

## Guided Reading Task 1

In this task, you will be comparing two different reports on the Vikings. Read each report carefully then fill in the table underneath by rating the different aspects of presentation. Don't forget to say which report you preferred and why.

## Non-Chronological Report 1

**Terrible Times**

# SPLASH AND GRAB

HERE'S THE STORY OF THE NORSEMEN – A BUNCH OF BURLY BRUISERS WHO TRAVELLED FAR AND WIDE IN SHIPS THAT LOOKED LIKE SEA-MONSTERS. THESE SCARY SAILORS RAIDED AND LOOTED WHEREVER THEY WENT, BUT WERE THEY REALLY MEAN OR JUST BJORN TO BE WILD?

THE NORSEMEN CAME FROM SCANDINAVIA (NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK). THEY LIKED FIGHTING, DRINKING, SAILING AND PRAYING TO THEIR GODS – LIKE ONE-EYED ODIN AND HAMMER-SLINGING THOR.

BY ODIN, I'LL DO YOU IN!

I'LL HAMMER YOU, BY THOR!

SCANDINAVIA HAD TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO BE KINGS. TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF BEING A KING YOU HAD TO HAVE A BUNCH OF HARD MATES TO BEAT UP YOUR RIVALS AND A BIG PILE OF TREASURE TO REWARD THEM WITH. TROUBLE WAS, THERE WASN'T MUCH TREASURE IN SCANDINAVIA.

THAT'S IT BOYS, DON'T SPEND IT ALL AT ONCE.

NO WONDER THEY KEPT SAILING OFF TO RAID THE RICHER PARTS OF EUROPE. THEY CALLED THIS 'GOING VIKING', AND THAT'S HOW THESE NUTTY NORSEMEN GOT THEIR NAME.

A-VIKING WE WILL GO,  
A-VIKING WE WILL GO,  
HI HO THE MERRY-O,  
A-VIKING WE WILL GO!

WHAT'S V.A.I.P?

TAX ON SAXON!

WHEN THE VIKINGS SHOWED UP IN ENGLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ANGLO-SAXONS WHO RULED THE COUNTRY WEREN'T TOO SURE HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM. A CUSTOMS OFFICER TURNED UP TO TELL THEM TO APPEAR BEFORE THE KING – SO THEY KILLED HIM!

THE VIKINGS WHO RAIDED ENGLAND SOON WORKED OUT THAT IT WAS BEST TO ATTACK CHRISTIAN MONASTERIES (PLACES WHERE MONKS LIVED). WHY? BECAUSE THE MONKS HAD LOTS OF TREASURE, AND COULDN'T FIGHT WELL. YOU COULD SAY THE VIKINGS WERE GOING FOR GOLD!

GOD HELP US!

THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!

4



# The Vikings

## Home Life

The men built boats and went hunting. They grew flax to make clothes. They grew wheat, rye and barley. They kept cows, sheep and horses. They also practised sword fighting and spear throwing. The women were always busy spinning and weaving. The women cooked and brewed strong beer. The children did not go to school. They played and learnt skills they would need when they were older.



## Viking Raiders

The Vikings were raiders and every summer would set off across the seas in their long boats. They would steal anything of value and also take prisoners who would become their slaves. Before they left the villages, they would set them alight.

## Life After Death

The Vikings believed in many gods. When they died they were buried with their belongings because they believed in the after life. When wealthy Vikings died they were buried in their warship with all their belongings, for example food and drink, weapons and their animals. Poor people were buried in a big hole in the ground with only a few things to take with them to the after life, for example spindles for weaving and a barrel of milk. If they were honourable and brave they would go to Valhalla, Viking heaven.

The Vikings lived in Britain about 1000 years ago. They were from Norway, a land of mountains and fjords, where the winters were long and cold and it was difficult to grow crops. They were tall and fair haired and very fierce in battle.



## Viking Long Boats

The Vikings built long boats. They were narrow with one sail. The front part curved up high into the shape of a bird's beak or an animal's head. The men on board called their ships 'Dragons'.



Rate each aspect of the report presentation with 1 being bad and 5 being excellent.

Report	Heading	Use of pictures	Layout - The way the text and pictures have been presented on the page	Font - How easy it is to read the writing	Language - How easy the language is to understand.	Total score Out of 25
1) Terrible times - Smash and Grab						
2) The Vikings						

The report I prefer is \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer it because

---



---



---



---



---



## Guided Reading - Task 2

Read through this poem, answer the questions on the following page and mark your answers, which are on the page after that.

