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# THE GODS OF THE TEUTONS, SECTION 1

## *Introduction, pp. 5-6*



### FACTS TO KNOW

1. **Woden (Odin)** – *king of the gods; "mighty warrior"*
2. **Sleipnir** – "eight-footed horse" ridden by Woden
3. **Thor** – *god of thunder; son of Woden; weapon is hammer that returns to him when he throws it*
4. **Tiew** – *god of battle; son of Woden; weapon is sword that flashes like lightning*
5. **Frija** – *queen of the gods; wife of Woden; rules the clouds and causes them to rain*
6. **Baldur** – *white god; son of Frija; night turns into day wherever he goes*
7. **Loki** – *spirit of evil*
8. **barbarian tribes** – *Goths, Vandals, Huns, Franks, Anglo-Saxons*

### VOCABULARY

1. Teutons \_\_\_\_\_ collective name for Germanic peoples
2. dialect \_\_\_\_\_ variant of a language; not considered a separate language
3. tempest \_\_\_\_\_ violent storm, especially at sea
4. waft \_\_\_\_\_ to carry gently through the air, as on a breeze
5. brandish \_\_\_\_\_ to wave in a menacing way, as a sword
6. burnish \_\_\_\_\_ to polish to a shine
7. mistletoe \_\_\_\_\_ parasitic shrub with evergreen leaves and waxy white berries

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

According to Germanic mythology, what is:

1. the tempest \_\_\_\_\_ snorting of Sleipnir
2. winds at sea \_\_\_\_\_ Woden's breath
3. lightning \_\_\_\_\_ Thor's hammer flying through the air
4. thunder \_\_\_\_\_ Thor's hammer striking the ice mountains
5. rainbow \_\_\_\_\_ bridge between heaven and earth

Days of the week:

6. Tuesday is the day of \_\_\_\_\_ Tiew
7. Wednesday is the day of \_\_\_\_\_ Woden
8. Thursday is the day of \_\_\_\_\_ Thor
9. Friday is the day of \_\_\_\_\_ Frija

10. Who are the king and queen of the Germanic gods?

Woden (or Odin), Frija

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11. What is unique about Thor's hammer?

Thor's hammer returned to him after he threw it.

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12. What does Frija rule? the clouds in the summer sky

What does she control? the rain

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13. What makes the happiness of spring and summer?

Baldur's presence

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14. What makes the gloom and sadness of winter?

Baldur's death

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15. Why was Baldur killed?

Baldur was killed because he came to earth and fell in love with an earthly princess.

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16. How was Baldur killed?

Baldur was killed by an arrow of mistletoe made by Loki, the spirit of mischief and evil.

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## ACTIVITIES

1. Draw a family tree of the Teutonic gods, including Woden, Thor, Tiew, Frija, Baldur.

Sleipnir, Woden's "eight-footed horse," did not really have eight feet. "Eight-footed" is a way of saying that Sleipnir was very fast and very powerful.



# THE GODS OF THE TEUTONS, SECTION 2



## Introduction, pp. 6-8

### FACTS TO KNOW

1. **Valkyrie** – female warrior angels; rode unseen through the air carrying slain warriors to Valhalla
2. **Valhalla** – hall of the slain; slain warriors fight a battle from daybreak to nightfall, then drink mead served each night by the Valkyries
3. **Ginnungagap** – great void before the world existed; name means "yawning abyss"
4. **Ymir** – frost giant; killed by the gods, world made out of his body parts
5. **world tree** – great ash tree whose branches cover the earth and almost touch the stars
6. **Heimdall** – sentry of heaven; requires little sleep and can see a hundred miles
7. **Norns (Fates)** – live near the roots of the underworld; water the world tree
8. **rainbow** – bridge used by the gods to come to earth

### VOCABULARY

1. goblet \_\_\_\_\_ drinking vessel with a stem and base
2. mead \_\_\_\_\_ wine made of honey
3. abyss \_\_\_\_\_ deep cavern

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Germanic mythology, what came before the world?  
 Before the world, there was a great empty space called Ginnungagap in the place where the world is now. To the north of Ginnungagap was a land of ice and snow without life. To the south was an ice-free land of warmth and light.
2. According to Germanic mythology, how was the world created?  
 Sunshine from the south melted the ice of the north, which fell into the gap and became the frost giant Ymir. Woden and his brothers killed Ymir, whose body parts became the world.
3. According to Germanic mythology, how was the earth made inhabitable?  
 The gods took sparks from the land of light, making the sun, moon, and stars. The sun warmed the earth and life was born.

4. How is the world tree nourished?

The roots of the world tree are fed by the Norns (Fates) with water from a sacred spring.

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5. According to Germanic mythology, how will the world end?

The frost giants will destroy the earth. There will be three terrible year-long winters; the sun and moon will fall from the sky; the earth will be shaken apart; the mountains will fall; the trees, including the world tree, will be torn up; the earth will sink into the sea.

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6. How will a new earth be born?

Heimdall's alarm will bring together the gods, who will defeat the frost giants. New earth will rise from the sea; forests and crops will grow; a new eternal heaven brighter than Valhalla will be created.

