



Unit 2 Lesson 3 Worksheet

The Vikings: Villages and Violence

1. Approximately how many words remain in the English language from Old Norse?

Many Viking words that survive today are to do with violence.

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

Interestingly, however, many were very typical everyday words.

Happy	Egg
Hug	Sky
Husband	Bull
Cake	Get
Gift	Give
Glitter	Want

2. How did Old Norse influence our language grammatically? _____



3. Runes

The table below 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!

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

Baldur, Dallinger, Day, Earth, Freya, Freyr, Ithun, Night, Sun

- 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



4. Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse poetry shared a similar style.
 - 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.
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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.”

Your final task is to write a kenning poem about the Viking raids in England. These examples of kennings above will help you.