

Weekly focus: non-chronological reports

For the next two weeks, you will be planning, writing and editing a non-chronological report about Viking warriors in the style of Horrible Histories!



Monday 25th January 2021

WALT: use similar writing to learn from its structure

A *non-chronological report* is a non-fiction text that isn't written in time order. It is about real-life events.

This lesson, we're going to look at a non-chronological report about the Vikings to understand its structure. Your own report will have a similar structure.

Task 1 - Nasty Writing

One of the key structural features of non-chronological reports is that they use *organisational devices* to order the information and make it easier for the reader to find the information they need.

Two very common organisational devices are *headings* and *subheadings*.

- A *heading* is the main title at the top of the page, which tells you what the whole text is about.
- A *subheading* is the title given to each section/paragraph of a piece of writing, telling you what that section is about.

Both devices are often written *bolder* or *bigger* than the rest of the text so they stand out.

Task 1

Look at the text below. Make up a suitable *heading* for the top of the page and suitable *subheadings* for each of the sections.

FACT Viking women cooked bread, sausages and stews and salted, dried, pickled or smoked fish and meat to store through the winter months.

Gruesome truth

Vikings cooked baked seal, horse-meat kebabs and polar bear steaks. They also ate hare, boar, walrus, elk and whale.



▲ Vikings liked to eat seagull stew.



Wives or female slaves had the job of grinding the barley to make flour. If the barley harvest was poor, they made it from peas or pine tree bark. Viking bread was hard and gritty and wore away their teeth.

At feasts, the meat was boiled or roasted but sometimes Viking men just warmed it inside their shirts and ate it raw! For important feasts, they sacrificed a horse to the gods and spit-roasted the horse-meat as kebabs. Horses were also killed for meat when they got old and worn out.



Task 2 - Annotate a non-chronological report with the organisational devices used

There are also other organisational devices that are used to structure a non-chronological report. Read what they are and the reasons for using them in the table below

Heading The main title that tells the reader what the whole text is about.
Subheadings The title given to each section of the text, telling the reader what the section is about.
Introduction Explains more about what the whole text is about. It makes the reader want to read the report.
Paragraphs Each paragraph is organised around a different theme (topic). It makes it easier for the reader to understand what they are reading.
Text boxes Used to make information stand out from the rest of the text.
Pictures Used to illustrate what the text is saying so the reader can imagine it more easily.

Task 2 Part 1

Fill in the empty boxes around the non-chronological report below with the correct organisational device from the table above.

Ruthless Raiders

FACT The Vikings were great explorers, sailing to four continents to trade and conquer lands overseas.

Gruesome truth
Viking warriors **looted** treasures from churches and monasteries, seizing the priests and monks to kill or sell them as slaves.

Sneaky ships
Viking raids began in the late 700s CE. The Vikings needed more land for farming because their population was growing and much of the countryside where they lived was hilly, forested or heathland. Their warships were sleek and fast. They could sail in just a metre of water, so they could sneak up rivers or be dragged onto beaches to launch surprise attacks. The largest longship could carry more than 60 rowers, along with horses and dozens of soldiers. Mice and rats also got on board and landed with the Vikings!

Boned to death
Viking raiders spread fear and panic. They demanded **ransoms for hostages** or money to leave people in peace. When they captured the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1011 CE and were refused a ransom to release him, they pelted him with cattle heads and bones before killing him with an axe.

► When the Viking Sigurd the Powerful killed an enemy leader in battle, he cut off his head and threw it over the saddle of his horse. But a tooth in the skull bit into his leg and he died from an infected wound.

6

Which of the organisational devices do you think work best?

Which of the organisational devices would you improve?

Tuesday 26th January 2021

WALT: plan by recording information

Task 1 - Nasty Writing

This lesson, you are going to be gathering information for your non-chronological report about Viking warriors! You will need to take notes on the information you have read and watched. Let's practise note taking for Nasty Writing!

Top Tips for Note Taking

- Use bullet-points, like I'm using now
- Don't write in full sentences, just write down the key information that helps you remember what was said or written



The Violent Vikings



▲ Vikings were feared warriors.

The Vikings lived over 1,000 years ago in the lands we now call Scandinavia. From around 800 CE, they were a feared and famous people. Although they were never united under one leader, they traded, **raided** and conquered for over 300 years.

