



LANGUAGE ARTS

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 6

Language Arts 806

Language and Literature

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Author:

Judith Niven

Editor-in-Chief:

Richard W. Wheeler, M.A.Ed.

Editors:

Mary Ellen Quint, M.A.

Helen Robertson Prewitt, M.A.Ed.

Consulting Editor:

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Revision Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

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Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo

Lauren Faulk



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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Language and Literature

Introduction

Many students are unaware of the interesting history of our language. Modern English is the product of many languages and cultures. In this LIFE PAC® you will study about the changes in the English language. As you examine the development and characteristics of Old English and Middle English, you will become familiar with some of the literature produced by the Anglo-Saxons and the writers of Medieval England.

In the second section you will learn more about Modern English usage by studying coordination and subordination.

In the third section you will read two accounts from real life. One autobiographical selection describes a small country school. The other account describes Admiral Byrd's expedition to the South Pole.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Briefly explain the history of Old English.
2. Explain some of the differences between Old English and Middle English.
3. List some contributions to literature made by the Anglo-Saxons.
4. Identify and use correctly coordinate conjunctions, correlative conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs.
5. Subordinate a lesser idea to a main idea by using an adverb clause, an adjective clause, a phrase, or an appositive.
6. Describe the characteristics of autobiography.
7. Identify basic elements usually included in an autobiography.
8. Spell correctly some vocabulary words and some words with similar endings.

1. THE NATURE OF LANGUAGE

Hwaet rece we hwaet we sprecan.... Greek? Latin? Certainly it is an unknown language. Surprisingly enough, it is English, but this form of English is the forerunner of the language you speak and write daily. In this section you

will examine the history and characteristics of the Old English and Middle English language. You will also look at some examples from both periods that will enable you to understand the impact history has had on *written* language.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Briefly explain the history of Old English.
2. Explain some of the differences between Old English and Middle English.
3. List some contributions to literature made by the Anglo-Saxons.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

alliterative (u lit' u rā tiv). Lines of verse having words beginning with the same initial sounds.

dialect (dī' u lekt). The local characteristics of speech that deviate from a real or imaginary standard speech.

epic (ep' ik). A long narrative poem about the deeds of a hero.

inflection (in flek' shun). The change of form in words to indicate grammatical relationships such as number, case, gender, and so forth.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

OLD ENGLISH

The roots of English language and literature are found in the period of history known as the Anglo-Saxon, or Old English period. The Anglo-Saxon period dates from about A.D. 449 to A.D. 1066.

Old English history. Before the year 449, Britain had been occupied by the Celts and the Romans. The Celts were a warlike tribe that inhabited an area that extended from Ireland to Britain, to the continent (modern France, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland), to the Balkans, and to Asia Minor. The Celts spoke their own unique language. Some forms of this language still remain in Ireland, Wales, and Britain. The Celts in Britain were called Britons.

The Romans began to invade Britain in 55 B.C. because they wanted the resources, tin and wool, that the island could provide. The Romans remained in Britain until A.D. 449, when they took their troops out of Britain to defend Rome.

After the Romans left, the Britons had few defenses against their enemies. The Britain king, Vortigern, asked the Angles and the Saxons to help him defeat his Celtic enemies, the Picts and the Scots. What Vortigern did not realize, however, was that the Angles and the Saxons did not intend to leave Britain once they had helped him. These Anglo-Saxons went on to fight the Britons, whom they had come to

help. The Britons fled to the western hills, or were defeated.

By the sixth century Britain was almost completely occupied by the invading Germanic tribes, who began to establish small kingdoms. The names of these kingdoms reflected the names of the invader. Wessex was settled by West Saxon. Essex was settled by the East Saxons. East Anglia was settled by the East Angles, and so forth.

The culture, the traditions, and the language of these small tribes reflected a combination of the Germanic and the Latin-Roman influences as well as some Celtic remnants. The Christian church also influenced culture, tradition, and language. Monasteries had been established by the seventh century in both the North and the Southeast.

These monasteries became centers of learning and culture. Monks were sought as teachers by other countries. Charlemagne came to English monasteries to find teachers for his palace schools.

Between the sixth and the eighth centuries these early Germanic invaders established themselves in England. Together with those Britons and Romans who remained, they became the English nation. The Venerable Bede, a monk who was England's greatest scholar in the seventh and eighth centuries, wrote down the history of this early period in *The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*.

This period between the sixth and eighth centuries was also a period of relative peace. Many

of the poems that survived were probably composed at this time, even though the surviving manuscripts are from later times.

Late in the eighth century, Danish Vikings began to invade Britain. They raided monasteries and churches, destroying artifacts and manuscripts. These invasions continued for almost a century until Alfred, king of Wessex, finally stopped them and restricted these invaders to one section of land known as the Danelaw.

