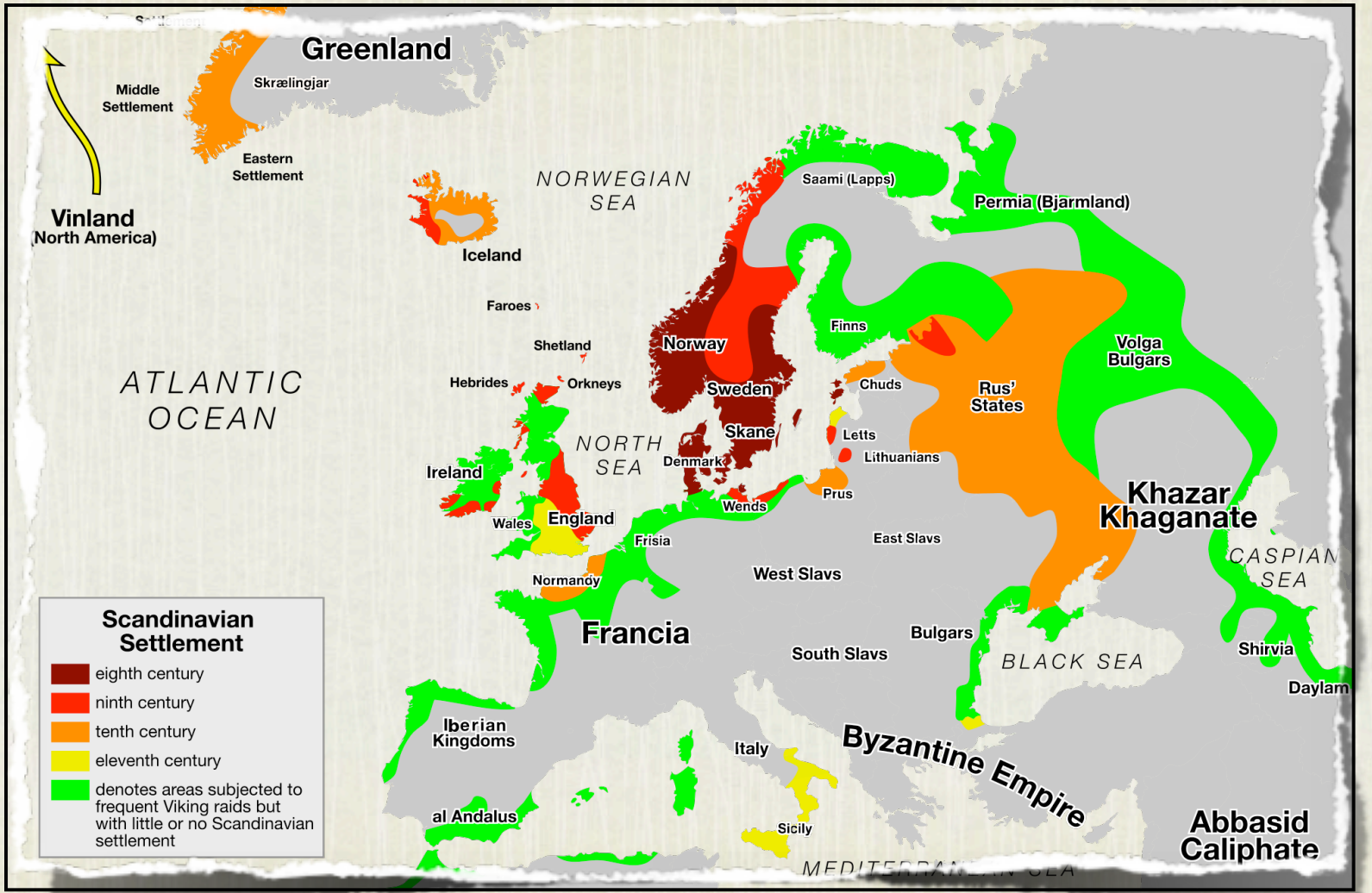
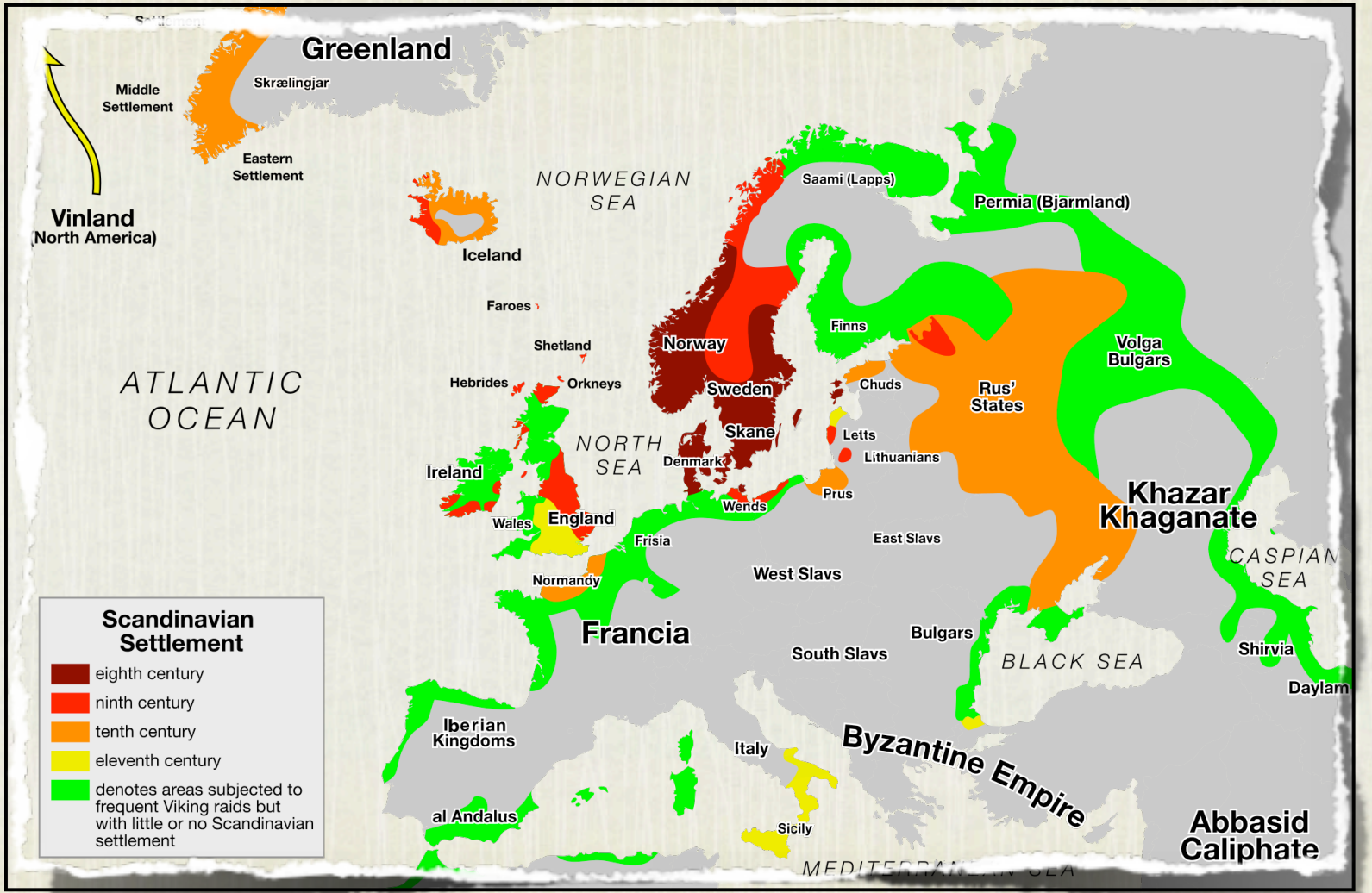
VIKINGS
&
NORSE MYTHOLOGY



WARM-UP

What can you infer about the Vikings from the map and data above ?



