




Year 3 Autumn 1 Beowulf Knowledge Organiser

Educational Visits	
The British Museum	
	Look at the construction of a typical Viking long ship, from the keel to the mast to the sail.
	Looking at the routes the Vikings took over the four continents.
	Use the interactive map to discover whether the names of towns and villages in England originate from Old Norse.

Cultural Focus	
Literature	Looking at the poem that the story of Beowulf originated from
Myths and Legends	Other myths and legends similar to that of Beowulf such as: Thesis and the Minotaur Cyclops Medusa and the Gorgons
Viking Art	Oseberg, Borre and Jelling
Non-Fiction	Information texts on Vikings

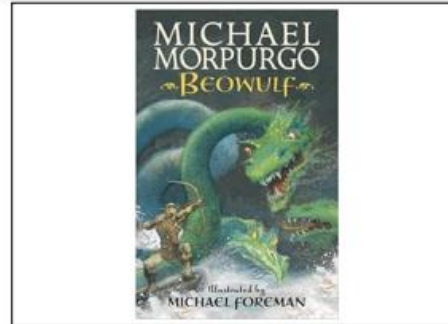
Historical Focus	
The Vikings	People who lived in Scandinavia between 750 and 1100 are known as Vikings. Before this they were farmers, merchants and craftsmen.
Viking Farms	Vikings lived by farming, where the soils were good, producing a variety of crops and animals. Viking farms were self-sufficient, people produced their own food, cloth, leather goods and tools.
Viking Houses	 <p>Vikings lived in rectangular buildings consisting of one long room, called a hall, in which everyone ate, slept and worked together.</p>
Viking Ships	<p>Ships were essential to the Vikings way of life. Warships and merchant ships allowed the Vikings to raid foreign lands which fishing boats, ferries and canoes were used at home.</p> 
Viking Warriors	The Vikings were known as savage and courageous fighters. Local chieftains kept a small band of warriors to act as their bodyguards. Men were trained from boyhood to use weapons and were expected to defend their king when ordered to.
Viking Honour	A Vikings honour or good name was his most prized possession. A warrior's worth was judged by his courage, his fighting skills, how far afield his adventures had taken him and how successful his expeditions were.
Religious Beliefs	Throughout most of the Viking Age, the people of Scandinavia worshipped their own gods and goddesses. But by the end of the period these had been replaced by Christianity.

Authorial Focus	
Author	Michael Morpurgo
Date of birth	St Albans, Herefordshire
Place of Birth	5 th October 1943
Early life	Michael attended many different schools whilst growing up until he joined a public boarding school. At 13, he went to the Kings School in Canterbury.
Published	I Never Rained: Five Stories Long Way from Home (1975) What Shall we do with it (1978)
Later Life	Michael went onto hosting the 'Invention of Children' with Hugh Cunningham on BB Radio 4.
Other notable works	The Fox and The Ghost King An Eagle In the Snow

Geographical Focus	
Scandinavia	
Denmark	Denmark: mildest of all Scandinavian countries, terrain is flat, it has extensive areas of rich farmland and dense woods.
Sweden	Sweden: Viking settlements were in the southern part of the country, near the shores of lakes and near the Baltic coast, where soils were fertile.
Norway	Norway: very mountainous country, 2000-mile-long coast has thousands of long narrow inlets called 'fjords,' Viking settlements were found on the rich soils along the edges of the fjords.

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GENRE: Adventure
THEMES: Heroism, Kings and Lineage, Monsters, Weapons, Treasure, Christianity, Paganism, Gender.
PLOT OUTLINE: An evil monster slaughters the people of Denmark. Beowulf (a warrior) is sent to help King Hrothgar kill Grendel the monster. After doing so, Grendel's mother seeking revenge, goes to kill Beowulf. She is defeated by Beowulf and he is rewarded by the King of Denmark. He ventures back to his land, whereby he must slaughter the Death Dragon of the Deep. Beowulf defeats the dragon but before the dragon dies, it bites Beowulf in the neck and he dies.
PLOT TYPES: Overcoming the monster
NARRATIVE: Third Person (Speech is in first and second person)



HOOKS Grendel slaughtering thirty men in Heorot. Beowulf the warrior saves the people of Denmark from both Grendel, Grendel's mother and a dragon.
CLOSURE Beowulf defeats the dragon but before the dragon dies, it bites Beowulf in the neck and he dies.
SETTING Scandinavia
CHARACTERS Beowulf, Grendel, Grendel's Mother, Hrothgar, Death Dragon of the Deep.
PROBLEM/DILEMMA : Monsters are terrorizing the people of Denmark

QUIZ – TEXT

- Where did the story Beowulf, written by Michael Morpurgo, originate from?
- What is the genre of Beowulf?
- What is the narrative viewpoint?
- Who is the protagonist?
- Where are the antagonists?
- How does Michael Morpurgo show Beowulf's bravery?
- What is the mood of the story?
- What is the problem in the story?
- What are the themes in the story?
- What are the tragedies within the story?
- How does he portray the monster 'Grendel'?

SENTENCE STRUCTURE Simple, compound and complex sentences. Dialogue.

TEXT STRUCTURE Chapters

LANGUAGE TECHNIQUES : Alliteration, rule of three, similes, emotive language, metaphor, personification

VOCABULARY CHOICES : Emotive, persuasive and heroic language

MOOD: Tragic, Violent and Dark

TONE: Hopeful, Praise and Glory

NARRATIVE CONFLICT : Beowulf wishes to do the best for his people, however his power and goodwill lead to his downfall.

VIEWPOINT OF THE NARRATIVE :

