



Mythological Creatures Field Guide

Free classroom resources

Norse Sagas

Five classroom posters, A3

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Fenrir	3	8
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- These posters are A3. To print one on A4, choose "Fit to page" in your print settings.
- The QR code on each poster opens mythologicalcreatures.net/resources.

Fenrir

Say it **FEN-ree** Norse runes **FMRIR**

A giant wolf chained up by the gods, from the Norse myths of the Vikings.

Two iron chains snapped like dry sticks. So Fenrir made a magic ribbon from impossible things, like a fish's breath.

Only brave Tyr dared to feed Fenrir. When the gods tricked the wolf, Tyr lost his hand for it.

Where it comes from: About 1,000 years ago Carving: Thorwald's Cross About 800 years ago Book: Snorri's Prose Edda Today: Place: Thorwald's Cross, Isle of Man

Why might the Vikings tell a story where only impossible things can hold him?

Snorri wrote that at the end of the world, Fenrir's jaws open from the earth to the sky. Here he is, brought to life.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

Follow the ribbon to find out more

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Jörmungandr

Say it **YOR-mun-gahn-dr** Norse runes **YRMNDR**

A sea serpent that circles the world, from the Norse myths of the Vikings.

Thor went fishing with an ox head as bait. He hooked the serpent, but the scared giant Hymir cut the line. A different story. Another giant challenged Thor to lift a cat. He managed one paw. The cat was really Jörmungandr in disguise.

Where it comes from: Nearly 1,000 years ago Carving: the Ålunda stone About 800 years ago Book: Snorri's Prose Edda Today: Place: the Fishing Stone, Gosforth, Cumbria

Thor and Jörmungandr would destroy each other when the world ended. Why might the Vikings tell a story that ends badly?

Snorri says it was big enough to circle the world and bite its own tail. This is how we picture it.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

Follow the serpent to find out more

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Surtr

Say it **SOOR-tr** Norse runes **SRTR**

A fire giant who rules a land of flames, from the Norse myths of the Vikings.

The rainbow bridge broke when Surtr and his army of fire giants rode across it on horseback.

Stars in the sky began as sparks from his land of fire, wrote Snorri.

Where it comes from: Over 1,000 years ago Poem: a vision of the end, told aloud About 800 years ago Book: Snorri's Prose Edda Today: Place: Surtrary, a new island

Surtr's fire burns the old world, but a green new world rises afterwards. Can an ending also be a beginning?

Snorri wrote that the burned to heart of Surtr and belated his, and his sword shone brighter than the sun. This is how we picture him.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

Follow the sword to find out more

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Valkyrie

Say it **VAL-kir-ee** Old Norse Valkyrja

A spirit who decides who lives and who falls in battle, from the Norse myths of the Vikings.

Nine Valkyries rode through a stormy sky. Sigurð led them and kept Hild's ships safe at sea. She lived three lives with a new name each time.

Where it comes from: About 1,200 years ago Figurine: Hildy figure, Denmark About 750 years ago Poem: Snorri's Prose Edda About 180 years ago Folktale: Billy Goats Gruff About 140 years ago Drawing: Kittenen's trolls Today: Place: the Troll's Path, Norway

Valkyries took brave fallen warriors to Odin's hall. Why might Viking warriors have wanted to believe this?

Old poems give Valkyries helmets and spears, but Viking artists often showed them hiding out drinking horns. We chose the warrior.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

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Troll

Say it **TROHL** Norse runes **TRHT**

A huge, bad-tempered giant of the mountains, from Norse myths and Scandinavian folk tales.

Sunlight turns trolls to stone. One chased a fisherman until dawn and froze into a rock pillar. Some trolls are so big that whole hillsides look like their sleeping bodies.

Where it comes from: About 800 years ago Book: Snorri's Prose Edda About 180 years ago Folktale: Billy Goats Gruff About 140 years ago Drawing: Kittenen's trolls Today: Place: the Troll's Path, Norway

Trolls turn to stone in sunlight. Why might people tell stories like this about strange rocks?

In the oldest Norse stories, trolls could be clever and magical, but the big, clumsy troll came later. Here he is. This is the troll who fell, not the other troll.

Danger **Magi** **Power** **Speed** **Size** **Spooky**

Cross the bridge to find out more

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This page is blank on purpose: it is the back of the cover.

Fenrir

Say it **FEN-reer**

Norse runes **F M + R I R**

A giant wolf chained up by the gods,
from the Norse myths of the Vikings.