WARM-UP

What can you infer about the Vikings from the map and data above ?

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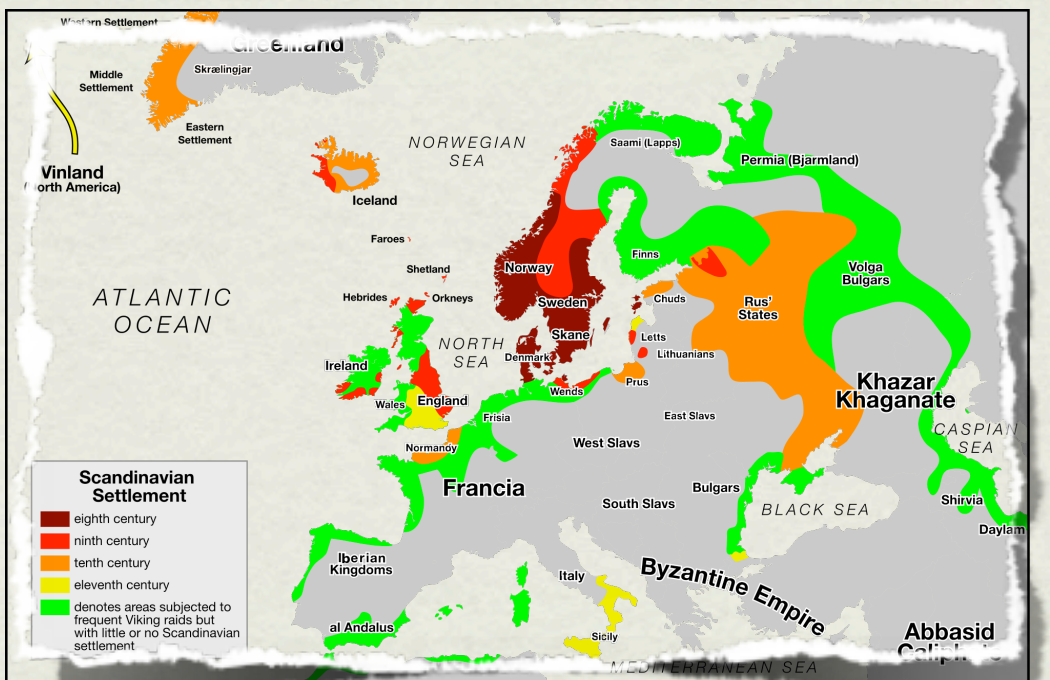
Whip-around


Middle Settlement
Skrælingjar
Eastern Settlement
Vinland
orth America)
Iceland
NORWEGIAN SEA
Saami (Lapps)
Permia (Bjarmland)
Faroes
Shetland
Norway
Finns
Volga Bulgars
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Hebrides
Orkneys
Sweden
Chuds
Rus' States
Skane
Letts
NORTH SEA
Denmark
Lithuanians
Ireland
Wends
Prus
Khazar Khaganate
Wales
England
Frisia
East Slavs
CASPIAN SEA
Normandy
West Slavs
Francia
Bulgars
Shirvia
South Slavs
BLACK SEA
Daylam
Iberian Kingdoms
Italy
Byzantine Empire
Abbasid
al Andalus
Sicily
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Scandinavian Settlement
eighth century
ninth century
tenth century
eleventh century
denotes areas subjected to frequent Viking raids but with little or no Scandinavian settlement

Show *Vikings* Beginning
http://www.history.com/shows/vikings/videos/vikings-rites-of-passage?m=512650e03091a
(embed when possible)

Myths (Review)

- Set in the ancient past.
- "Sacred narratives": retell the actions of gods and heros.
- Explain the origins of: nature/natural phenomenon, laws, rituals, etc.
- Teach cultural values and lessons.

don't know much about [viking] mythology?

don't know much about [viking] mythology?

Don't know much about [Viking] mythology?

don't know much about [viking] mythology?

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Don't know much about [Viking] mythology?

Don't know much about [viking] mythology?

The Ancient Norsemen

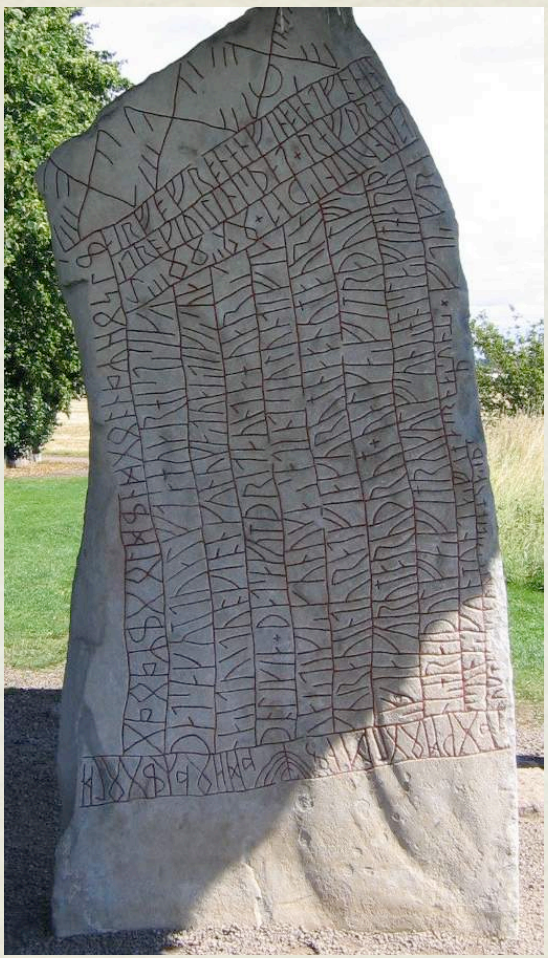
- The Norse- (or "North"), men, more commonly known as Vikings from the Old Norse VIKINGR, were seafaring Northern Germanic peoples.

- They raided, traded, explored, and settled in wide areas of Europe, Asia, and the North Atlantic islands from the late 8th to the mid 11th centuries (700's - 1050 A.C.E.)

DRAKKAR = *DRAGON*

- Vikings were master ship builders, sailors and navigators.
- They used longships with long, narrow hulls and shallow drafts.
- Used a combination of oars and sails to navigate independent of the wind.

Viking Literature



Vikings were not illiterate.

- **Furthark:** Viking Runes
- **Skaldic Poetry** - poems written to memorialize or eulogize great deeds, battles, or kings.
- **Sagas** (or *tales)* - long stories about great Viking warriors and history
- **Eddas** - long oral poems about the deeds of the gods.

Viking Culture & Religion

Viking Culture & Religion

The Nine Virtues of the Vikings

Far away and long ago

- **Ginnungagap** was the great emptiness before there was a world, or any living things in it.
- Far to the South was the fiery realm of **Muspelheim**, with its long, hot rivers full of poison and vast lakes of fire.
- To the North was the dark and cold realm of **Niflheim**, where icy fountains spewed forth freezing rivers.

Ymir

- Slowly, over millennia, the fiery blasts from Muspelheim began to melt the icy mountains of Niflheim.
- Out of the melting ice, the giant **Ymir** emerged, the first being of the vast Ginnungagap.
- Next to him a cow emerged from the ice who began licking the salt from the ice mountains while Ymir began drinking the cow's milk.

Birth of the Gods

- The cow licked away entire mountains of ice while **Ymir** grew larger and stronger.
- Slowly, the cow licked the ice from two more beings: **Buri** and his goddess wife.
- They had a son named **Bor** and his son was named **Odin,** who was to become king of all the Æsir.

Defiance

- Ymir and the other ice giants were cruel and brutal.
- Odin and the other gods could no longer abide the ice giants' evil acts and together the gods rose up and slew the ice giants.

