

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of the Viking Age, the Norman Conquest, the Middle Ages, and the reign of King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I. They will explore the cultural, political, and social dynamics of these periods through engaging activities and discussions.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for note-taking and reflections
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (if applicable)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, paper) for creative projects
- Timer or clock for managing activity durations
- Printed maps of Europe during the Viking Age and the Norman Conquest (if available)

Before starting the lesson, review the key events and figures from each historical period to provide context for the activities. Familiarize yourself with basic timelines and significant contributions from these eras.

Activities

• Viking Ship Design

The student will design their own Viking ship, considering the materials and technology available during the Viking Age. They can draw or build a model using everyday materials. Discuss the importance of Viking ships in exploration and trade.

• Norman Conquest Role Play

Engage in a role-play activity where the student can take on the roles of key figures during the Norman Conquest, such as William the Conqueror or King Harold. They will reenact the Battle of Hastings and discuss the impact of the conquest on England.

• Medieval Feast Planning

The student will plan a medieval feast, researching foods that were popular during the Middle Ages. They can create a menu and discuss the significance of food in medieval society, including social classes and customs.

• Henry VIII and Elizabethan Drama

Explore the reign of Henry VIII and the Elizabethan era by writing a short play or monologue based on events from that time. The student can perform their piece, incorporating historical facts and figures.

Talking Points

- "The Viking Age was marked by exploration, trade, and raids. Can you think of why the Vikings were so successful in their travels?"
- "The Norman Conquest in 1066 changed the course of English history. What do you think were the biggest impacts of this event?"

- "During the Middle Ages, society was structured around feudalism. How do you think this system affected the lives of common people?"
- "King Henry VIII is famous for his six marriages and the English Reformation. What were the reasons behind his desire to break from the Catholic Church?"
- "The Elizabethan era is often referred to as the Golden Age of England. What cultural achievements do you associate with this period?"