

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

For this lesson, you will need:

- ▶ Pen/pencil
- ▶ Colour pencils or highlighters
- ▶ Ruler (to underline words)
- ▶ Explanation text worksheet
- ▶ Technical vocabulary support sheet

LO: To identify features of an explanation text.

- ▶ I know the features of an explanation text.
- ▶ I can read and pick out features of an explanation text.
- ▶ I know the difference between instructive text and explanation text.

to hell itself where they belonged, never to return again.

The first his faithful companions saw of their beloved prince was his silver war-helmet breaking the waves. Then, with spirits high with joy, they rushed to the water's edge to help him, wondering at his battle trophies, all of them thanking God for his victory and his safe return unharmed to their side. Quickly they loosened his mail-shirt and helmet, and all welcomed him joyously, good friends and loyal hearth-companions. So they left that dreadful pool behind them, blood-red from shore to shore, and still as death. It was a place all of them were happy to leave, Beowulf most of all.

A bold spring in their step, carefree now at heart, they followed the well-trodden path back towards Heorot. It was a triumphant procession, but a slow one, for that

heavy head, Grendel's hideous head, had to be carried, and it was no easy matter I can assure you. It took four of the strongest Geats to hold the spear steady, the dreaded head stuck high on the point, glaring in death all about it as they went.

So with Grendel's head aloft they made their way to Heorot, fourteen brave Geats, and the great warrior prince. Marching into that splendid mead-hall they came, much to the surprise and joy of everyone there. As Beowulf held up that monstrous head by its unlovely locks, it was indeed as ugly a thing as any there had seen, an awesome sight, but one that no longer brought fear to their hearts, only rapturous relief and great gratitude towards this prince of warriors. They listened to him now, Hrothgar and his queen, and all the gathered thanes.

"We have brought back for you, great king of Denmark, all these trophies of

our victory. They were heavy indeed to carry but our heart-song made light of the burden. I will not pretend to you it was easy, my lord. It was a close-run thing this fight under water, a fight I very nearly lost before it had begun. Hrunting, fine weapon though it is, was useless against this she-wolf of the deep. But God was with me, and I thank only him for my victory. I snatched up another sword, a giant of a weapon, hanging there on the wall, and with it I avenged all the murder and misery inflicted on you by this family of fiends. First the monster's head I severed, then this grisly reminder still lying there from that earlier conflict. Your enemies are dead. You have your peace back, so all of you may now sleep safely in Heorot. We have seen the last of them, my lord king. Everyone here can rest assured of that, I promise you."



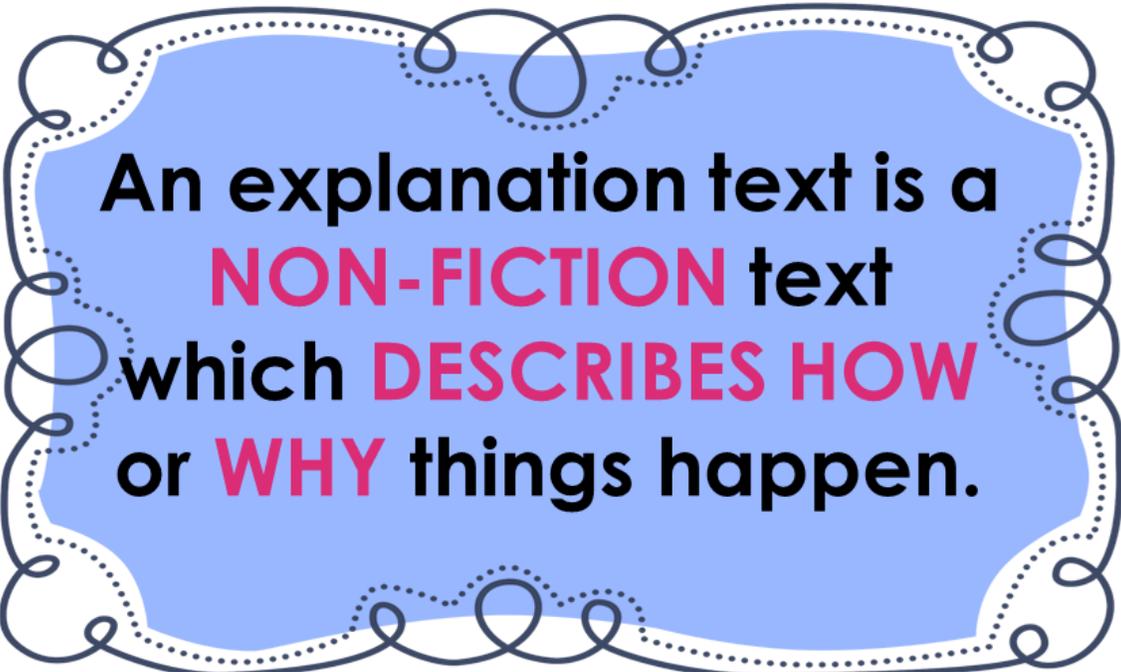
Then Beowulf presented to the silver-haired king the golden hilt, all that remained of the giant sword that had done such damage in the fight. So the hilt belonged fittingly to Hrothgar, the best and wisest of kings. He spoke now to the silent hall.