The Earth

- As Ymir fell, his body formed the earth and his flesh became the land.
- Ymir's bones became the mountains and his hair the trees.
- Ymir's blood spilled out in a great flood and created the oceans of the earth.
- Odin and the other gods formed the sky with Ymir's skull and held it up by four dwarves named East, West, North and South.

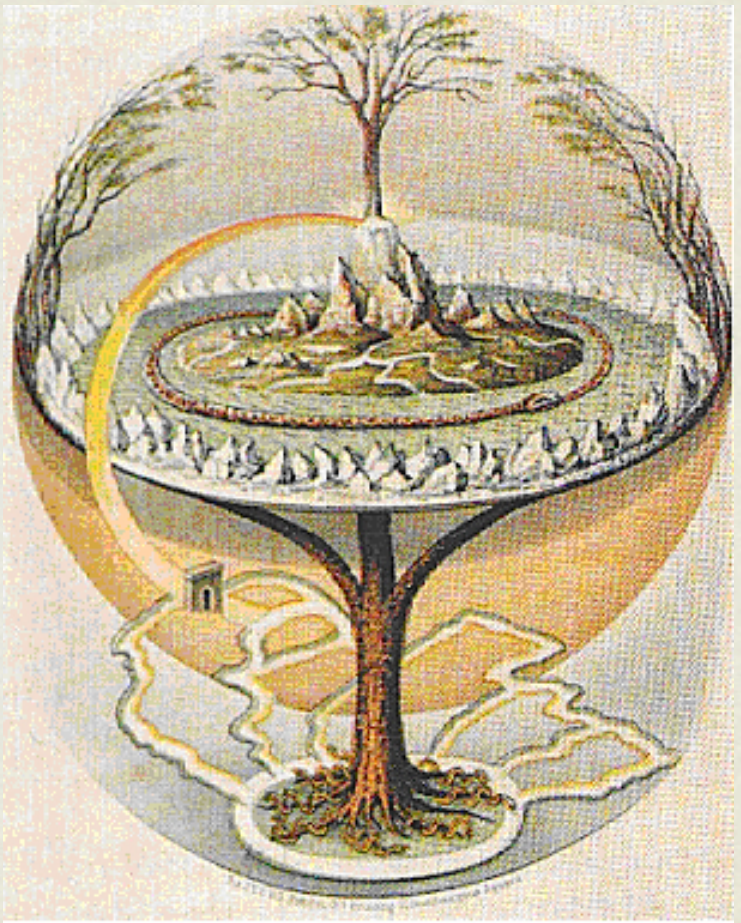
YGGDRASIL

- Odin gathered sparks from the fiery depths of Muspelheim and created the sun and moon. These he set in the sky.

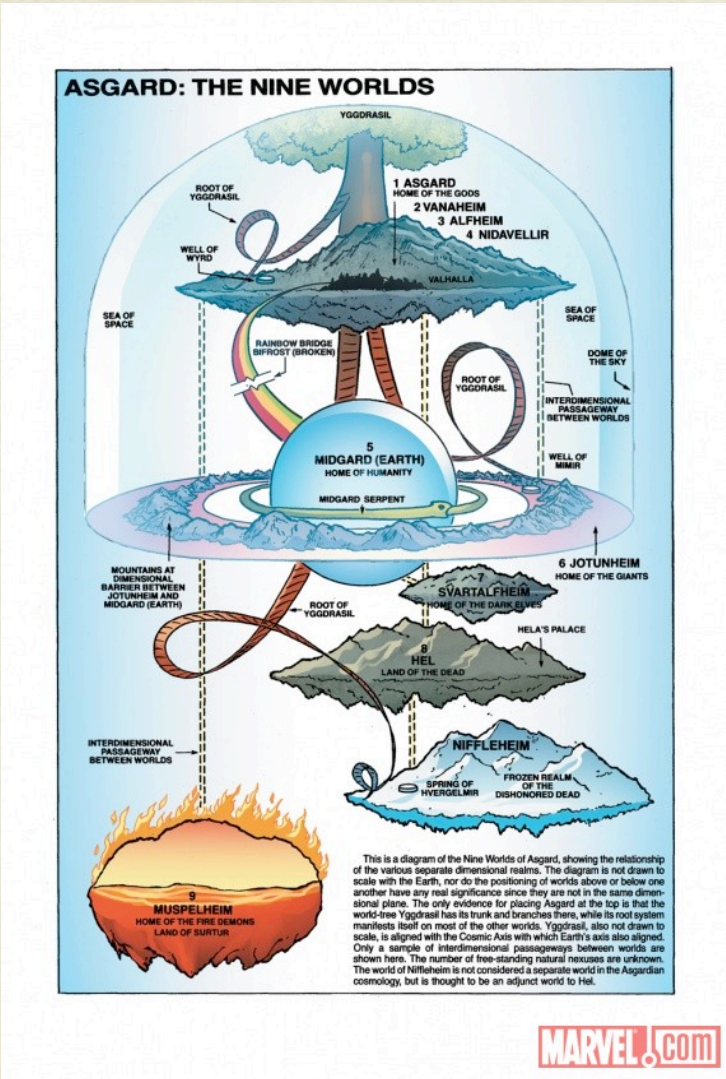
- As the sun and moon shone over the new world in the Ginnungagap, the ice began to melt and plants and trees began to grow.

- The greatest tree of all was **Yggdrasil**, the World Tree, which grew in the very center of the earth.

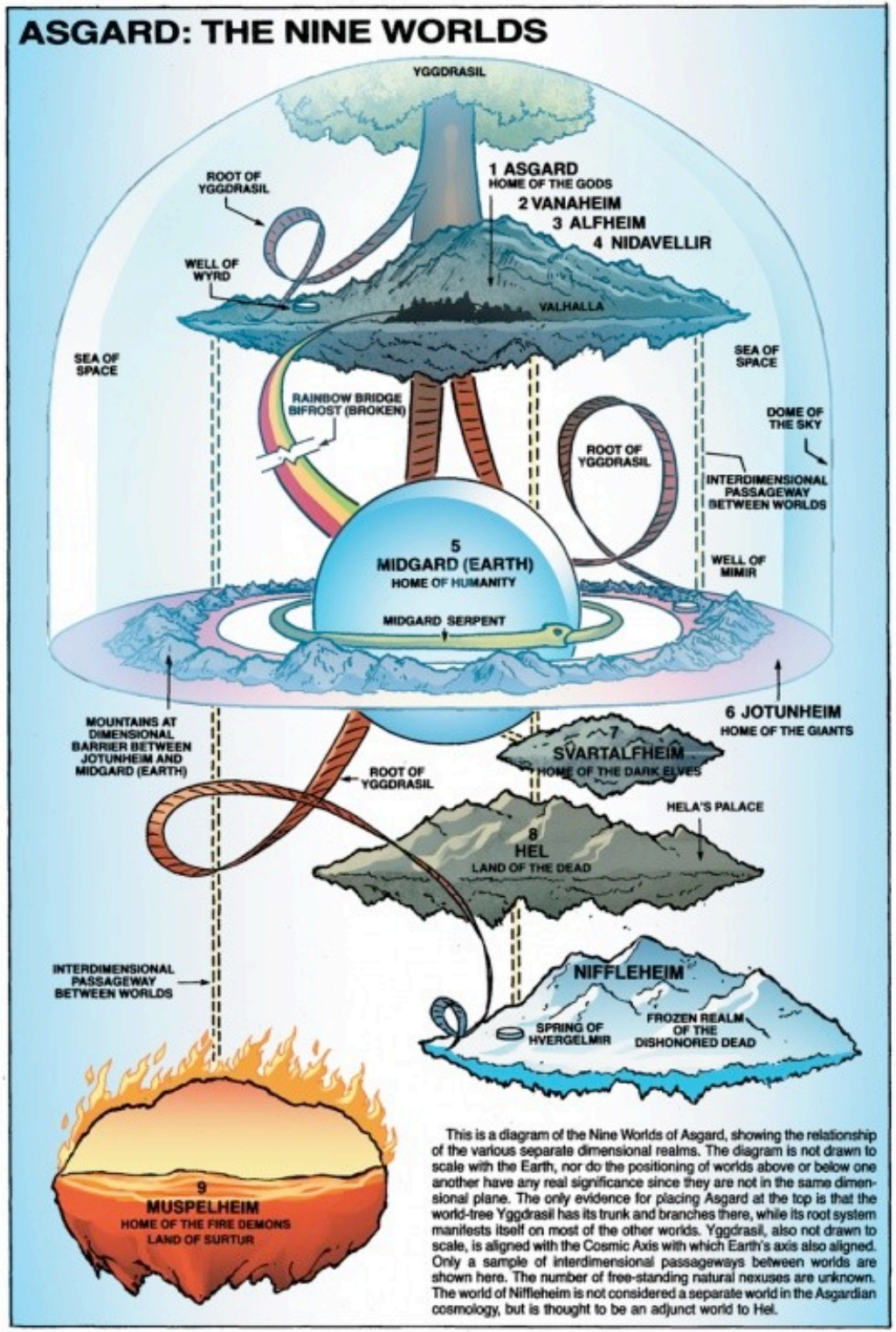
- Its roots penetrated into the bottom of creation and its leaves reached the very top of the sky.