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## ACTIVITIES

1. Recount the story of Ymir.
2. Draw a detailed picture of either the world tree or Valhalla. Drawing pages are available at the end of the unit.
3. Compare and contrast the creation stories of Greek mythology and Germanic mythology.

### ACTIVITIES ANSWER KEY

1. In order to gain control of the frost giant Ymir, the gods broke up his body and made the world of it. But this world was too cold to have life. So the gods took the sun, moon, and stars and put them in the sky of the world, to give it warmth and life.

3. In both mythologies, the world was created out of primordial chaos and darkness. The Germanic myths say how this came about, by the joining of primal cold and warmth. The Greek myths only say that it happened long ago, and began with the creation of life (Mother Earth), from the mutual love between the young earth and the sky.



# TAMERLANE (1333-1405)

## Chapter 30, pp. 137-138



### FACTS TO KNOW

1. **Tamerlane (Timour)** – Mongol warlord; conquered one of the largest empires in history
2. **Genghis Khan** – ancestor of Tamerlane; creator of another great central Asian empire
3. **Mongols** – nomadic central Asian people
4. **Samarkand** – ancient city of Turkistan; Tamerlane's capital
5. **Bajazet** – sultan of Turkey; defeated by Tamerlane and paraded in a cage

*"As there is but one God in heaven, there ought to be but one ruler on the earth."* – **Tamerlane**

### VOCABULARY

1. dominion realm; sovereign territory
2. sultan ruler of Turkey

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was Tamerlane? What does "Tamerlane" mean and what was his real name?

Tamerlane was one of the greatest of the Mongol warlords and empire builders. His real name was Timour. He was lame and therefore called (in English) Timour the  
Lame, which became Tamerlane.

2. Describe Tamerlane, his ancestry, his nationality, and his rise to power.

Tamerlane was a Mongol and a descendant of Genghis Khan. He was tall, strong,  
lame in the right leg, a good rider, brave, and cruel. He became chief of his tribe at 24  
and chief of all the Mongols a few years later.

3. Outline the first (western) phase of Tamerlane's conquests.

After conquering Turkistan and establishing his capital at Samarkand, he conquered  
Persia, the Tigris-Euphrates valley, and part of Russia.

4. Describe the next phase of the conquest (India, Turkey).

He invaded India, conquered Delhi, and established control over the northern and western parts of the country. He then captured Baghdad and took the Turkish sultan Bajazet prisoner, parading him in a cage.

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5. Describe Tamerlane's ambitions for a final phase of conquest and why it did not happen.

Tamerlane had ambitions to conquer China and assembled an army of 200,000 for the purpose. He got sick and died just as the invasion began. His empire then broke up.

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## ACTIVITIES

1. Locate on your maps:

- **Countries:** Russia, Turkistan, India, Persia, Turkey, China
- **Cities:** Samarkand, Delhi
- **Bodies of Water:** Tigris River, Euphrates



# HENRY V (1413-1422)

## Chapter 31, pp. 139-141



### FACTS TO KNOW

1. **Henry V** – king of England; known as Prince Hal in his youth; remembered for conquests in France and the victory at Agincourt; protagonist of one of Shakespeare's greatest histories
2. **John Falstaff** – fat old knight; companion of the young Henry
3. **Agincourt** – famous English victory against much superior force in 1415 A.D.
4. **Princess Katherine** – daughter of king of France; wife of Henry V

*"I would not have a single man more. If God gives us victory, it will be plain we owe it to His grace. If not, the fewer we are, the less loss for England."* – **Henry V**

*"War has three handmaidens: fire, blood, and famine. I have chosen the meekest of the three."* – **Henry V**

### VOCABULARY

1. coronation ceremony and act of crowning a monarch
2. garrison military post, usually permanent

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Henry V one of England's favorite kings?  
He was handsome, brave, and good-natured, and he conquered France.
  
2. What event caused Prince Hal's father, the king, to comment, "Happy is the monarch ..."?  
Arrested and sentenced to jail for threatening a judge, he submitted to the punishment with good humor.
  
3. How did Henry's campaign in Normandy begin?  
Henry raised an army of 30,000. Half of this was lost to sickness before the campaign began.
  
4. What was Henry's justification for it?  
Henry reasserted his great-grandfather's claim to the throne of France.

5. Why was Agincourt such a remarkable victory for the English?

Henry fought and won against a French force four times larger than his, on their native soil. It was the triumph of the English long bow, which killed thousands of French at a distance and seriously intimidated the rest.

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6. How did Henry gain control over the whole of Normandy?

Henry took several other cities and ultimately laid siege to Rouen. When the citizens became so desperate that they were threatening to burn their own city, Henry offered generous terms of surrender, which were accepted. The war went on for two more years, ending in triumph at Paris.

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7. What came of Henry's victories?

Henry died two years after his victory in France. His son, by the age of 20, had lost all the territories he had conquered in France except Calais.

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## ACTIVITIES

1. Locate on your maps:
  - **Countries:** Normandy
  - **Cities:** Agincourt, Rouen, Paris
2. Update your timeline to include the battle of Agincourt.