They were great sailors, explorers, warriors and farmers. They built sleek, fast ships that travelled and traded as far as Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

Make notes on this paragraph below

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

How did you do? This is what my notes would have looked like.

- Lived over 1000 years ago
- From Scandinavia
- Feared
- Traded, raided and conquered
- Great sailors, warriors and farmers
- Built fast ships

Task 2 - Make notes on Viking warriors

Cut out the sentences and pictures below then decide where you would place them in your non-chronological report by sticking them in the table on the next page. Once you have stuck in all the sentences, take a look at the websites below and add extra information to each box if you can. You can also use the notes you made for Nasty Writing under the first subheading.

- Buried with their most prized possession - sword or spear.

- 30 metres long and could carry 60 men

- Wore helmets made of iron.

- Traded goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery

- Made from overlapping planks of oak wood.

- Stole from people and burnt buildings to the ground

- When there was no wind, oars were used to row the ship.

- Large, square sail made of woven wool

- Wore tunics made of leather or wool

- Wooden shield to protect them from arrows and blows from axes and swords



General Information about Viking Warriors

Information about Viking Warrior Clothing

Information about Viking Ships

Information about who the Vikings were.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6/articles/zjcxwty>

Information about Viking Warrior Clothing

Check this link for pictures of Viking armour and weapons. Hover over each item for more information:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/vikings/viking-warriors/>

Information about Viking Ships

Check this link for more information about Viking ships:

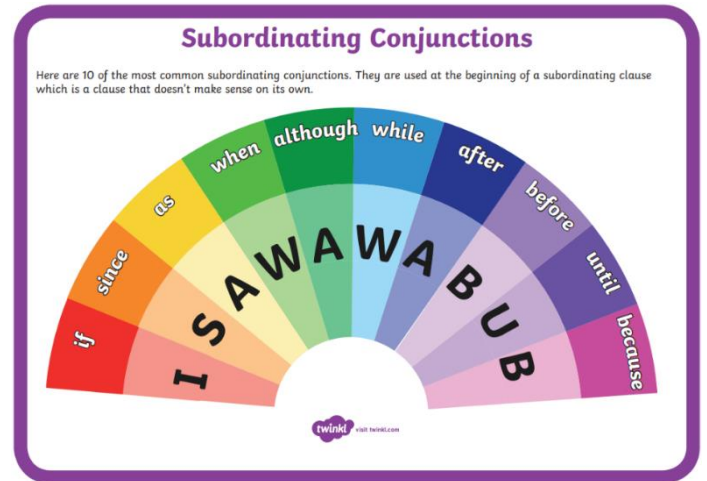
<http://history.parkfieldprimary.com/vikings/viking-longships>

Wednesday 27th January 2021

Task 1 - Nasty writing

Subordinating conjunctions can be used to ensure your writing is cohesive - flows.

This means your clauses link together with the **subordinating clause** (which starts with a **subordinating conjunction**) adding more detail to the **main clause** (The clause which makes sense on its own).



The Vikings fought the British for more land /because /their own land was too hilly to farm.

Complete the sentences below by adding a subordinating conjunction followed by a subordinating clause. Remember your subordinating clause needs to give more information to your main clause.

The Vikings wore thick tunics _____

Viking farmers grew crops on the land _____

Task 2

When reading large pieces of text, it is important to pick out the words that will help you to remember the text.

Key words are usually nouns, or noun phrases, which are key to understanding the rest of a text.

Take a look at this piece of text. Use a circle the words which you think are key words.

Sneaky ships

Their warships were sleek and fast. They could sail in just a metre of water, so they could sneak up rivers or be dragged onto beaches to launch surprise attacks. The largest longship could carry more than 60 rowers, along with horses and dozens of soldiers. Mice and rats also got on board and landed with the Vikings!

Here are the key words I identified.

Sneaky ships

Their warships were sleek and fast. They could sail in just a metre of water, so they could sneak up rivers or be dragged onto beaches to launch surprise attacks. The largest longship could carry more than 60 rowers, along with horses and dozens of soldiers. Mice and rats also got on board and landed with the Vikings!

Did you find the same ones as me?

Add these key words to the right sections of your table from lesson 2

Now you have a go with this piece of text.

Viking warriors fought using long swords and axes

The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'. But not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors.

Some came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle. They were farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.

Vikings sailed the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes.