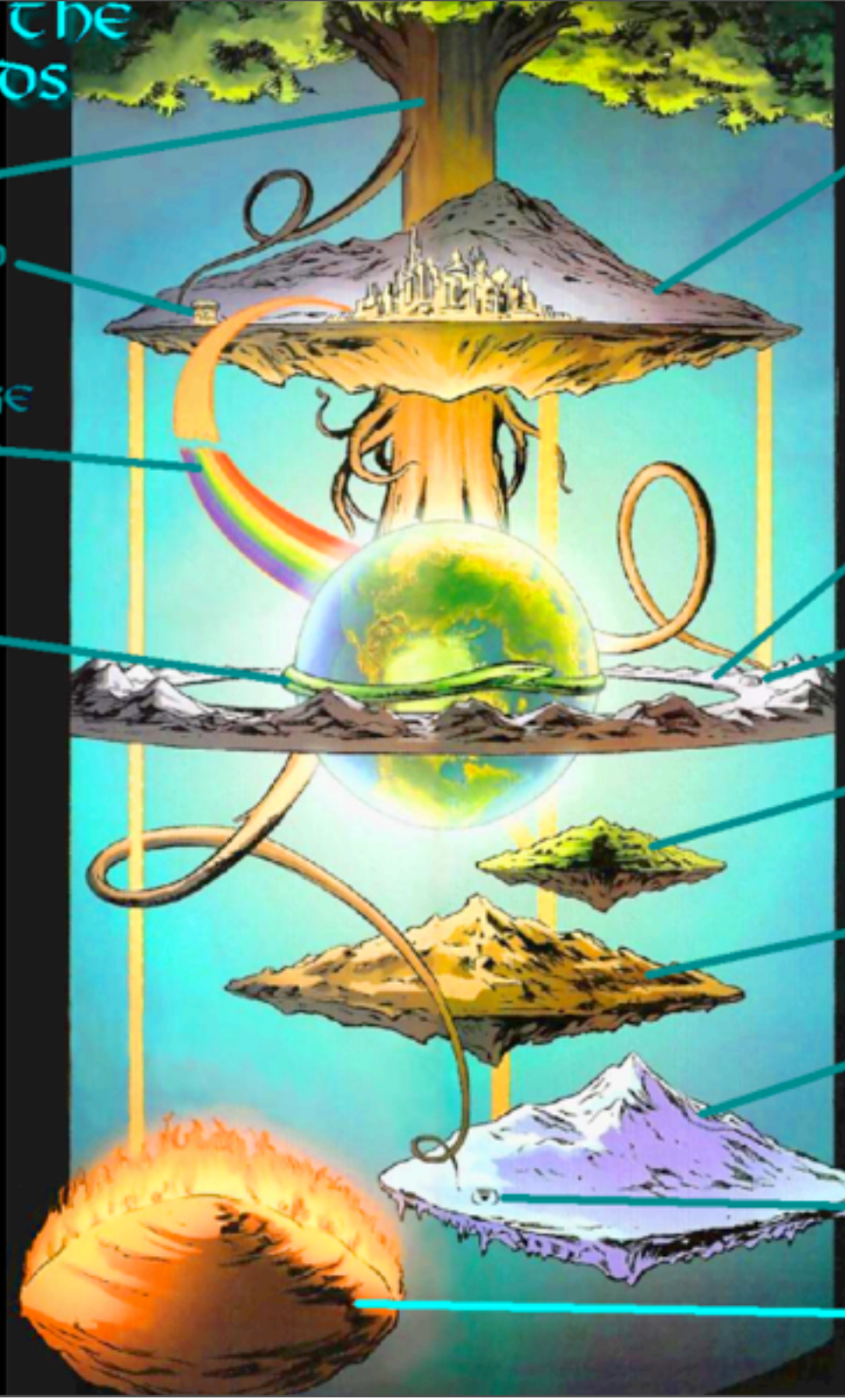
The 9 Realms



- The great Ash Tree **Yggdrasill** supported the Universe and its roots connected the 9 realms.
- One root extends to Muspelheim (“World of Fire”), while another root to Niflheim (“World of Ice”).
- Another root extended deep into the world of Nifel or (Hel), the land of the dead.
- Yggdrasil’s branches reached up to support Asgard, the realm of the gods and Valhalla.


ASGARD: THE NINE WORLDS
YGGDRASIL
ROOT OF YGGDRASIL
1 ASGARD
HOME OF THE GODS
2 VANAHEIM
3 ALFHEIM
4 NIDAVELLIR
WELL OF WYRD
VALHALLA
SEA OF SPACE
SEA OF SPACE
RAINBOW BRIDGE BIFROST (BROKEN)
DOME OF THE SKY
ROOT OF YGGDRASIL
INTERDIMENSIONAL PASSAGEWAY BETWEEN WORLDS
5
MIDGARD (EARTH)
HOME OF HUMANITY
WELL OF MIMIR
MIDGARD SERPENT
6 JOTUNHEIM
HOME OF THE GIANTS
MOUNTAINS AT DIMENSIONAL BARRIER BETWEEN JOTUNHEIM AND MIDGARD (EARTH)
7
SVARTALFHEIM
HOME OF THE DARK ELVES
ROOT OF YGGDRASIL
HELA'S PALACE
8
HEL
LAND OF THE DEAD
INTERDIMENSIONAL PASSAGEWAY BETWEEN WORLDS
NIFFLEHEIM
SPRING OF HVERGELMIR
FROZEN REALM OF THE DISHONORED DEAD
9
MUSPELHEIM
HOME OF THE FIRE DEMONS
LAND OF SURTUR
This is a diagram of the Nine Worlds of Asgard, showing the relationship of the various separate dimensional realms. The diagram is not drawn to scale with the Earth, nor do the positioning of worlds above or below one another have any real significance since they are not in the same dimensional plane. The only evidence for placing Asgard at the top is that the world-tree Yggdrasil has its trunk and branches there, while its root system manifests itself on most of the other worlds. Yggdrasil, also not drawn to scale, is aligned with the Cosmic Axis with which Earth's axis also aligned. Only a sample of interdimensional passageways between worlds are shown here. The number of free-standing natural nexuses are unknown. The world of Niffleheim is not considered a separate world in the Asgardian cosmology, but is thought to be an adjunct world to Hel.

