



KS2 Unit 2 Lesson 3 Nifty Norse and the Days of the Week

Crib Sheet

Slides 1 and 2: Today we are learning about the etymology of our days of the week. We will compare it to French days and German days looking for similarities and differences. We will investigate the links between Norse and Roman Gods and will prompt thinking about links between languages throughout the world. Introduce the aims and objectives of this lesson.

- We can see that the days of the week in English are named after Norse gods.
- We can see that days of the week in French are linked to gods as well – but not Norse ones!
- We can recognise parts of words in Hindi and German.

Slide 3: This slide is a starter activity linking back to the last lesson on Greek. This gives pupils an opportunity to think back to previous learning to consolidate knowledge.

Slide 4 explains briefly how Norse words and culture came to Britain/

Slide 5: Shows us the days of the week. Ask pupils if they know anything about the etymology of these words.

Slide 6: Here we have questions to provoke thought and to elicit prior knowledge. Ask the questions on the board. Have any of your pupils come across Tiw, Woden/Odin, Thor or Frigg/a? If so, where (e.g., Marvel films).

Slide 7 gives answers to the question of why there are 7 days in a week.

Slides 8 to 11: These slides go through the Norse Gods who gave our days of the week their names. They show which Roman god the Norse gods are “twinned” with. They may wish to make notes on their worksheet.

Slide 12: With this new knowledge, we can then compare the days of the week in English with the days of the week in French. This slide asks questions to get them thinking about links between gods and the shared reasons behind the naming of our days.

Slide 13 provides the answers to the questions on slide 9:

Moon and lune (moon in French)

Tiw is twinned with Mars - WAR

Wooden is twinned with Mercury – WISDOM, POETRY, DEATH, MAGIC

Thor is twinned with Jupiter - STORMS

Norse goddess Frigg bears similarities to the Roman goddess Venus - MARRIAGE

Saturn has disappeared! Samedi comes from Latin sambatum - “sabbath.”



Dimanche has nothing to do with the sun but means “Lord’s Day.”

Slide 14 shows the worksheet. Pupils have a chance to fill in the boxes if they haven’t already done so. They can clearly see the languages we are investigating in front of them. Ask them to look for links. What questions do they have?

Slide 15 looks at the German and English links. Here the similarities are clearer.

Slide 16 provides the answers to the questions on German.

Tag = Day

Mond = Moon

Sonne = Sun

Mitte means “middle.” Mittwoch = Midweek

Thor and Jupiter are gods of storms and thunder. Thunder = Donner in German.

Slide 17 shows Punjabi, Hindi and Sanskrit. (Sanskrit is an ancient classical language in India from which Indic languages derived). Here we can see the links between the Sanskrit way of labelling the days and the French way of labelling days. They are using the same gods or planets. We can, therefore, link English to Sanskrit. What other things do they notice (e.g. the word for “day”).

Slide 18 asks pupils to bring the days of the week in their other languages into the classroom. Write them on the board. Where are the similarities and differences? (Either with English, French, German or with each other). Time permitting, you could ask if they can guess how Norwegian would label their days.

Slide 19 offers an opportunity for research. They should think about why German and French are so different. Think about the months of the year and look up the etymology of these words in English, perhaps French/German or any other language.

Slide 20 is the plenary slide to get them to revisit the word Thursday and look at the links between meanings in different languages.