

Background teaching notes to Milo's Holiday Scrapbook: Normandy

Welcome to this Holiday Postcard and Scrapbook resource from *Bonjour Milo!*

This resource could link to curricular work on the Second World War and The D Day landings.

On the attached PowerPoint you will find photos and bilingual diary writing from Milo illustrating Milo's seven-day visit to Normandy. Extra information about the sites he visits are noted below.

At the end of the presentation there is an idea for an art activity based on the half-timbered houses typical of this region.

Please note the copyright notes included on this disc. We have special permission from Reading Museum to include the picture of the Bayeux Tapestry. You have the right to use the photos within your own school. You may not store or change the photos in this resource without written permission from Sparkle Speak Language Resources Ltd. We can not grant any permissions linked with the Bayeux Tapestry photo.

We have included a PDF version of the PowerPoint in this post too.

Please feel welcome to contact us with any questions or feedback. We are always looking to develop our resources so your feedback is valued. You can email us. We hope your pupils enjoy exploring this resource.

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Jennie Wilson and Ruth Wood

Sparkle Speak – Dart Education

contact@darted.co.uk

Normandy

Normandy is named after the Scandinavians (literally Norsemen or men from the north) who settled in northern France in the 9th and 10th centuries.

They quickly adopted the local language and mixed it with their own to make a new language called Norman French.

A century later, in 1066, a descendant of one of these Vikings, led an army to conquer England in the Battle of Hastings. He was William, Duke of Normandy, better known of course as William the Conqueror.

Agriculture

Normandy is famously the site of the D Day Landings of June 1944, a turning point in the Second World War, when the Allies launched a mass invasion of western Europe.

Over the space of six days, more than 300,000 Allied troops and 50,000 vehicles landed on five beaches along the Normandy coast.

Rouen

Rouen is the capital of Upper Normandy, a city of about 110,000 on the banks of the Seine and

In the Middle Ages it was one of the biggest and richest cities in northern Europe.

It was here in 1431 that Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake for heresy at the age of 19. A national heroine and Catholic saint, she was a peasant girl who, believing she was acting

under divine guidance, led the French army to victory in a battle against the English at Orléans during the Hundred Years War.

One of the main sights in Rouen is the Gros Horloge (the big clock), an astronomical clock that dates back to the 16th century.

Le Petit Train de Rouen

The Little Rouen Train is one of many miniature tourist trains throughout Normandy and Brittany that give visitors guided tours of towns and attractions.

Le Bec Hellouin

This village of 500 people is famous for its pretty half-timbered houses but its working monastery also has interesting ties with England.

Founded in 1034 by a Norman knight, it was well supported by followers of William the Conqueror and three of its Benedictine monks went on to become Archbishops of Canterbury.

Another, Gundulf, came to England in 1070 and went on to become Bishop of Rochester and architect of the Tower of London.

Bayeux Tapestry

The image we have included in this resource is The Crossing, Scene 2, William's Ship. The Bayeux Tapestry is actually an embroidery that tells the story of the Norman Conquest of England by William the Conqueror.

Some 70 metres long, it was probably commissioned in the 1070s by William's half-brother Bishop Odo of Bayeux though nobody knows for certain.

Some historians argue that it was actually embroidered in Kent, England.

The tapestry contains some 50 scenes depicting the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066 when William, Duke of Normandy, defeated Harold, Earl of Wessex, to become king of England.

It was stitched in wool yarn on linen cloth.

The original hangs in a dedicated museum in the Normandy town of Bayeux.

A full-size Victorian replica is on display in the Museum of Reading, England. Called Britain's Bayeux Tapestry, it was created in 1886 by seamstress Elizabeth Wardle and fellow members of her Leek School of Art Embroidery, with help from the famous textile designer William Morris.

For more information and free teaching resources visit www.bayeuxtapestry.org.uk/

Mont St Michel

Mont St Michel is a rocky tidal island off the Normandy coast with a Benedictine abbey perched dramatically on its summit.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the islet and surrounding bay of sandbanks and mudflats, is the most popular tourist attraction in Normandy, drawing three million visitors a year.

According to legend, the Archangel Michael appeared to Aubert, bishop of Avranches and told him to build a church on the islet. Aubert repeatedly ignored the angel until Michael burned a hole in the bishop's skull with his finger.

The church was built in 709 and in the 10th century the islet was settled by Benedictine monks who in 1067 threw their support behind William, Duke of Normandy in his claim to the English throne.

They were rewarded with land on the English side of the Channel, including a small rocky

tidal island off the south Cornish coast near Penzance where there was already a thriving religious centre dedicated to St Michael. The monks built a church on its summit and it became St Michael's Mount, an English counterpart to the Norman abbey.

Deauville

Deauville has been one of France's most fashionable seaside resorts since the 19th century.

With its high society villas, grand casino, racecourse, marina and international film festival, it is often described as the Parisian Riviera.

Honfleur

Honfleur is a town on the mouth of the Seine estuary, across from Le Havre.

It is famous for its historic and picturesque port and its tall slate-covered houses, which have been painted by many famous artists including Claude Monet – contributing to the emergence of the Impressionist movement.

The St Catherine church in the town is the largest wooden church in France