ASGARD AND THE NINE WORLDS



YGGDRASIL

WELL OF WYRD

RAINBOW BRIDGE BIFROST

MIDGARD SERPENT

1 ASGARD
home of the gods

2 VANAHEIM

3 ALFHEIM

4 NIDAVELLIR

5 MIDGARD
home of humanity

6 JOTUNHEIM
home of the giants

WELL OF MIMIR

7 SVARTALFHEIM
home of the dark elves

8 HEL
LAND OF THE DEAD

NIFFLEHEIM
FROZEN REALM OF THE DISHONORED DEAD

SPRING OF HVERGELMIR

9 MUSPELHEIM
home of the fire demons
LAND OF SURTUR

Ask & Embla

- Odin was satisfied with the new world, and named it **Midgard**: The Middle Land or Middle-earth.
- Odin found two fallen trees, an Ash and an Elm and from these he created the first man and woman.
- Odin breathed life into the beings and gave them reason and feelings, hearing and sight.
- Odin named the man **Ask** and the woman **Embla**.

Revenge

- Not everyone was pleased with Odin's work.
- The remaining Ice Giants, angry at Ymir's defeat, wanted revenge against the gods who killed him.
- So, the Ice Giants began carving lines into Yggdrasill. Each line was a human life, filled with twists and turns, beginning with a human's birth and ending with death.
- At the end of each line they made a deep cut to make sure humans would never be as powerful as the gods.

The Tree of Life

- These spells were so powerful that not even Odin could do anything to change them.
- Thus Yggdrasil became known as *The Tree of Life* and humans knew death and suffering in the world.

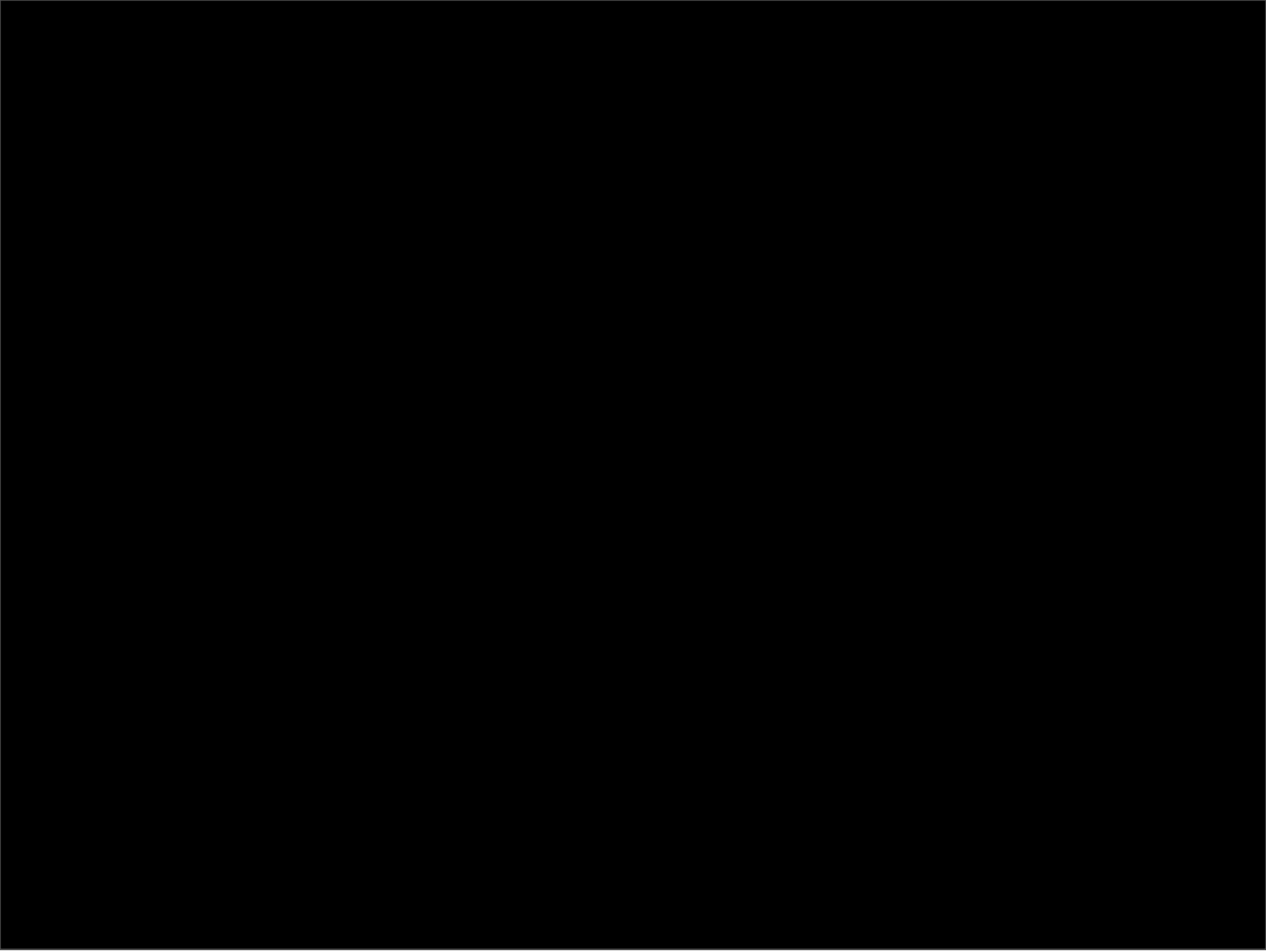
Show Norse Creation Video:
http://www.bigmyth.com/myths/english/2_norse_full.htm

Making Connections

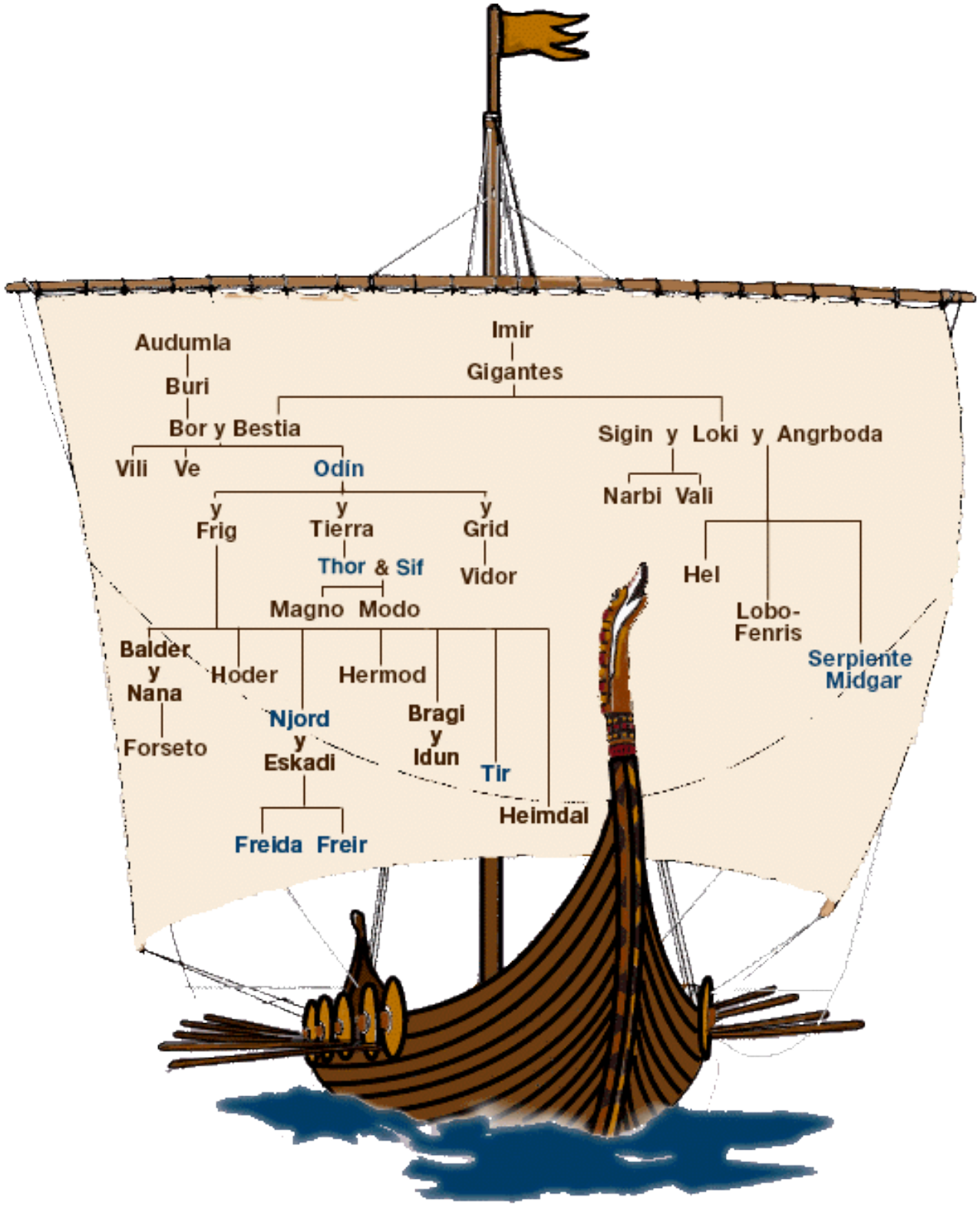
Q: What natural phenomena does the Norse creation myth explain?

