



**Beowulf Project Packet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three people groups:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

Their king was most likely the inspiration for the tales of \_\_\_\_\_

**Anglo-Saxon Society**

The Anglo-Saxons society was made up of highly organized \_\_\_\_\_, ruled by \_\_\_\_\_ who were chosen by \_\_\_\_\_.

The upper class, earls or free warriors were known as \_\_\_\_\_.

Thralls were \_\_\_\_\_.

A small group who earned possessions and special favors were known as \_\_\_\_\_.

The Anglo-Saxons \_\_\_\_\_, maintained \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, especially metalwork.

Eventually, the small kingdoms developed into seven large ones:

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. |    |

This development produced a new language: \_\_\_\_\_.

Anglo-saxons lived close to their animals in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

They lived in \_\_\_\_\_ homes surrounding a \_\_\_\_\_ and protected by a wooden \_\_\_\_\_.

**Six characteristics of Anglo-Saxons include:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Anglo-Saxon Women**

The wife of an earl or thane supervised weaving \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ (fermented honey).

Women inherited and \_\_\_\_\_.

Married women retained control over their \_\_\_\_\_.

With the coming of Christianity, many women entered \_\_\_\_\_, and some became powerful \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Scops**

The communal hall offered \_\_\_\_\_ and a place for \_\_\_\_\_.

The communal hall was also a place for \_\_\_\_\_ who shared (orally) the stories of the Anglo-Saxons and their gods and heroes.

The Anglo-Saxons valued \_\_\_\_\_ as equal to fighting, hunting, and farming.

A line of Anglo-Saxon or Old English poetry is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ and

is divided in half by a pause \_\_\_\_\_.

### Types of Anglo-Saxon Verse

\_\_\_\_\_ : recounts the achievements of warriors involved in great battles

\_\_\_\_\_ : sorrowful laments that mourn the deaths of loved ones and the loss of the past

Anglo-Saxon poets: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### Anglo-Saxon Beliefs

Anglo-Saxons were \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ meaning they worshiped more than one god.

They also had a very \_\_\_\_\_ view of life (due to the ever-present dangers of death by accident or warfare).

They believed in \_\_\_\_\_ or wyrd as they called it.

They did not believe in an \_\_\_\_\_.

Immortality was only earned through \_\_\_\_\_.

The early Anglo-Saxons worshipped ancient Germanic or Norse gods:

- ✦ Odin/Woden: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ Fria: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ Tiu: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ Thunor/Thor: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ Frijz/Frigga: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ The names of these gods survive today in our words \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ The dragon: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### The Coming of Christianity

The church brought education and written literature to England. Monks established churches, monasteries, and libraries. Monks recorded and duplicated illuminated manuscripts, at first only written

in Latin. Oral literature was transcribed into written form. Monks preserved not only Latin and Greek classics but also popular literature (*Beowulf*).

The Venerable Bede was a \_\_\_\_\_ who was considered \_\_\_\_\_.

He wrote \_\_\_\_\_ which is the clearest account we have of Anglo Saxon times.

### The Danish Invasion

Due to rising population and limited farmland, many Scandinavians (the Norse and the Danes) took to the seas—the Vikings.

In \_\_\_\_\_, Danish raiders attacked Britain.

The Norse settled in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

The Danes targeted eastern and southern \_\_\_\_\_.

The Vikings

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By the middle of the ninth century, most of England had fallen. The Vikings called their territory

\_\_\_\_\_.

Danish Contributions:

- ✦ Built their Danelaw communities as military fortresses and trading centers
- ✦ Generated growth of English towns
- ✦ Expanded English vocabulary as Norse words crept into the language
- ✦ For example, *law* is Danish, and its use reflects the Danes' interest in legal procedures.

## Vocabulary

Caesuras-

kennings-

✦ There are three types of kennings.

✦ Compound-

✦ Prepositional phrases-

✦ Possessives-

Assonance-

Alliteration-

Admonish-

Sentinel-

Fervent-

Rancor-

Compassionate-

Grievous-

Winsomeness-

Rapture-

Redress-

Blithe-

Reparation-

Solace-

Purge-

Writhing-

Massive-

Loathsome-

Dichotomy \_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

## The Epic

The epic is a long \_\_\_\_\_, that celebrates the deeds of a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ figure.

Epics are some of \_\_\_\_\_ of literature.

Epics give us insight into a people's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs.