King Alfred, also called Alfred the Great, was a soldier and a scholar. After he had defeated the Danes, Alfred worked to restore England to the level of culture and education that it had known before the Danish invasions began. Alfred set up new schools and had many works translated from Latin and Greek into Anglo-Saxon so that the people could learn to hear these works in a familiar language.

After Alfred died, Wessex continued to be a center of learning. Alfred's heirs eventually won back the Danelaw and England became a united country. In 1017, a Danish king, Cnut captured England and made it part of his Danish kingdom.

In 1042 an English king, Edward the Confessor, once again ruled. His reign lasted until his death in 1066. After Edward's death, two men tried to claim the English throne, one from Wessex, and one from Normandy. In 1066 William of Normandy won the struggle in what is called the Norman Conquest. This date marks the end of Anglo-Saxon England. From this point in history, the Normans influenced culture, tradition, and language.

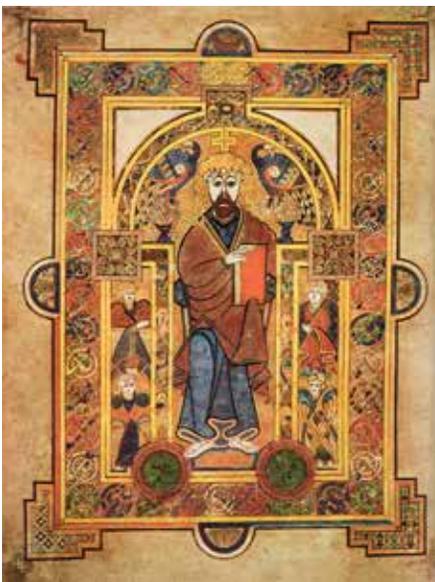


Match these items.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|----|--------------------|
| 1.1 | _____ | Celts | a. | Monk |
| 1.2 | _____ | Romans | b. | Danish king |
| 1.3 | _____ | Bede | c. | Latin king |
| 1.4 | _____ | Vortigern | d. | Britons |
| 1.5 | _____ | Cnut | e. | 55 B.C. - A.D. 449 |
| | | | f. | Briton king |

Answer true or false.

- 1.6 _____ The Anglo-Saxons were Germanic.
- 1.7 _____ The Christian church had no influence.
- 1.8 _____ The Danish Vikings invaded England in the late eighth century.
- 1.9 _____ The Danelaw was a king.
- 1.10 _____ Alfred the Great defeated the Danes.
- 1.11 _____ Edward the Confessor led the Norman Conquest.
- 1.12 _____ The Norman Conquest in 1066 ended the Anglo-Saxon period.