A: _____

the aesir & vanir



ODIN AND THE
LORDS OF ASGARD


Audumla
Buri
Bor y Bestia
Vili
Ve
Odín
y Frig
y Tierra
y Grid
Thor & Sif
Vidor
Magno
Modo
Balder y Nana
Forseto
Hoder
Hermod
Njord y Eskadi
Freida
Freir
Bragi y Idun
Tir
Heimdal
Imir
Gigantes
Sigin y Loki y Angrboda
Narbi
Vali
Hel
Lobo-Fenris
Serpiente Midgar

GODS AND MYTHOLOGY OF VIKINGS

YGGDRASIL

An ash tree that binds together the nine worlds of Viking mythology.

ASGARD

Home to the group of Viking gods known as the Aesir.

VALHALLA

Festive hall where Viking warriors who died bravely in battle await the end of time.

ODIN

The chief Viking god and ruler of Asgard, who sacrificed his eye to acquire knowledge.

THOR

Odin's son and ruler of the sky. He governs thunder, lightning, wind and storms.

FREYR

Ruler of the rain, sun, harvest and fertility.

FRIGG

Odin's wife and queen of Asgard. Women call on her for help with childbirth.

LOKI

A trickster and shape-shifter who both helps and hinders his fellow gods.

MIDGARD

The realm of humans.

VALKYRIES

Winged creatures who bring slain Viking warriors to Valhalla.

HEL

The ninth world, where dead Vikings who did not perish heroically in battle await the end of time.

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN HISTORY.COM AND COLUMN FIVE

The All-Father

- **Names:** Woden, Odin, *The-All Father*, Ygg, Wednesday, Lord of the Gallows…
- In all, Odin had over 200 names.
- Associated with war, battle, victory and death, wisdom, Shamanism, magic, poetry, prophecy, curiosity, and the hunt.
- Odin would ride across the battlefield on his eight legged horse Sleipnir pointing to fallen warriors with his spear Gungnir whom he felt brave and worthy enough to enter Valhalla.

huginn & muninn

- Woden had two Ravens named **Huginn** (“thought”), and **Muninn** (“memory”), who flew all over the world and brought information back to the god.
- For this reason, Ravens were considered wise and sacred by the ancient Norse. They were the “eyes” of The All-Father and it was considered bad luck to harm them.

Mimir & The Well of Wisdom

Odin took the horn in both his hands and drank and drank. And as he drank all the future became clear to him. He saw all the sorrows and troubles that would fall upon men and gods. But he saw, too, why the sorrows and troubles had to fall, and he saw how they might be borne so that gods and men, by being noble in the days of sorrow and trouble, would leave in the world a force that one day, a day that was far off indeed, would destroy the evil that brought terror and sorrow and despair into the world.

The when he had drunk out of the great horn that Mimir had given him, he put his hand to his face and he plucked out his right eye. Terrible was the pain that Odin All-Father endured. But he made no groan nor moan. He bowed his head and put his cloak before his face, as Mimir took the eye and let it sink deep, deep into the water of the well of wisdom. And there the eye of Odin stayed, shining up through the water, a sign to all who came to that place of the price that the Father of the gods had paid for his wisdom.

The Death of Odin

- During the final battle during the Ragnarok, Fenrir known as Fenris, The Father of Wolves, will break his chains.
- Odin will battle with Fenrir and by Fenrir the Wolf, Odin The All-Father will be slain.
- Then Odin's son Vidar, the silent god, will come face to face with Fenrir. Vidar will lay his foot on the wolf's lower jaw and with his hands seize the upper jaw and tear Fenrir's gullet in half.

Geir Ness

- **Names:** Geir Ness, Thor the Almighty, Bjorn, Thursday.
- Thor is the Norse god of thunder and lightning, strength, storms, oak trees, hallowing, healing and fertility.
- Thor was the protector of mankind.
- Son of Odin and Jord and one of the most powerful gods.
- The Norse believe that during a thunder storm, Thor rode through the heavens on his chariot pulled by the goats Tanngrisni (“gap-tooth”), and Tanngnost (“tooth grinder”). Lightning flashed wherever he threw his hammer Mjolnir.