# Armoured Dinosaurs

Even though dinosaurs became extinct around 65 million years ago, scientists are still uncovering new facts about them. Some dinosaurs had their own body armour to protect them from attacks. This extract looks at the different types of body armour and why they were so effective.

## Armoured Dinosaurs

When we think about dinosaurs, we often imagine them with snarling teeth and vicious claws, but that wasn't always the case. For some dinosaurs, being able to protect themselves was far more important than being good at attacking others.

- 5 One of the most effective forms of protection was body armour. Some dinosaurs developed protective plates, horns, spikes or clubs on the outside of their bodies to defend themselves against predators. Even if the appearance of this armour wasn't enough to put off an attacker, trying to fight through jagged spikes wasn't a task for the faint-hearted.

### Dino Defence

Some of the best-known armoured dinosaurs are the Ankylosaurus and the Stegosaurus.

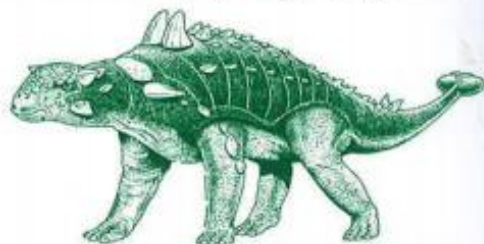
- 10 **Ankylosauruses** had a layer of strong, bony scales called scutes, which covered their head, shoulders and back. These scutes were made of bone and covered with keratin — the same material found in our fingernails and toenails. This made the scutes very difficult to break. Lethal spikes ran in rows down the dinosaur's back and tail, which had a large rectangular club at the end. This meant that Ankylosauruses weren't just hard to attack — they stood a  
15 pretty good chance of hurting anything that had a go!

- Stegosauruses** had two rows of large diamond-shaped plates that ran the length of their back and down part of their tail. These plates stuck out at an angle on either side of their spine, which intimidated predators looking to launch an attack. If that didn't work, the four savage spikes sticking out of the end of their tail were a good way of fending off any  
20 pluckier predators.

Both of these dinosaurs could grow to be the length of a bus. This, coupled with the weight of their armour, meant that they found it difficult to run away quickly. They often had to stand their ground and fight.

### Some animals still have body armour...

- 25 Dinosaurs may no longer roam the Earth, but body armour is still around today. Animals like turtles, armadillos, crocodiles and hedgehogs all have their own armour to repel predators.



This is what an Ankylosaurus may have looked like.

Written by Louise McEvoy.

Write your answers to the questions below in full sentences in your home learning journal.

1

Why do you think fighting a dinosaur with body armour "wasn't a task for the faint-hearted" (line 7)?

.....  
.....

☐

1 mark

2

Why has the author put the words "Ankylosauruses" (line 10) and "Stegosauruses" (line 16) in bold?

.....  
.....

☐

1 mark

3

Read lines 10-20. Give two ways that the body armour of an Ankylosaurus and the body armour of a Stegosaurus were similar.

.....  
.....

☐

2 marks

4

What does the word "intimidated" (line 18) mean? Use a dictionary to help you.

.....

☐

1 mark

5

According to the text, why couldn't Stegosauruses run quickly? Circle one.

- a. Because they had short legs.      b. Because they were very heavy.  
c. Because their body plates got in the way.      d. Because they were very tall.

☐

1 mark

6

Is this a fiction or a non-fiction text? Explain your answer.

.....  
.....

☐

2 marks

7

Do you think that the layout of this text is helpful? Explain your answer.

.....  
.....

☐

2 marks

Total  
out of 10

☐



Mark your answers and correct any mistakes you've made by rereading the text.

## Answers

1. E.g. Because the "jagged spikes" would have made it difficult and dangerous for a predator to attack.
2. E.g. To make them stand out because they are key words.
3. Any two from: both had spikes; both had body armour on their backs; both had weapons at the end of their tails.
4. E.g. put off; scared; disheartened
5. b. Because they were very heavy.
6. E.g. A non-fiction text, because it gives the reader facts and information about a real-life topic.
7. E.g. Yes, because the text is divided into different sections using subheadings, so it's easy to find information. The picture of the Ankylosaurus helps you to understand what it might have looked like.



*Guided Reading - Reading for pleasure task (optional)*

*If you are reading to your parent, ask them to ask you some of these questions about the book you are reading:*

# Summarise

Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph

## Example questions

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after .....?
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?
- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?