

## Y8 HISTORY OF ENGLISH: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

### Key Words

- **Evolve** develop gradually, especially from a simple to a more complex form.
- **Empire** -a group of countries ruled by a single person, government, or country
- **Immigration**-the act of someone coming to live in a different country
- **Idioms**-An idiom is a commonly used expression whose meaning does not relate to the literal meaning of its words  
*eg green eyed monster means jealous*
- **Prescriptivism**-Writers and academics who believe we should have strict rules about how English is used.
- **Descriptivism**- Writers and academics who believe dictionaries should record the words people are using.
- **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.
- **Colloquial**-informal language used mainly in conversation
- **Etymology** the study of the origins (true facts) of a word
- **Dialect**- a regional variety of language distinguished by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation

### 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

### Help/Support

- 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.....

### Essential information

#### Old English

- People in Britain spoke Celtic before English
- Anglo-Saxons invaded from Northern Europe
- Vikings and their naming of places: places ending -by
- Normans and William the Conqueror - French influence; brought words such as 'royal', beautiful' and 'beef'
- Latin – language used in church services, introduced words such as 'interrogate' and 'popular'
- Oldest story in English: Beowulf – about a brave warrior called Beowulf who comes to help a Danish village. They are under attack from a monster, Grendel.

#### Middle English

- 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.
- 'Other' English – American, Caribbean and South African
- All of the above led to the spread of the English language around the world

#### Early modern/Modern English

- William Shakespeare: **idioms** such as 'green-eyed monster' and 'in a pickle'
- The Great Vowel Shift – sound change affecting the long vowel sounds in the English language
- Dr Samuel Johnson's dictionary – first English dictionary. 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 he could not 'embalm' language but that his job was to record the language of the day
- Caxton invented the printing press which meant that texts could be published widely.

#### Empire

- 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

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### Twentieth century developments

- The British Broadcasting Corporation - 1936
- Technological developments – 1922 - radio meant that people could hear other accents
- Text speak has been created

#### 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.

- The control of language (the idea that there is correct and incorrect language)
- **Prescriptivism** (language has rules and we should all follow them) vs **descriptivism** (language is defined by use)
- 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?

#### Methods:

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
- Range of punctuation
- Alliteration
- Repetition
- Direct address
- Rhetorical question
- Triples
- Emotive language
- Opinions/facts
- Statistics