Don't forget to add the key words you identified to your table.

Your table should now be full of fantastic bullet points and excellent key words which you can put in your report next week.

Thursday 28th January 2021

WALT: use similar writing to learn from its vocabulary and grammar

Part 1

Now that we've thought about the structure of our report, we need to think about the language we need to use in it!

Task 1 - Nasty Writing

Possessive apostrophes will be a great tool to use in your report. These are apostrophes that show who something belongs to.

Rules for Possessive Apostrophes

- If the root word doesn't end in an 's', then you need to add an apostrophe and an 's'. This is often the case with singular nouns (one thing).
Example: Freya's brother
- If the root word already ends in an 's', then you just need to add an apostrophe on the end. This is often the case with plural nouns (more than one thing).
Example: The Vikings' longships

For more explanation of possessive apostrophes, please follow this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/zxc9ydxs>

Try putting the possessive apostrophe in the right place in the phrases below.

1. The childs work
2. The babies toys
3. Henrys dog
4. Charles orange

Part 2 - Annotate a non-chronological report with the language devices used

In addition to possessive apostrophes there are also other language devices that we need to use in our report about the Vikings.

- Informal vocabulary
- Viking Vocabulary
- Co ordinating and subordinating conjunctions
- Pronouns to avoid repetition
- Past tense

Task 2

Your task is to find the given examples under each heading in the language devices table below, in the non-chronological report on the following page. Highlight each type of language device in the colour indicated.

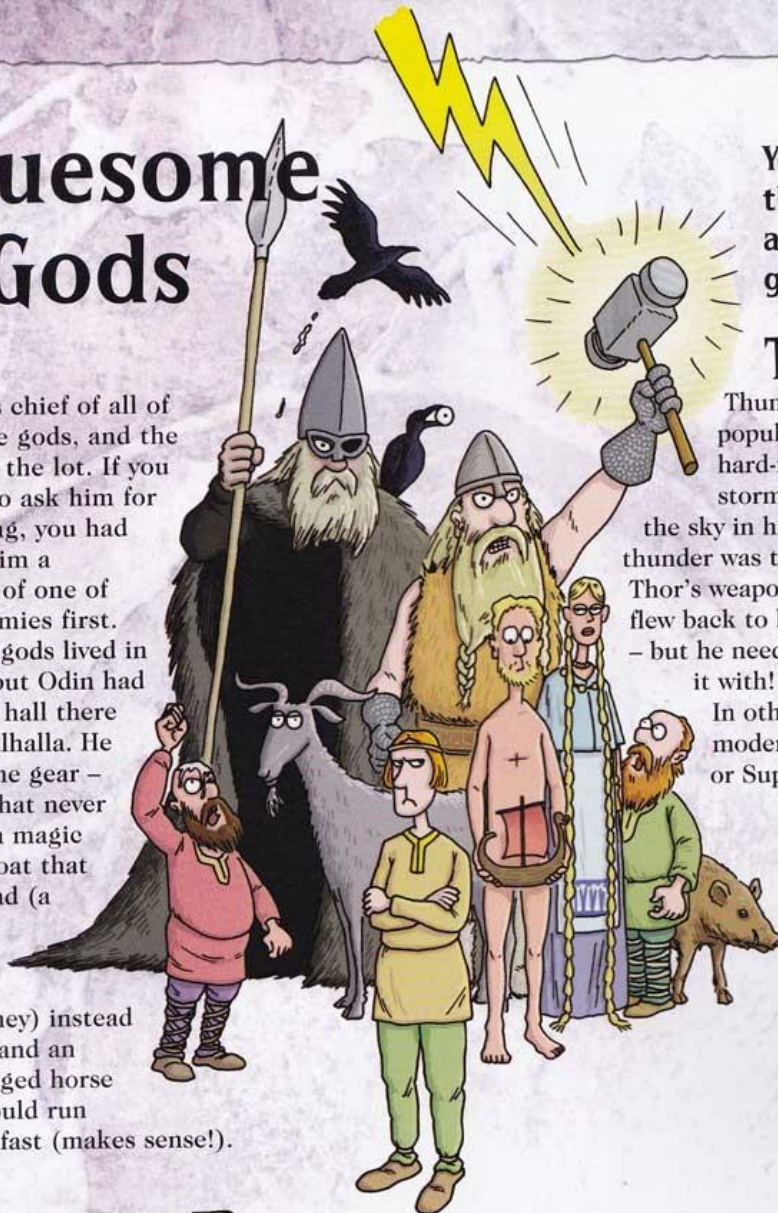
<p>Informal vocabulary A chatty style of writing, like you'd use when talking to a friend. Find the following examples of informal writing in the non-chronological report below. Highlight them in red when you have found them.</p> <p><i>all the gear</i> <i>throw 'em'</i> <i>handy snacks</i> <i>jumbo-sized</i></p>	
<p>Viking vocabulary This is vocabulary specifically used to talk about the Vikings. It tells the reader more about them e.g. Valhalla, langships... Find the following examples of Viking vocabulary in the non-chronological report below - Highlight them in blue when you have found them.</p> <p><i>chariot</i> <i>Asgard</i> <i>Valhalla</i> <i>langship</i></p>	
<p>Co-ordinating conjunctions Connect sentences of equal importance Find the following examples of co-ordinating conjunctions in the non-chronological report below - Highlight them in purple when you have found them.</p> <p><i>and</i> <i>but</i> <i>or</i></p>	
<p>Subordinating conjunctions Join a main clause to a subordinate clause Find the following examples of subordinating conjunctions in the non-chronological report below - Highlight them in green when you have found them.</p> <p><i>as</i> <i>if</i></p>	
<p>Possessive apostrophes They are used to show who something belongs to. Find the following examples of possessive apostrophes in the non-chronological report below - Highlight them in orange when you have found them.</p> <p><i>Freyja's</i> <i>gods'</i> <i>Frey's</i> <i>Thor's</i></p>	
<p>Pronouns to avoid repetition They are used to stop repeating the same noun over and over. It makes it easier to read. Find the following examples of pronouns in the non-chronological report below - Highlight them in yellow when you have found them.</p> <p><i>him</i> <i>he</i> <i>her</i> <i>they</i></p>	
<p>Past tense Used to show that something happened in the past. Find the following examples of past tense in the non-chronological report below - Highlight them in grey when you have found them.</p> <p><i>Was</i> <i>wanted</i> <i>had</i> <i>were</i> <i>wore</i></p>	

