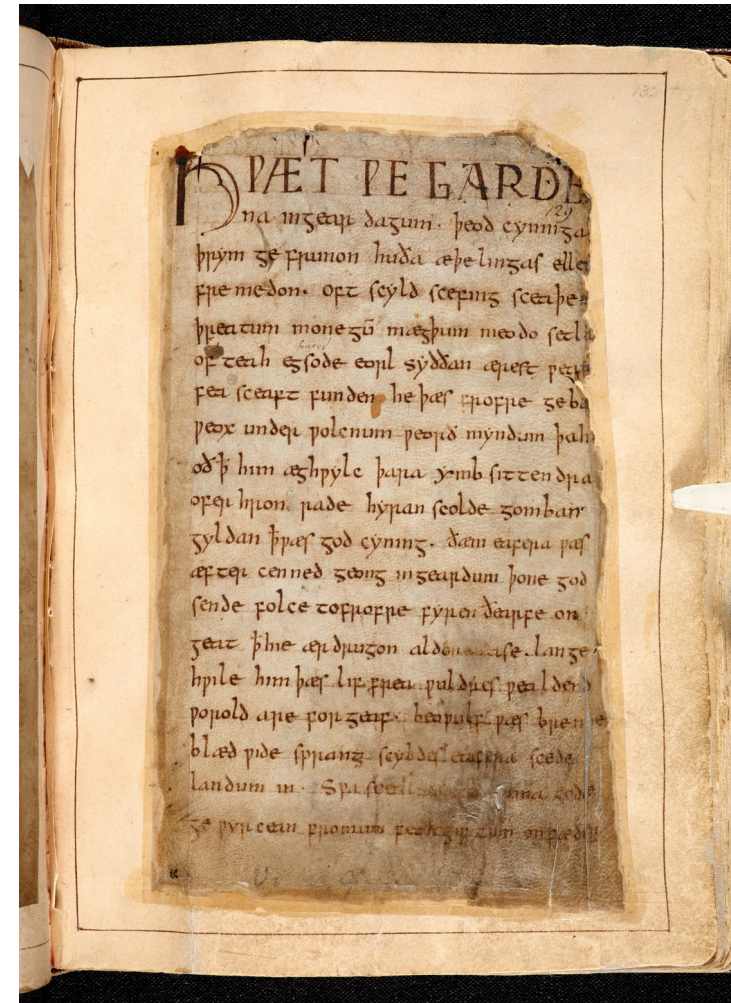
Elements of Anglo-Saxon and Norse poetry

- Chant-like effect of the four-beat line
- Alliteration – ‘Then the grim man in green gathers his strength’
- Caesura-pause or break in a line of poetry – ‘Oft to the wanderer / weary of exile’
- Kenning-metaphorical phrase used instead of a name, eg ‘battle-blade’ (sword)
- Lots of hyperbole/exaggeration
- The Vikings were the creators of the "Saga", a long story of heroic achievement.



These Kennings were used in Beowulf

- 'bone-house' = body
- 'gold-friend of men' = generous leader
- 'ring-giver' – lord
- 'flashing-light' = sword
- 'whale-road' = the sea



Look in your workbook for examples of Kennings used in Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse poetry.

An Extract from “The Dream of the Rodd” an Anglo-Saxon poem

Listen, I will tell the best of visions,
what came to me in the middle of
the night,
when **Voice-bearers** dwelled in
rest.

It seemed to me that I saw a more
wonderful tree...

That beacon was entirely ... likewise
there were five
upon the **cross-beam**. All those fair
through creation.

Wondrous was the **victory-tree**, and
I stained with sins,
wounded with guilts...

Part of ‘The Seafarer’ by Ezra Pound Published in 1911, from an early Anglo-Saxon text

May I for my own self song’s truth reckon,
Journey’s jargon, how I in harsh days
Hardship endured oft.
Bitter **breast-cares** have I abided,
Known on my keel many a care’s hold,
And dire **sea-surge**, and there I oft spent.

That he on dry land loveliest liveth,
List how I, **care-wretched**, on **ice-cold** sea,
Deprived of my kinsmen;
Over the **whale’s acre**, would wander wide
Eager and ready, the crying **lone-flyer**,
Whets for the **whale-path** the heart
irresistibly.”





Create a Kenning Poem about the Viking Raids

Think of twenty nouns to describe Vikings and the raids. Then join them together with a hyphen to create a kenning.

You may wish to choose alliterative words.

Aim for a four-beat, chant-like style.

Here's an idea to help you get started:

Blood-bather, knife-slasher

Fire-beast, club-carrier...



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Let's hear your poems!

Notice if you hear:

Alliteration

Chanting

Metaphors

Exaggeration/Hyperbole

Old Norse Words



A Final Thought

- The language contact situation between Old Norse and Old English yields many pairs of words. Usually, one ousts the other:
- Egg vs ey or sister vs sweostor (here the Danish won)
- Path vs reike or swell vs bolnen (here the English won)
- In some cases Old English became Standard English while the Old Norse remained as regional dialect, such as nay (ON) and no (OE) or kirk (ON) and church (OE).
- In some interesting cases both words survived.

Old Norse

dike

raise

sick

skin

skill

Old English

ditch

rise

ill

hide

craft

Acknowledgements

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