"Beowulf, my friend and best of men, your name and your nobility will

resound throughout the world, even in the farthest corners. I marvel not only at your strength, but at the wisdom of one so young. Stay as generous and peaceable as you are, Beowulf. Do not become as other heroes have before you, so tuned to battle that a thirst for blood consumes you. I tell you this because I am old in years, and I know

that all men, however noble and fine, are frail, and our lives are finite. At the height of our powers, when triumph succeeds triumph, we cannot imagine an end to our success. Pride grows within us, despite ourselves. We can easily forget that our powers are God-given, and should be used only in his service.

What is an explanation text?



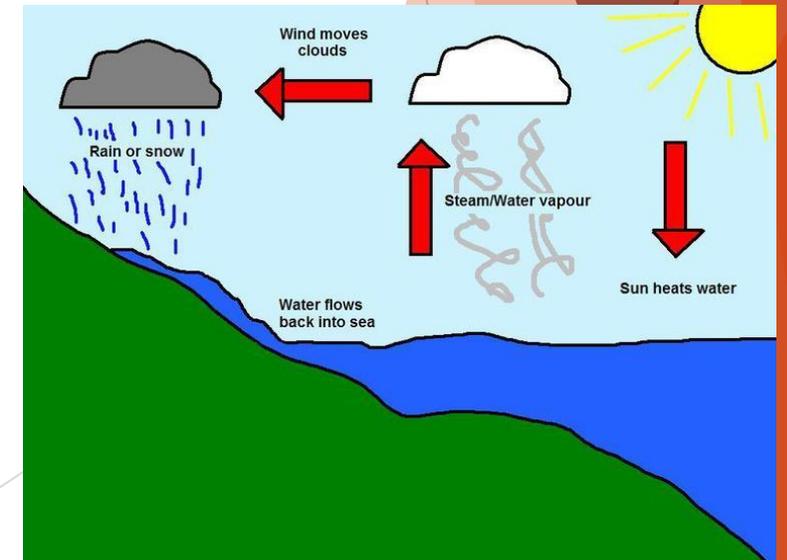
**An explanation text is a
NON-FICTION text
which DESCRIBES HOW
or WHY things happen.**

An explanation text is a non-fiction text which describes a process, for example: the water cycle or how bees make honey.

What are the features of an explanation text?

An explanation text has a variety of features. These include:

- ▶ An intriguing title.
- ▶ Subheadings
- ▶ The use of technical terms such as evaporation, degradation if writing about the water cycle.
- ▶ Action verbs (usually present tense) such as runs, develops and becomes
- ▶ Cause and effect terms such as because of..., due to..., therefore, and as a result
- ▶ Images or diagrams to refer to.