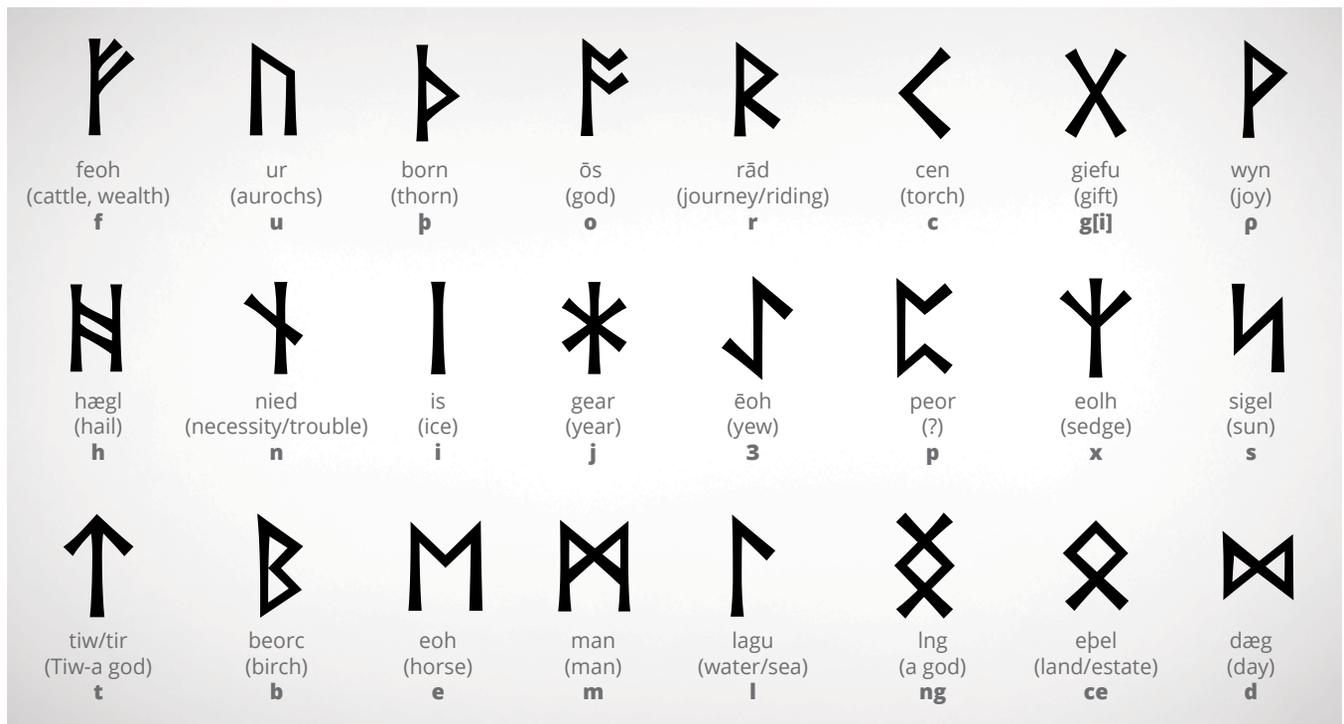


Old English language. In Anglo-Saxon England, the language spoken was basically a Germanic language that had been influenced by Latin. This language also had **dialects**, each slightly different from the others. The four main dialects of Anglo-Saxon are called Northumbrian, Mercian, West Saxon, and Kentish. If Anglo-Saxon had remained untouched by the Norman Conquest, the language known as English today would be very different.

Anglo-Saxon was an **inflected** language. It did not depend on word order in the way that Modern English does.

The best way to understand the differences between Anglo-Saxon and Modern English is to look at some examples of each language.

Some words have changed very little or not at all since the Anglo-Saxon period. Many pronouns, for example, are nearly the same today as they were a thousand years ago. Study the following pronoun charts (on the adjacent page) and notice the similarities and the differences between these two languages. (The “þ” was pronounced “th.”)



| Anglo-Saxon Runic Alphabet

Anglo-Saxon Pronouns					
	first person	second person	third person		
<i>singular</i>	ic	þū	hē	hit	hēo
	min	þīn	his	his	hiere
	mē	þē	him	him	hire
	mē	þē	hine	hit	hie
<i>plural</i>	wē	gē	hīe		
	ūre	ēower	hiere		
	ūs	ēow	him		
	ūs	ēow	hīe		

Modern English Pronouns					
	first person	second person	third person		
<i>singular</i>	I	you, thou	he	it	she
	mine or my	yours, thine, or thy	his	its	hers
	me	thee	him		her
<i>plural</i>	we	you or ye		they	
	our	your		theirs	
	us			them	



Complete this activity.

1.13 Find the pronouns that have remained the same and list them.

- a. _____ d. _____
- b. _____ e. _____
- c. _____ f. _____

Before looking at more Anglo-Saxon words, the Anglo-Saxon vowel sounds must be studied. The vowel sounds are slightly different and include at least two vowels, “y” and “æ” that

Modern English no longer uses. The “y” had a sound like a German “ü.” The “æ” had a sound like the “a” in *hat*.

Anglo-Saxon Vowels

a	as in <u>h</u> ot	ī	as in <u>t</u> een
ā	as in <u>f</u> ather	o	as in <u>a</u> udio
æ	as in <u>c</u> at	ō	as in <u>wr</u> ote
æ	as in <u>d</u> ad	u	as in <u>f</u> ull
e	as in <u>b</u> et	ū	as in <u>r</u> oom
ē	as in <u>l</u> ate	y	as in German <u>ü</u>
i	as in <u>h</u> it	ȳ	as in German <u>ü</u>

Some consonant sounds also differ from Modern English.

Anglo-Saxon Consonants

ċ	as in <u>ch</u> alk
c	as in <u>c</u> ard
cg	as “dg” in <u>ri</u> dge
f	as in <u>f</u> ather (in the beginning of a word)
f	as in <u>o</u> ver (between two vowels)
ġ	as in <u>y</u> es
g	as in <u>g</u> et
h	as in <u>h</u> ear <u>t</u> (in the beginning of a word)
h	as in German “ch”
sc	as in <u>sh</u> ip
þ	as in <u>th</u> in
ð	as in <u>th</u> em



Complete these activities.

1.14 Study the pronunciation charts and try pronouncing these words with a friend.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| a. fæder | e. mōdor | i. hwā |
| b. dohtor | f. mann | j. hwær̄ |
| c. dæg | g. eorþan | k. scēap |
| d. bæc | h. pēer | l. scip |

1.15 Now try to translate the words in 1.14 into Modern English. Work with a helper if you have difficulty.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | b. _____ |
| c. _____ | d. _____ |
| e. _____ | f. _____ |

- g. _____ h. _____
 i. _____ j. _____
 k. _____ l. _____

Write the letter of the correct answer.