Two iron chains snapped like dry sticks. So dwarves made a magic ribbon from impossible things, like a fish's breath.

Only brave Tyr dared to feed Fenrir. When the gods tricked the wolf, Tyr lost his hand for it.

Where it comes from:

About 1,000 years ago

Carving: Thorwald's Cross

About 800 years ago

Book: Snorri's Prose Edda

Today

Place: Thorwald's Cross, Isle of Man

Why might the Vikings tell a story where only impossible things can hold him?



'Fenrir' may mean 'fen-dweller'

Snorri wrote that at the end of the world, Fenrir's jaws open from the earth to the sky. Here he is, brought to life.



Danger



Magic



Power



Speed



Size



Spooky



Follow the ribbon
to find out more



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Jörmungandr

Say it **YOR-mun-gahn-dr**

Norse runes “**ᚫᚱᚦᚢᚷᚱᚦᚢᚱ**”

A sea serpent that circles the world,
from the Norse myths of the Vikings.

Thor went fishing with an ox head as bait. He hooked the serpent, but the scared giant Hymir cut the line.

A different story. Another giant challenged Thor to lift a cat. He managed one paw. The cat was really Jörmungandr in disguise.

Where it comes from:

Nearly 1,000 years ago

Carving: the Altuna stone

About 800 years ago

Book: Snorri's Prose Edda

Today

Place: the Fishing Stone,
Gosforth, Cumbria

Thor and Jörmungandr would destroy each other when the world ended. Why might the Vikings tell a story that ends badly?



Snorri says it was long enough to circle the world and bite its own tail.
This is how we picture it.



Danger



Magic



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Follow the serpent to find out more



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Surtr

Say it **SOOR-tr**

Norse runes **ᚱᚱᚦᚱ**

A fire giant who rules a land of flames,
from the Norse myths of the Vikings.



The rainbow bridge broke when Surtr and his army of fire giants rode across it on horseback.

Stars in the sky began as sparks from his land of fire, wrote Snorri.

Where it comes from:

Over 1,000 years ago

Poem: a vision of the end, told aloud

About 800 years ago

Book: Snorri's Prose Edda

Today

Place: Surtsey, a new island

Surtr's fire burns the old world, but a green new world rises afterwards. Can an ending also be a beginning?



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'Surtr' means 'the black one'

Snorri wrote that fire burned in front of Surtr and behind him, and his sword shone brighter than the sun. This is how we picture him.



Danger



Magic



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**Follow the sword to
find out more**



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Valkyrie

Say it **VAL-kir-ee**

Old Norse **valkyrja**

A spirit who decides who lives and who falls in battle,
from the Norse myths of the Vikings.



Nine Valkyries rode
through a stormy sky.
Sigrún led them and kept
Helgi's ships safe at sea.

She lived three lives with a
new name each time.

Where it comes from:

About 1,200 years ago
Figurine: Hårby figure,
Denmark

About 750 years ago
Book: the Poetic Edda,
Iceland

Over 150 years ago
Opera: Wagner's 'The
Valkyrie'

Valkyries took brave fallen
warriors to Odin's hall.
Why might Viking warriors
have wanted to believe
this?



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**'Valkyrie' means
'chooser of the slain'**

Old poems give Valkyries helmets and spears, but Viking artists often
showed them holding out drinking horns. We chose the warrior.



Danger



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Troll

Say it **TROHL**

Norse runes **TRÖI**

A huge, bad-tempered giant of the mountains, from Norse myths and Scandinavian folk tales.



Sunlight turns trolls to stone. One chased a fisherman until dawn and froze into a rock pillar.

Some trolls are so big that whole hillsides look like their sleeping bodies.

Where it comes from:

About 800 years ago

Book: Snorri's Prose Edda

About 180 years ago

Folktale: Billy Goats Gruff

About 140 years ago

Drawing: Kittelsen's trolls

Today

Place: the Troll's Path, Norway

Trolls turn to stone in sunlight. Why might people tell stories like this about strange rocks?



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'Troll' once meant any monster or giant

In the oldest Norse stories, trolls could be clever and magical, but the big, clumsy troll came later, from folk tales. This is the folk-tale troll, not the older Norse one.



Danger



Magic



Power



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Cross the bridge to find out more



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Danger ●●●●●

Magic ●●○○○

Power ●●●●●

Speed ●●●●○

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Spooky ●●●●●



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Jörmungandr

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means ‘great beast’

Snorri says it was long enough to circle the world and bite its own tail.
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