Epic heroes often battle forces that threaten the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Characteristics of an Epic Hero

- ✦ Strong-
- ✦ Ethical-
- ✦ Quest-
- ✦ Glorified-



## Legendary Hero

A legendary hero is a larger-than-life character whose accomplishments are told in tales.

Beowulf's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ make him a legendary hero.

He embodies the things his culture holds dear: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Beowulf

- ✦ *Beowulf* is an \_\_\_\_\_, a long, \_\_\_\_\_, about a great pagan warrior renowned for his courage, strength, and dignity.
- ✦ *Beowulf* is the \_\_\_\_\_, because it is was the first such work composed in the English language.
- ✦ The poem includes references to Christian ideas and Latin classics but also present are the values of a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✦ Written \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ Author: \_\_\_\_\_
- ✦ Often called the \_\_\_\_\_ of English literature
- ✦ Written in what is now called \_\_\_\_\_

✦ Only \_\_\_\_\_ complete original copy remains

### The Mead Hall

The society they lived in hinged on the mead hall as its \_\_\_\_\_.

It was the place where the warriors could be with their lord in peace and safety.

During this time period having a lord to serve was the way society worked. To not have a Lord or a mead hall was to not have a \_\_\_\_\_.

Social, governmental, emotional \_\_\_\_\_.

✦ Mead = \_\_\_\_\_



### Beowulf Part One

#### The Wrath of Grendel

1. How does the poet describe the land where Hrothgar and his men live?
2. What is the name of the evil spirit, "who dwelt in the darkness"?
3. Where did this monster come from?
4. What made the monster attack the mead hall?
5. For how long does the battle between Hrothgar and Grendel go on?
6. Who do the Danes pray to for help?

#### The Coming of Beowulf

7. Why did the wise one's let Beowulf sail to Hrothgar's rescue?
8. How many men does Beowulf take with him?

9. Who greets Beowulf when he lands and what does he ask?
10. Beowulf makes a speech to Hrothgar. Describe the deeds he has done.
11. With what weapon does Beowulf plan to fight Grendel? Why?
12. What does Beowulf's speech to Hrothgar reveal about his personality?



#### The Battle with Grendel

13. From the description of Grendel's attack, list four words or phrases that describe Grendel.
14. To what are Grendel's eyes compared? Quote the line.
15. How many of Beowulf's men does Grendel kill?
16. During the account of the battle between Beowulf and Grendel, the narrative point of view keeps shifting. From whose point of view is the battle described in the following lines:  
  
Lines 285 to 342  
  
Lines 342 to 365  
  
Lines 366 to 410
17. Why would the poet use different points of view to describe the battle?
18. What injury does Beowulf inflict on Grendel?
19. What was the proof of victory?
20. What happens to Hrothgar's closest friend?
21. How many monsters were there really?

22. Indicate the correct sequence of events in the poem by listing the letters in their proper order:

- a. Grendel slinks off, back to his sea-cave lair
- b. Beowulf hears of Grendel's ravages in Hrothgar's mead-hall.
- c. Beowulf tears Grendel's arm and shoulder from his body.
- d. Grendel attacks the mead-hall while Beowulf's men sleep.
- e. A feast of celebration is held in Herot.
- f. Beowulf arrives at Hrothgar's mead-hall.

23. What element of the poem makes it similar to a fairy tale?

#### The Monster's Lair

24. Who is this new monster?

25. Describe the place where the monsters live. Which words does the poet use to create a sense of dread?

26. What promises does Hrothgar give to Beowulf?



#### The Battle with Grendel's Mother

27. What parts of the underwater battle are unrealistic?

28. What is wrong with the sword Beowulf brought with him?

29. What saves Beowulf's life?

30. How is Beowulf able to kill Grendel's mother?

31. What two items did Beowulf take with him from the cave?

32. After Hrothgar honors Beowulf for his victories what does Beowulf do? What becomes of Beowulf?

33. How long does Beowulf govern his kingdom?

#### The Last Battle

34. What beast now threatens Beowulf's kingdom?

35. Describe Beowulf's speech to his men before he goes into battle.

36. What weapons will Beowulf use in this battle? Why?

37. What happens when Beowulf attacks the beast?

38. When Beowulf is in trouble what do his men do?

39. Who comes to aid Beowulf?



#### The Spoils

40. What does Beowulf's giving of his rings and necklace to Wiglaf signify?

41. What does Beowulf ask Wiglaf to do with his body? Why?

42. What happens to the treasure they won from the dragon?

43. What do you think will happen to Beowulf's kingdom after his death? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.