Gruesome Gods

ODIN

Odin was chief of all of the Norse gods, and the wisest of the lot. If you wanted to ask him for something, you had to give him a sacrifice of one of your enemies first.

All the gods lived in Asgard, but Odin had a special hall there called Valhalla. He had all the gear – a spear that never missed, a magic ring, a goat that gave mead (a kind wine brewed from honey) instead of milk, and an eight-legged horse which could run twice as fast (makes sense!).



You might think that the Vikings were mad and bad, but their gods were worse.

THOR

Thunder god Thor was the most popular Viking god: hard-drinking, hard-fighting and hard as nails! In stormy weather he would roll through the sky in his two-goat-power chariot – the thunder was the sound of its massive wheels. Thor's weapon was a mighty hammer that flew back to his hand once he had thrown it – but he needed special iron gloves to catch it with! He also wore a belt of strength. In other words, Thor was a bit like a modern comic superhero like Batman or Superman, complete with costume!

Foul Facts

The two giant goats that pulled Thor's chariot were also handy snacks. If Thor killed and ate them, but kept the skin and bones, they would magically come back to life!

Did you know?

The Vikings started off believing in this lot – but they ended up being Christians. The Viking King Harald became a Christian after he saw a priest hold a red hot piece of iron in his hand – without burning it! The priest said this proved Jesus was greater than all the Viking gods.

More of the Asgard gang...

Freyja was the goddess of love and marriage. Freyja was fancied by gods, dwarfs and giants, but her boyfriend was a giant boar!

Frey, Freyja's brother, was the god of crops and farming. Frey had a longship that could shrink down to pocket size. (Mind you, he probably didn't have any pockets as statues always show him naked!)

Loki lived with the gods but they could never quite trust him. He could help them – or betray them just for a laugh.

Norse dwarfs were short, nasty and you couldn't trust them as far as you could throw 'em! But they were good with their hands. They made the gods' magical gear, like Thor's hammer, Freyja's necklace, and Frey's magical boat.

...and last but *not* least – **giants** (not shown owing to size restrictions on this page) were the gods' jumbo-sized enemies. There were many kinds – fire giants, frost giants, stone giants – but they were all big bad news!