Let's look at this one together.

Title

Action verbs

Sub headings

Cause and effect

Technical vocabulary

Images/diagrams

Victorious Viking Longships

Although they lived almost 1,400 years ago, the Vikings are remembered for their raiding skills. This is largely due to the development of long distance transport during the time they lived. Fortunately, the Vikings built fast ships for raiding and war. These ships, as the were names, were 'dragon-ships' or 'longships' mainly because they were vast, but also due to the large ferocious dragon head at the front. Viking Longships were the beginning of serious, overseas journeys and the reason we can sail around so easily today.

How did longships help invasions?

There are several reasons why the Vikings became such successful invaders and that is mostly due to the style of the boat. The ships, which were perfect for sailing, were long and narrow, this meant they could travel quickly which was important in surprise attacks and get-aways. Another interesting fact is that Viking Longships could sail in shallow water, therefore they could travel up rivers as well as across the sea. This meant that the Viking warriors could get further in land to catch enemies unaware. During a raid, a ship could be hauled up on a beach, the Vikings could jump out and start fighting, and then make a quick getaway if they were chased.

How did the ship work?

As you can see from the image, a Viking ship had one large square sail made of woven wool and in some ships, the mast for the said could be folded down to slow sailing, or for wind-free journeys. When there was not enough wind for the sail, the men rowed with long wooden oars. Usefully, this meant they weren't dependent on the wind, therefore the oars were the main source of power. Another important thing to remember is that to steer the ship, one man worked a big steering oar at the back end, or stern. This meant that the boat could change direction to head towards a destination, or to avoid barriers in the water. When sailing using the sail, shields were tied over the oar holes. Not only were the shields were very important for protection in battle, but they also offered some protection from enemy attacks on the coastline.



Let's look at this one together.

Victorious Viking Longships

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As you can see, I colour coded my highlighting so that I can see the features clearly.

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Who were the Vikings?

The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100. During this period, many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland. When the people of Britain first saw the Viking longboats they came down to the shore to welcome them. However, the Vikings fought the local people, stealing from churches and burning buildings to the ground resulting in the people of Britain calling the invaders 'Danes', even though they came from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark.

Were the Vikings all bad?

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 as some came to fight, but others came peacefully to settle, because they were farmers and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings. This led to the Vikings sailing the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes.



In AD793 the Vikings famously attacked a monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria, north-east England. It was the start of a fierce struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. The Vikings were pagans, not Christians like most people living in Britain at the time. They did not think twice about raiding a monastery. Christian monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The monks had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures, like gold, jewels and books. There was food, drink, cattle, clothes and tools too – all very tempting to a Viking raider.

The 'great' Viking invasion

When the 'great' Viking army of AD865 sailed across the sea, they came to conquer rather than to raid. An army of Vikings sailed across the North Sea. This time they wanted to conquer land rather than just raid it. Over several years the army battled through northern England, taking control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and most of Mercia. This led to almost all the kingdoms falling to the Vikings by AD874. All except for Wessex due to king Alfred the Great beating the Viking army in battle.



After years of fighting the Vikings and Alfred made a peace agreement. But even after this agreement, fighting went on for many more years. An imaginary dividing line was agreed to run across England, from London in the south towards Chester in the north west. Thus, making the Anglo-Saxon lands to the west and the Viking lands, known as the Danelaw, were roughly to the east.

Technical vocabulary related to Vikings to support.

Vikings	Baltic	Iceland
fighting	barbarian	Europe
England	Britain	Ireland
Scandinavia	empire	plunder
attack	battlefield	brutal
brutality	anvil	helmet
King	medieval	myth
sail	savage	armies
enemy	expedition	Gods
loot	lands	navigation
coastal	combat	Invade
invader	pillage	seas
challenge	destroy	heathen
raids	settlements	compass
conquest	shield	voyage
ships	warfare	foreign
century	fierce	travel
saga	descendants	