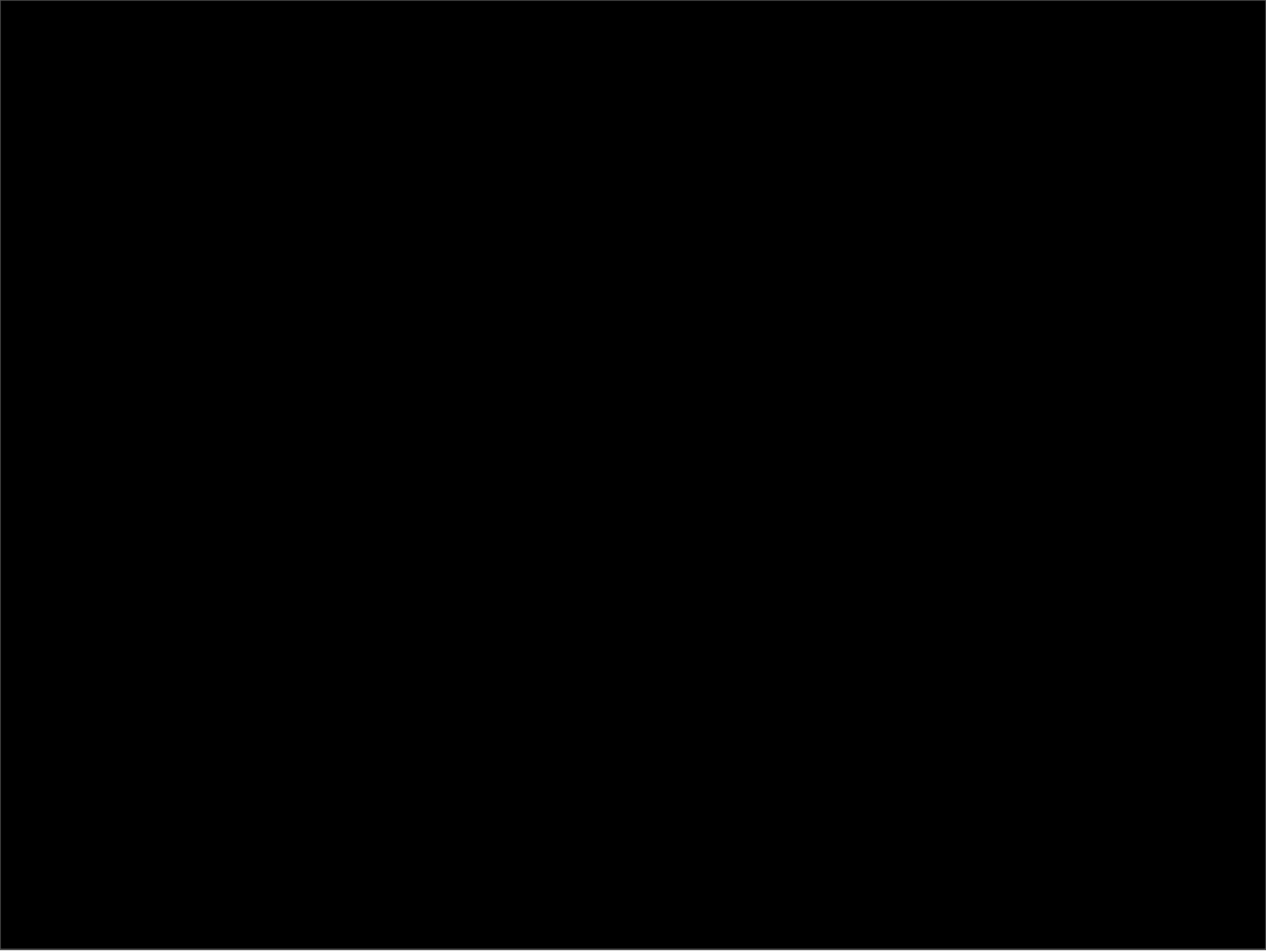
Mjolnir

- Thor carried the hammer **Mjolnir** as his weapon.
- The dwarf Sindri created Mjolnir while in a contest with Loki to see who could make the most wonderful and useful items for the Gods and Goddesses of Asgard.
- Mjolnir is depicted as one of the most fearsome weapons, capable of leveling mountains.
- If thrown, the magical hammer would always return to its master, and some myths depict Thor as being the only god strong enough to lift and use the hammer.

thor

The Fall of Thor

- The last meeting between the world serpent Jormungandr and Thor is predicted to occur at Ragnarok, when Jormungandr will come out of the ocean and poison the sky.
- Thor will kill Jormungandr and then walk **nine** paces before falling dead, having been poinsoned by the serpent's venom.



THOR LOKI
BLOOD BROTHERS

Loki

- Half god, half Jotunn (giant).
- Loki is the trickster god and the primary antagonist of many of the Norse myths.
- Loki is a shapeshifter often seen taking the form of a salmon, mare, seal, fly and an elderly woman.
- Loki is the husband to Sigyn and the father of Hel, Fenrir, and the world serpent Jormungandr.

The Binding of Loki

- After his many long and egregious offenses and insults against the gods, Loki was finally capture by Thor.
- For his punishment, Loki was chained to a rock by the entrails of his son Narvi.
- A poisonous serpent had been placed over Loki's head to drip venom into his face and eyes for all eternity.
- Loki's faithful wife Sigyn kept watch over Loki's head catching the poison in a bowl. However, when she left to empty the bowl, the poison would drip into Loki's eyes and he would writhe in pain causing the earth to quake.

The Death of Loki

- It is foretold that the Ragnarok will begin when Loki breaks his chains.
- During the final battle of Ragnarok, Loki and Heimdall will slay each other in battle.

THOR LOKI
BLOOD BROTHERS

Frey

- **Names:** Frey, Freyr, 'God of the World'
- One of the most important gods in the Norse pantheon.
- God of sun and rain, and patron of the bountiful harvests. God of peace.
- Ruler of the elves.
- Frey was called upon to grant a fertile marriage.

FRIGG

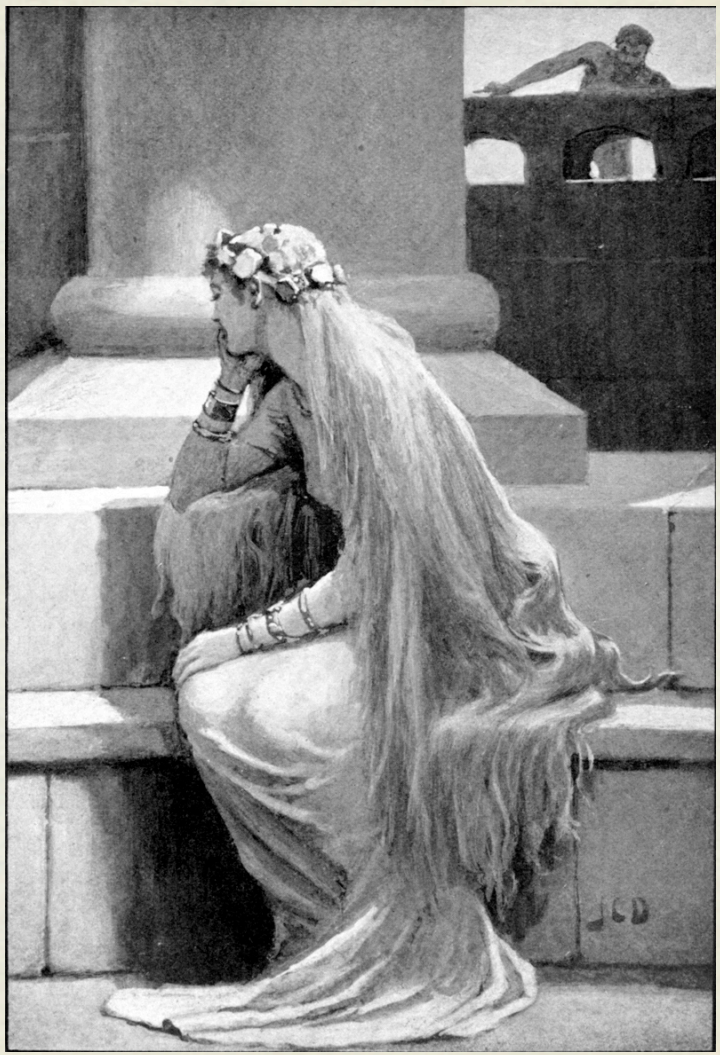
- Names: **Freyja**, Frig, Frigg, Frigga, Queen of Asgard, Queen of the Valkyries, Friday
- Wife of Odin and mother of Baldr.
- The name Friday comes from the Old English Frīġedæġ , meaning “the day of Frigg,” and was also associated with the Roman goddess Venus.
- She is the patron of marriage and motherhood and the goddess of fertility.
- Frig is described as having the power of prophecy yet she does not reveal what she knows.
- She will be the first to die at Ragnarok.

Baldur

- Names: Baldr, Baldur, Balder, ‘The Shining One’.
- God of peace, goodness, innocence and forgiveness.
- Son of Odin and Frigg.
- Most beautiful and beloved of all the gods.
- Killed by Loki with a sprig of mistletoe.

Sif

- The golden-haired wife of the god of Thor.
- Goddess of the earth, fertility, family and wedlock.
- Trickster Loki sneaked into her bedroom and lopped off her hair. Thor, furious, threatened to smash Loki unless he managed to replace the hair.
- Loki asked the dwarfs of Ivaldi to spin gold as fine as Sif's hair and imbue it with magic that it will grow on her head.
- Sif's hair represents fields of golden wheat.



heimdal

- Heimdal posseses the resounding horn Gjallarhorn and keeps watch for the onset of Ragnarok while guarding the entrance to Asgard across rainbow bridge Bifrost.
- Heimdal is described as being “the whitest of all the gods” and has gold teeth.
- Heidal is the son of the Nine Mothers.
- Heimdal possesses foreknowledge, keen eyesight and hearing.
- Heimdal and Loki are foretold to kill one another during the last battle of Ragnarok.

