



Norse Myth

Belief Study Guide Version 3.1

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Introduction to the past beliefs of people living in what is now northern Europe. For the purpose of these sheets, "myth" indicates belief systems that are no longer widely practiced.

Deities

Answer	Details
Odin	All-Father and leader of the Æsir ; father of Thor ; hung himself on Yggdrasil for nine days to gain wisdom, and traded an eye to gain wisdom by drinking from Mimir's well; destined to be killed by Fenrir at Ragnarök ; owns the ravens Hugin and Munin , the eight-legged horse Sleipnir , the spear Gungnir , and a ring that replicates itself named Draupnir
Thor	god of thunder ; son of Odin and husband of Sif ; owns the short-handled hammer Mjölknir ; has a long-standing feud with Jörmungandr , who he will kill at Ragnarök only to take nine steps and die; rides a chariot pulled by goats named "Tooth-Grinder" and "Tooth-Gnasher"
Loki	trickster; after he tricks Hodr into killing Baldr , he is punished by being tied beneath a serpent that drips venom onto him, causing earthquakes; his release will trigger Ragnarök , during which he will lead an army against the Æsir ; father of Jörmungandr , Fenrir , and Hel with Angerboða ; mother of Sleipnir ; sometimes considered a Jotunn or half-Jotunn
Freyja	goddess of love, sex, and beauty; sister of Freyr ; takes half of the warriors killed in battle to her hall, Fólkvangr ; rides a chariot pulled by cats ; owns the necklace (torc) Brisingamen
Heimdall	guardian of Bifröst who can hear and see all; nicknamed the White God ; the son of nine mothers
Baldr	son of Frigg , who made everything in the world promise not to hurt Baldr; Frigg forgot to get a promise from mistletoe , so Loki tricked Baldr's blind brother, Hodr , into throwing a spear made of mistletoe at Baldr, killing him; Baldr owns the boat Hringhorni and his consort is Nanna

Non-Human Beings

Answer	Details
Fenrir	enormous wolf, one of the three monstrous children of Loki with the Jotunn woman Angrboða ; bit off the hand of Tyr , the god of war; destined to swallow Odin during Ragnarök
Jörmungandr	enormous snake that lives in the ocean and encircles the world of humans; one of the three monstrous children of Loki with the Jotunn woman Angrboða ; often hunted by Thor; destined to kill and be killed by Thor at Ragnarök
Dwarves	highly skilled crafters; a group of them, called the Sons of Ivaldi , created Freyr's ship Skiðblaðnir , Odin's spear Gungnir , and a golden wig for Sif after Loki cut off her hair; another of them, Brokkr, mis-cast Thor's hammer Mjölknir , with a short handle when Loki, disguised as a fly, bit his eye
Jötunn	sometimes called "frost giants;" inhabit Jötunheim; Angrboða , Loki's consort, is one

Places, Objects, and Events

Answer	Details
Ragnarök	destined destruction and rebirth of the world, beginning when Loki leads the Jötnar (Jötunns) against the Æsir ; called Götterdämmerung, or " Twilight of the Gods " in German
Yggdrasil	" World Tree ," a giant ash tree that connects the nine worlds, including Midgard , the realm of humans, and Asgard , the realm of the gods
Valhalla	Odin's mead-hall in Asgard
Bifröst	rainbow-bridge between Asgard and Midgard ; guarded by Heimdall