

Beowulf and the Anglo-Saxon Era

Historical Research Presentation

Learning Expectations

- To gain knowledge about Beowulf and Anglo-Saxon culture through research on a topic related to the poem and/or era.
- To practice skills needed to research, cite and present information on a topic.
- To impart knowledge both orally and in writing in an organized 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 gathered sufficient information, **you are required to:**

- create **two Google slides** that outline the important points of the topic that you researched. Be sure to include the appropriate parenthetical citations with your information on the slide.
Make sure you collaborate with anyone else in your class that is doing the same topic so that you DO NOT repeat information.
- include one picture/graphic. It should not take up more than half of one slide.
- include at least one (1) direct quote
- create a correctly MLA headed and formatted works cited list of the sources you have cited and/or referenced on your slides. This is to be printed and turned in **at the beginning of class on Tuesday 10/28 (A) / Wednesday 10/29 (B).**
- share your slides with Ms. Matthews/Ms. Stalowski by **the beginning of class on Tuesday 10/28 (A) / Wednesday 10/29 (B).**
*****IMPORTANT NOTE:** Name your shared file as follows: *Topic Letter, Your Name, and Your Block*, i.e. If Tim K was assigned Topic A and is in A2, his file will be called “Topic A Tim K A2”
- Presentations will begin on **Thursday, Oct. 30th (A)/Friday, Oct. 31st (B)**

Presenting

All slides will be compiled into a single presentation for each class. We will present the research topics in the order in which they are listed. When it is your turn to speak, you may use notes on note-cards to guide your presentation if desired.

Requirements/grading parameters are as follows:

<i>Beowulf/Anglo-Saxon Historical Research Presentation</i>		
		Point Values
Evidence of Research		
Information is detailed, clear, and sufficiently informative		/25 points
MLA Format		
works cited list (format and sources listed)		/20 points
parenthetical citations appropriately/correctly used on slides for all information including at least one (1) quote from one of the sources used		/15 points
a <i>minimum</i> of two (2) sources of <i>varied</i> origin, i.e. a combination of database articles, books, websites, etc.		/10 points
Presentation		
confident, articulate, appropriate volume,		/10 points

Final Score: _____/80 points

Beowulf Research Topics

A. Celtic Heroes and Heroines

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 Roman influence on Celtic Culture

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

C. The Origins of Anglo-Saxons Culture

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 Daily Life

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

F. Anglo-Saxon Religion

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. Anglo-Saxon Literary Techniques and Traditions

1. What is a kenning and how were kennings used in Anglo-Saxon literature?
2. What is the importance of alliteration in Anglo-Saxon literature?
3. What position did scops hold in Anglo-Saxon culture?
4. How was the caesura used in Anglo-Saxon literature?

H. Anglo-Saxon Riddles

1. What was the purpose of riddles in Anglo-Saxon culture?
2. What is the Exeter book?
3. Have any examples survived?

I. The Bards: Singing of Gods and Heroes

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

J. Christian Influence on Anglo-Saxon Literary History

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

Beowulf Research Topics (continued)

K. Vikings

1. Who were the Vikings?
2. What did it mean to be a Viking?
3. Why are they known as some of the first explorers?
4. What made Viking ships unique?

L. 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?

M. The Epic Hero

1. What is an epic?
2. What makes a hero epic?
3. What are some literary examples depicting epic heroes?

N. Dragon Symbolism

1. Why are dragons so prevalent in literature, especially epic tales such as Beowulf?
2. What countries/regions in the world have dragons in their mythology/literature and culture?
3. What are some literary examples featuring dragons?