

Key Learning

The Norse people called a long story of great men and women a saga. The Norse loved an exciting saga. One saga that the Norse people told was about Freydis. Freydis's story is part of a Norse saga that includes many stories about ships and seafarers.

The saga of Erik the Red was written in Iceland in the thirteenth century. Historians do not know how much of the saga is true. The saga of Erik the Red includes rich detail about how Christians and pagans lived together.

The Norse loved telling stories about their gods and how the world began. Stories of Norse gods are called eddas.

The Norse sailed long distances in huge wooden longships. Norse traders explored new lands; lands far away from their homeland.

The story of Beowulf is a very well-known and very long story. Beowulf, was a hero of the Geats, who came to the aid of the king of the Danes, Hrothgar. King Hrothgar's mead hall named Heorot was under attack by the monster Grendel. Grendel attacked Heorot for twelve years. After Beowulf slayed Grendel and Grendel's mother took revenge. Beowulf defeated Grendel's mother using a giant's sword. Soon after, Beowulf became the king of the Geats. For fifty years, Beowulf ruled his kingdom of Geatland.

In Beowulf's kingdom, there lived a dragon. One day the dragon became angry because he noticed that part of his treasure was missing. With the help of Wiglaf a warrior, Beowulf slew the dragon. Historians think the epic of Beowulf was written sometime between 700 and 950.



Norse Culture



Vocabulary

amulet	An ornament or small piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.
encampment	A place with temporary accommodation consisting of huts or tents, typically for troops or nomads.
fjord	A long, narrow ocean inlet that passes between high and rocky banks or steep cliffs.
imminent	About to happen or likely to happen soon.
lush	Growing thick and healthy.
myths	A story or group of stories that form part of the traditional knowledge of a society.
moor	An area of land that is open and wet.
Norse	Norwegians or Scandinavians in ancient or medieval times.
pelts	The skin or hide of an animal.
portage	The carrying of small boats or their cargo overland between two navigable waterways.
revenge	To get even for or pay back by causing injury or harm.
saga	A medieval Nordic or Icelandic prose narrative, esp. one describing the historical or legendary exploits of a single person or family.
seafaring	Traveling by sea.
slew	To kill deliberately and violently.
Valhalla	In Scandinavian mythology, the hall where Odin receives and enshrines the heroes who have died bravely in battle.

Rights and Global Goals

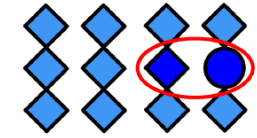
Rights	 14 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION	 28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION
Global Goals	No. 4 - Quality Education No. 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities	

Prior Learning

Year 5- Vikings 1 (Viking attacks on Britain)



Big Ideas



Similarity
and
Difference

National Treasures

The place names of northern and eastern England are a testament to both the impact of the Vikings' language (Old Norse) and the individuals who put down roots. Take Grimsby, the farm ('by') of a man named Grimr and Scunthorpe, the hamlet ('thorpe') of someone called Skuma.

In addition, a number of northern dialectal words - e.g. 'dale' (valley), 'beck' (stream) and 'fell' (mountain) - have Old Norse origins.

Another area of life in which Scandinavian settlers had a lasting impact was in the development of urban economies. Places like Lincoln, Stamford, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham became important centres.