

## YEAR 8 HISTORY OF ENGLISH KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

### Key Words

- **Invaders** - a person or group that invades a country or other place in order to take over
- **Innovators** – a person who introduces new ideas or concepts to the world
- **Inventors** – a person who dedicates their life to the creation of new technology
- **Idioms** An idiom is a commonly used expression whose meaning does not relate to the literal meaning of its words  
E.g. *'Green eyed monster' means to be jealous*
- **Loan words** Words borrowed from another ('source') language, e.g. 'wife', 'house' and 'father' are from Old English/German, whereas 'alphabet', 'biology' and 'music' are from Greek.
- **Etymology** The study of the origins (true facts) of a word

### Key Skills

- **Learn** how English has changed as a language from Anglo-Saxon time to present day
- **Discover** the origins of the English Language
- **Explore** how different cultures have influenced English
- **Write** persuasively about your views on the English Language

### Who is responsible for changes in the English Language?

#### Invaders

- People in Britain spoke **Celtic** before English
- **Anglo-Saxons** invaded from Northern Europe in 449AD and brought Old English
- **Vikings** invaded from Scandinavia in 787AD and brought their naming of places: towns ending '-by'
- **Normans** and William the Conqueror invaded in 1066 – **French** influence; brought words such as 'royal', beautiful' and 'beef'
- **Latin** – language used in church services, introduced words such as 'interrogate' and 'popular'
- **British invasion** of other countries led to British rule across the **world**
- English spread across the globe because of the **migration** from England to other countries and because of American's global position
- **'Other' Englishes** now exist – American, Caribbean and South African



#### Innovators

- Oldest story in English: **Beowulf** – about a brave warrior called Beowulf who comes to help a Danish village under attack from a monster, Grendel
- **Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales** – including the Knight and the Wife of Bath. The Knight is an honourable man and the Wife of Bath has a strong personality
- **William Shakespeare**: the first recorded user of over 1700 words; created **idioms** such as 'green-eyed monster' and 'in a pickle'
- **Dr Samuel Johnson's dictionary** – first English dictionary finished in 1755. At first he thought he could 'secure' language from 'corruption and decay' by recording it in his dictionary, but he learned that language could not be controlled. He realised that his job was to record the language of the time



#### Inventors

- **Caxton** invented the **printing press** which meant that texts could be published widely
- **The British Broadcasting Corporation** – 1936
- Technological developments – 1922 – **radio** meant that people could hear other accents
- **Invention of mobile phones and social media**: 'Text speak' is created



#### Attitudes towards language change

- **Prescriptivists** - People who believe we should have strict rules about how English is used
- **Descriptivists** - People who believe we should record the words people are using and we don't need to control language (because we can't!)
- **Evolution** – the idea that our language has developed gradually, especially from a simple to a more complex form – our language has evolved, developed and changed

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### Debate Content

You should think about what your opinion is on the following. You will be asked to explain your opinion about one of the ideas below:

- **Who** is responsible for changes in the English language: **invaders, innovators or inventors?**
- The **control of language** (the idea that there is correct and incorrect language)
- **Slang** (non-Standard English) - should people be able to speak slang? When is it appropriate/inappropriate?
- **Technology's** impacts on language (e.g., telephone, radio, television, social media)
- What might happen to English in the **future?**

### Persuasive Techniques

You could practise writing paragraphs in response to the possible debate content, using some of the techniques below:

- Clear, well-punctuated paragraphs with your ideas explained fully
- Structural features: short and long sentences
- Facts
- Statistics
- Rhetorical question
- Repetition
- Triples
- Emotive language
- Range of punctuation
- Direct address – using you, we, our to address the audience

### How to use persuasive techniques:

- **Facts** – It's a fact that Vikings invaded from Scandinavia in 787AD and brought their naming of places: all of the towns ending '-by' come from them!
- **Statistics** (facts using numbers) – We know that Shakespeare is the first named user of over 1700 words, so it's clear that he had an enormous impact on our language.
- **Rhetorical question** - We all know that our spoken language and our written, assessment language in lessons is different, don't we?
- **Repetition** - Anglo Saxons changed our language. Vikings changed our language. Invaders changed our language!
- **Triples** - "Green eyed monster", "in a pickle" and "love is blind": these are all idioms that Shakespeare created.
- **Emotive language** - It shocks and appals me that anyone could say that Shakespeare isn't one of the founders of our language!

### Sentence Stems

- *Have you ever wondered why...?*
- *Imagine a world where...*
- *Irritating, obnoxious and fake: US English is taking over British slang... (3 adjective list: statement)*
- *Everyone knows that...*

### Ambitious Vocabulary

- Detrimental – causing harm to
- Absurd/Ludicrous – ridiculous
- Evolving – developing and improving
- Efficient – simpler and quicker
- Incensed/ Irate – angry/annoyed