



The history of language in Shetland



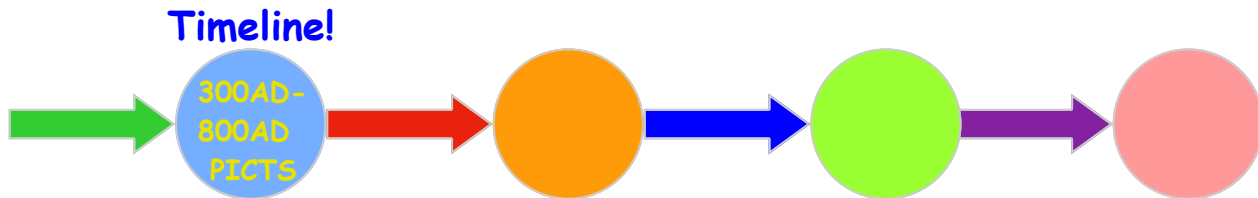
Primary 3 and 4

The language of the Picts

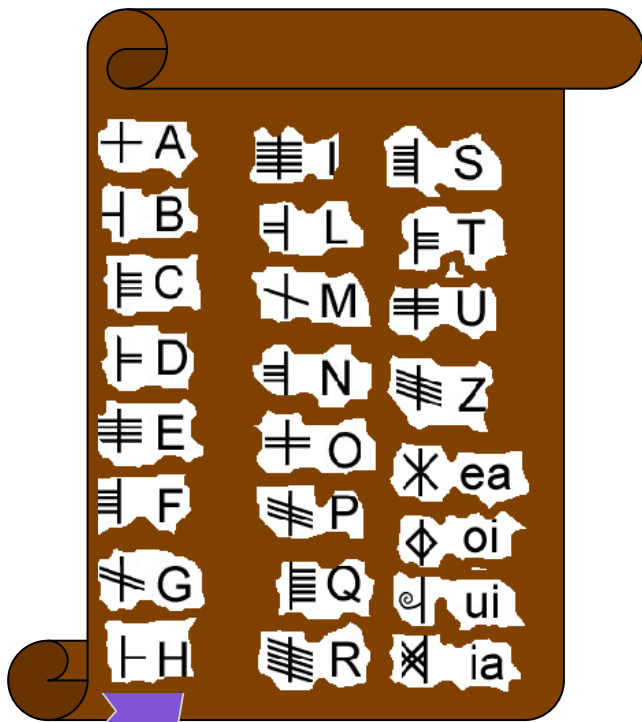
The Picts built the Mousa Broch



We don't know when the Picts first settled in Shetland, but we think they were here by 300AD.



The Picts spoke a 'Celtic' language. We don't know what they sounded like, but we do know that they wrote things down.



The Picts used these symbols.

This carved stone was found in Bressay.



The symbols were often carved into stone!

Why did the Picts carve things on stone?

Til Hjaltland!



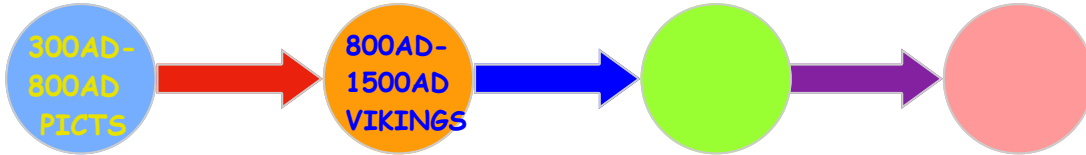
Vikings invade!

Vikings travelled to Shetland over a thousand years ago, sometime after 800AD. This was called the 'Viking Age'.



The Picts and their language disappeared when the Vikings came.

Timeline!

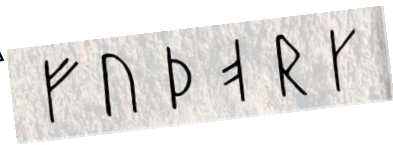


The Vikings wrote symbols called 'runes'.



They settled on the land as crofters and fishermen.

Runes



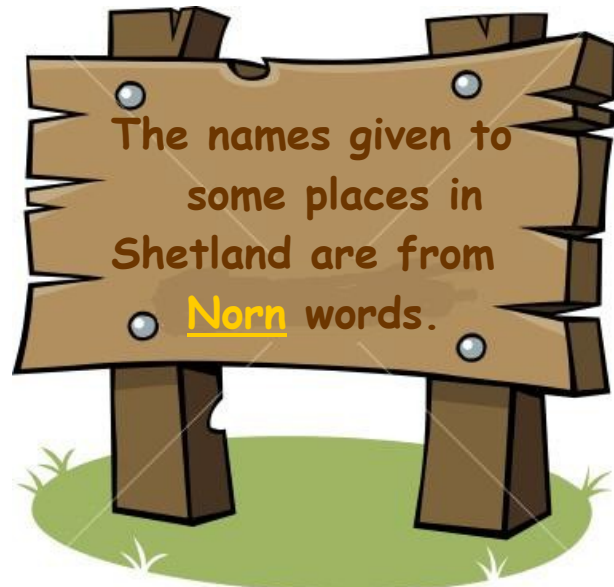
We took our language with us, and spread it over the isles!



Our language was called Norn. We spoke Norn in Shetland for centuries!

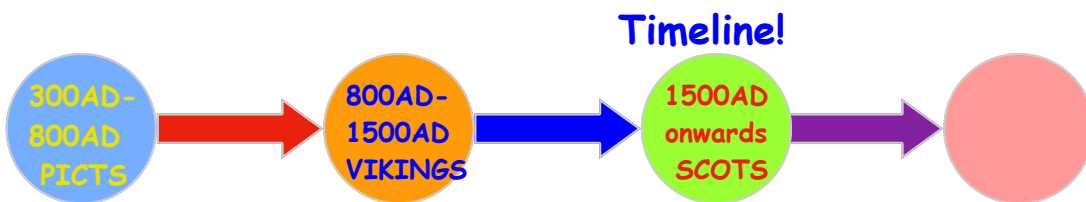


The names given to some places in Shetland are from Norn words.



The Scots

In 1469 Shetland became part of Scotland.



Gradually people in Shetland began to live more like Scots.

By 1611, they obeyed the same laws, and they began to speak in a similar way.

For a while, people in Shetland could speak the Norn language and the Scottish language!

Then Norn was spoken less and less until very few people could remember it.



Eventually, Scottish became the main language in Shetland.

Shetlanders spoke Scottish but kept some of their Norn 'accent'.

What did you say?



Today, people in Shetland have a 'dialect'.

This means we use words not usually heard in Scotland!
This dialect contains Scottish words and Norn words.



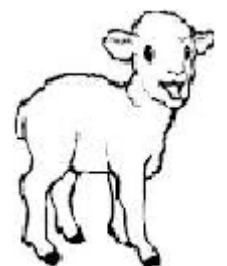
We have this dialect because the Vikings and Scots brought their languages to Shetland hundreds of years ago.

The dialect we speak today has changed over time. There are some words we don't use anymore, and some we use instead of others.

Wir been lookin' fur trows!



Can you think of any Shetland words?



Dis peerie lamb goes 'nyaarm, nyaarm'