

Beowulf and the Anglo-Saxon Era

Historical Research Project

Learning Expectations

- To gain knowledge about Beowulf and Anglo-Saxon culture through research on a topic related to the poem/era.
- To practice skills needed to research, cite and present information on a topic.
- To utilize creativity to impart knowledge in an entertaining manner.

Task

Using a variety of sources, gather information on your assigned topic. The questions listed with your topic should guide your research ***but do not limit yourself*** to answering only those queries.

Once you have gathering sufficient information, you are required to complete both an individual and a group task. These are as follows:

Individual Task: Write a 1-2 page, MLA formatted expository paper on your topic that includes a formal Works Cited and an annotated bibliography. Requirements/grading parameters are as follows:

Research/Works Cited:	minimum three (3) sources including at least one (1) database article and one (1) book (15 points)
Annotated Bibliography:	two (2) paragraphs for each source; minimum three (3) sources (30 points)
Formal Paper:	1-2 page <i>maximum</i> , MLA formatted (25 points)

Group Task: Create a 5-10 minute documentary on your topic that follows a creative narrative that teaches your classmates about what you have researched in an entertaining way. The final documentary must combine images, sounds and narrative to detail the most important points of the topic. ***You may use any movie-making software with which you are familiar as long as the final product can be copied to and played from either a DVD or a VHS.*** Requirements/grading parameters are as follows:

Documentary Content:	5-10 minutes <i>maximum</i> including a variety of images and sounds pertaining to your topic and an oration of your narrative that explains the depicted scenes (25 points)
Creative Narrative:	<i>written separately and in MLA format;</i> must flow logically and aid the overall documentary in becoming both informative and entertaining (25 points)
Title:	must be descriptive to your topic yet creative (5 points)
Group Involvement:	clear involvement from ALL group members must be evident, either on-screen or behind the scenes (10 points)
Format:	DVD or VHS format that can play in class (5 points)

Topics

A. The Celtic Heroes and Heroines: A Magical World

1. Who were the Celts?
2. What role did mythology and religion play in their culture?
3. What defines and “Celtic legend”? What Celtic legends have survived?

B. The Romans: The Great Administrators

1. What changes did the Romans bring to Celtic culture, both positive and negative?

C. The Anglo-Saxons Sweep Ashore

1. How did the term “Anglo-Saxon” come about?
2. What were the key features of this age of warriors?

D. Women in Anglo-Saxon Culture

1. What place did women have in Anglo-Saxon culture?
2. What roles did women assume?

E. Anglo-Saxon Life: The Warm Hall, the Cold World

1. Describe a day-in-the-life for a typical Anglo-Saxon citizen.
2. What activities occupied their time?

F. The Anglo-Saxon Religion; Gods for Warriors

1. Who were the Anglo-Saxon deities?
2. What role did they play in Anglo-Saxon religion?
3. Have any legends survived that talk about these Anglo-Saxon gods?

G. The Bards: Singing of Gods and Heroes

1. What is a bard?
2. What influence did bards have on the evolution of literature?

H. The Christian Monasteries: The Ink Froze

1. How did the introduction of Christianity influence Anglo-Saxon recorded history?
2. Can this influence be seen in surviving literary works today? How?

I. Beowulf—An Introduction

1. What is known about the original story of Beowulf?
2. How does this story in particular represent the Anglo-Saxon heroic ideal?
3. What qualities did the Anglo-Saxons value in their heroes? How are these qualities seen in the story of Beowulf?

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Historical Research Project Checklist/Rubric*

**This page MUST be turned-in with your final project.*

Name: _____ Block: _____

Topic: _____

Partners: _____

<i>Individual Task</i>		
	Student Check	Total Points
Research/Works Cited		
minimum three (3) sources including at least one (1) database article and one (1) book		/15 points
Annotated Bibliography		
two (2) paragraphs for each source; minimum three (3) sources		/30 points
Formal Paper		
1-2 page <i>maximum</i> , MLA formatted		/25 points

Individual Total: _____/70 points

<i>Group Task</i>		
	Student Check	Total Points
Documentary Content		
5-10 minutes <i>maximum</i> including a variety of images and sounds pertaining to your topic and an oration of your narrative that explains the depicted scenes		/25 points
Creative Narrative		
<i>written separately and in MLA format</i> ; must flow logically and aid the overall documentary in becoming both informative and entertaining		/25 points
Title		
must be descriptive to your topic yet creative		/5 points
Group Involvement		
clear involvement from ALL group members must be evident, either on-screen or behind the scenes		/10 points
Format		
DVD or VHS format that can play in class		/5 points

Group Total: _____/70 points