- 1.16** Anglo-Saxon was a ____ language.
 a. Germanic b. Spanish c. Greek
- 1.17** Anglo-Saxon was a (an) ____ language.
 a. fragmented b. inflected c. simple
- 1.18** The main Anglo-Saxon dialects were Kentish, Northumbrian, ____ .
 a. Latin, and German b. French, and Latin
 c. Mercian, and West Saxon
- 1.19** The Anglo-Saxon pronoun for *it* was ____ .
 a. *ic* b. *hit* c. *hiere*
- 1.20** The Anglo-Saxon word for mother is ____ .
 a. mother b. *mōdor* c. *mæder*

Once the vowels and consonant differences are understood, reading some Anglo-Saxon no longer seems so difficult. The following two examples are taken from things that are often read and heard.

Faeder ūre, þū þe eart on heofonum, si þin nama gehālgod. Tobecume þin rīce. Gewurþe ðin willa on eorþan swā swā on heofonum. Ūrne gedaeghwāmlīcan hlāf syle ūs tō daeg. And forgyf ūs ūre gyltas, swā swā wē forgyfaðūrum gyltendum. And ne gelæd þū ūs on costnunge, ac ālys ūs of yfele. So þlice.

Gospel excerpt (Mark 4:4–8)

(4) And þā hē sēow, sum fēoll wið þone weg, and fugelas cōmon and hit fræton. (5) Sum fēoll ofer stāns-cyligean, þār hit næfde mycele eorðan, and sōna ūp ēode; and for ðām hit naede eorðan þiccnesse, (6) þā hit ūp ēode, sēo sunne hit forswælde, and hit forscranc, for þām hit wyrtruman næfde. (7) And sum fēoll on þornas; þā stigon ðā pornas and forðrysmodon þæt, and hit wæstm ne bær. (8) And sum fēoll on gōd land, and hit sealde ūppstīgendne and wexendne wæstm; and ān brōhte prītīgfealdne, sum syxtīgfealdne, sum hundfealdne.

SELF TEST 1

Answer true or false (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.01 _____ Mercian is an Anglo-Saxon dialect.
 1.02 _____ Beowulf was a monk.
 1.03 _____ Sutton Hoo was a Danish king.
 1.04 _____ An elegy is a serious poem.
 1.05 _____ Vortigern invited the Anglo-Saxons to England.
 1.06 _____ The Norman Conquest brought the end of the Anglo-Saxon time.
 1.07 _____ Cnut was an Anglo-Norman king.
 1.08 _____ Bede wrote a history of the English people.
 1.09 _____ "Widseth" was a Modern English poem.
 1.010 _____ The "Wanderer" was a seaman.

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.011 _____ Beowulf | a. Norman Conquest |
| 1.012 _____ Chaucer | b. epic |
| 1.013 _____ "Seafarer" | c. Britons |
| 1.014 _____ 1066 | d. <i>Canterbury Tales</i> |
| 1.015 _____ Alfred | e. 55 B.C.–A.D. 449 |
| 1.016 _____ Bede | f. elegy |
| 1.017 _____ Celts | g. eorðan |
| 1.018 _____ Romans | h. Norman king |
| 1.019 _____ father | i. monk |
| 1.020 _____ earth | j. fæder |
| | k. Anglo-Saxon king |

Write the modern English word (each answer, 2 points).

1.021 dæg _____

1.026 knyght _____

1.022 mann _____

1.027 hit _____

1.023 hwær _____

1.028 heofonum _____

1.024 scip _____

1.029 trouthe _____

1.025 pær _____

1.030 forgyf _____

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

1.031 Chaucer lived in the _____ century.

1.032 The dialect that Modern English came from is the _____ dialect.

1.033 The Normans spoke _____ .

1.034 The leader and his men formed a _____ in Anglo-Saxon times.

1.035 The Anglo-Saxon monk who was a scholar and historian was _____ .

1.036 Gnomes are _____ .

1.037 The Anglo-Saxon word for *me* was _____ .

1.038 Middle English short _____ were nearly the same as those in Modern English.

1.039 The Crusades introduced Europe to a new _____ .

1.040 After 1066 many _____ words were added to the language.

Answer these questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.041 What was Sutton Hoo?

1.042 Why was Sutton Hoo important? _____

72 90	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials	date
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ABC Take your spelling test of Spelling Words-1.



LAN0806 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-86717-376-5



9 780867 173765



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
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