Tyr

- Son of Odin and Frigg.
- Considered the bravest of Norse gods who can decide the outcome of a battle.
- Often prayed to before battle.
- Tyr had his right hand (his “sword hand”), bitten off by the monstrous wolf Fenrir when the gods try to imprison the wolf.
- Tyr is destined to fall in battle to Garm, the watchdog of Hel, during the Ragnarok.

Hel

- **Hel** is the ruler of Niflheim, the realm of the dead.
- She is the youngest child of the evil god Loki and the giantess Angrboda.
- She is usually described as a horrible hag, half alive and half dead, with a gloomy and grim expression.
- Her face and body are those of a living woman, but her thighs and legs are those of a corpse, mottled and moldering.

The Valkyries

- Valkyrie (from Old Norse Valkyrja), means “chooser of the slain”.
- The Valkyries were a host of feamle figures often depicted armored and and winged.
- They decided which soldiers die in battle and which live.
- The Valkyries chose only the most brave and worthy to enter the halls of Valhalla after death.

Ratatoskr

- Name means “drill-tooth” or “bore-tooth” in Old Norse.
- Ratatoskr is a squirrel who runs up and down the world tree Yggdrasil to to carry messages between the unnamed eagle, perched atop Yggdrasil and the wyrm (dragon), Niohoggr, who dwells beneath one of the three roots of the tree.
- Ratataskr is described as being a lying, insulting, mischievous squirrel who likes to make trouble.

valhalla

- A majestic, enormous hall located in Asgard and ruled over by the god Odin.
- Chosen by Odin, half of those who die in combat travel to Valhalla upon death, led by Valkyries.
- In Valhalla, the souls of the dead drink mead and celebrate as they somberly prepare for Ragnarok and to aid Odin in the final battle.

The Beginning of the End

- Loki tricks the blind god Hod into murdering his brother Balder.
- The Aesir try to free Balder from Hel, but they are blocked by Loki.
- They gather at a funeral feast to mourn Balder - without inviting Loki.

Loki's Flyting

- Loki crashes the funeral feast.
- He hurls insults at the Gods, revealing their worst secrets.
- Loki reveals that Fenrir will kill Odin at Ragnarok.
- Thor, late, walks in and threatens to kill Loki.
- Loki runs away, afraid of Thor's strength with Mjollnir.

RAGNAROK

"The Doom of the Gods"

- It starts with Fimbulvetr, the "Winter of Winters"; A winter that will last 3 seasons (or years).
- Mankind will begin to fight each other. Brother will fight brother.
- The wolf Skol will finaly devour the sun, and his brother Hati will devour the moon plunging the world into darkness.
- The stars will vanish from the sky.

The Dead Shall Rise

- The rooster Fjalar will crow to the giants and the golden rooster Gulinkambi will crow at the gods. A third rooster will crow and raise the dead.
- The earth will shudder with earthquakes, and every bond and fetter will burst, freeing the terrible wolf Fenrir and the imprisoned god Loki.
- From the realm of the dead a ship will set sail, and this ship will carry the inhabitants of hell, with Loki as their helmsman.
- The giants will be awoken and will march on Asgard.

Vigard

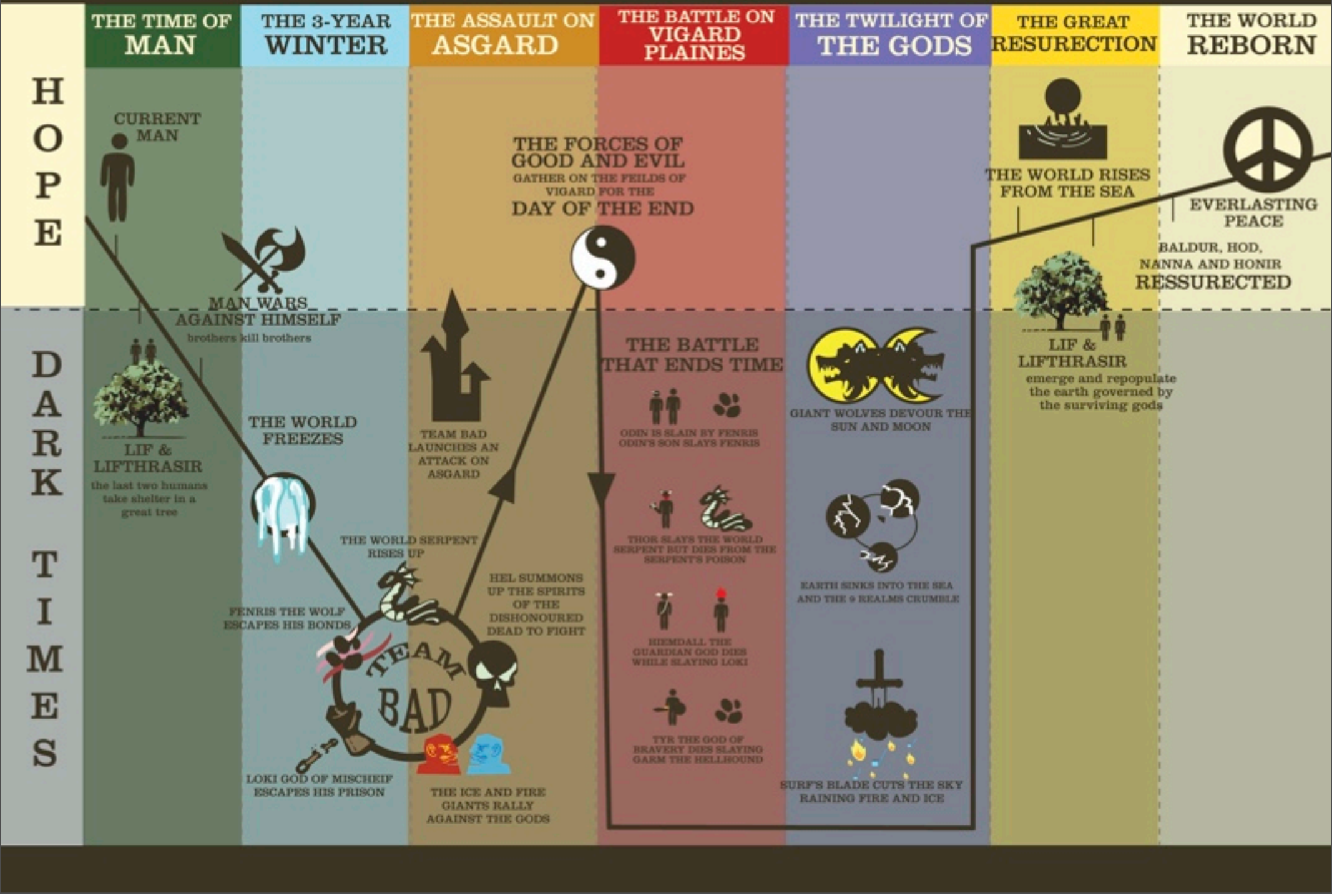
- Heimdall will sound his golden horn, calling the sons of Odin and the heros of Valhalla to the battlefield.
- From all the corners of the world, gods, giants dwarves, demons and elves will ride towards the huge plain of Vigard where the last battle will be fought.

Rebirth

- Gods, men, and demons will perish utterly from this earth.
- Midgard will be destroyed.
- And wickedness and misery will no longer exist.
- The world will be reborn and two humans, Lif and Lifthrasir, hidden by Odin in his wisdom and will repopulate the world.

RAGNAROK

THE REBIRTH OF THE UNIVERSE



the end?