The Anglo-Saxon Legacy

A.D. 449 ___________________________ sweep ashore from Germany. The invaders push the Celts into the far west of Britain.
The Anglo-Saxon Legacy

History of the Times

- Angle and Saxon clans impose a ____________ on the island for six centuries.

- Until ninth century, Britain is subject to constant invasions and battles.

- ____________ unites Anglo-Saxons against the invading Danes.

- The spread of ________________ helps unify the Anglo-Saxons.
The Anglo-Saxon Legacy

The Anglo-Saxon bards

• also called __________

• strummed harp as they sang

• sang of heroic deeds

• were often warriors

Why were the scops important?

• The __________ were the ancient historians of the time; the stories of the ancient world were told by them.
The Anglo-Saxon Legacy

Literature of the Times

- ___________ emerges as a written language.

- _______________ copy ancient manuscripts, preserving classical and Anglo-Saxon texts.

- Historical poems in _______________ detail events of early English history.
The Epic Tradition

Characteristics of an Epic:

• Incredible plot, involving large-scale events
• _____________________________________________
  _____________________________________________
• Long narrative poem about ________________
• Larger-than-life hero (known as ____________) who embodies the values of a particular culture
The Epic Tradition

The Epic Hero

Epic heroes are ________________, but are still susceptible to _______________________

- who carry the status and power of gods within themselves
- who remain subject to the joys and hardships of the human condition
The Epic Tradition

The Epic Lives On

Today, the epic tradition thrives in our own popular culture, where a diverse array of larger-than-life characters appear . . .

- in movies
- in television shows
- in fantasy novels
- in video games
- in comic books

These characters, both male and female, are often superhuman and easily recognizable as descendants of the ancient heroes.
Beowulf
Introducing the Epic
Beowulf
Introducing the Epic

*Beowulf* is

- 
- 
- 
- 

![Image of dragon teeth]
Beowulf
Introducing the Epic

Characters

**Beowulf:** nephew of_______, king of the Geats. He owes Hrothgar a family debt, and has traveled a long way to help him fight a monster.

**Hrothgar:** ________________

**Grendel:** man-eating monster who lives ____________________________

**Grendel’s mother:** water-witch who seeks______________.
Beowulf
Introducing the Epic

Places

Herot: ___________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

TIP
Beowulf
Introducing the Epic

Places

• *Beowulf* ________________________________.

  ▼

• Scholars think __________ might have been built on the coast of Zealand, in Denmark.
Beowulf
Translations of *Beowulf*

*Beowulf* was composed in **Old English**. The versions you will read were translated by Burton Raffel and Seamus Heaney.

Their translations reflect these features of Anglo-Saxon poetry:
And with old woes new wail my dear time’s waste.

The emphasis on the w sound in this line from Shakespeare’s Sonnet 30 creates a melancholy tone.
Out from the marsh, from the foot of misty hills and bogs, bearing God’s hatred, Grendel came, hoping to kill Anyone he could trap on this trip to high Herot.
The **kenning** is another poetic device that was used by the oral poet. A kenning is

Examples of kennings from *Beowulf*:

- **gold-shining hall** = Herot
- **guardian of crime** = Grendel
- **strong-hearted wakeful sleeper** = Beowulf
- **cave-guard and sky-borne foe** = dragon
Create modern-day **kennings** for things you see around you.

**Beowulf**
Translations of *Beowulf*

- giver of words
- word-wand

[End of Section]