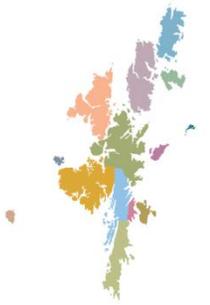


Activity Sheet - Research an area of Shetland



Materials required: Books giving general information about Shetland - from these you can find out basic information about your area. Books relating to the language of Shetland, particularly books by Jakob Jakobsen and Michael Barnes' *The Norn Language of Orkney and Shetland*. Some good history books include Noel Fojut's *Prehistoric and Viking Shetland* and books by Val Turner. You can find information on the Shetland Museum website, and you might be able to collect some old photographs of your area from Scran (scran.ac.uk).

Materials provided: Shetland map in the Old Norse language. Map of Scotland showing dominance of Norse place-names in Shetland.

Method: Choose an area of Shetland to study - this could be a large area, or a particular town or village. Find out what you can about the history of the area. Try to think about the following when doing your research:

- What is the name of the area? Did this name originate from Norn?
- Where is the area? What are the names of places nearby?
- Might the area have been isolated from other areas or from incomers? Is it near a port? How long would it have taken to travel to the area from busy ports or more populated areas?
- Is it on a shipping route? Or does it have a port? Could people have settled in the area this way?
- Have any artefacts been found there? Are there any brochs, carved stones or any other remnants from those who used to live there?
- Can you tell if Picts or Vikings lived in this area from the things you've found?
- What can you tell about the language in this area? How has it changed? (Were Picts living in this area? If so, their language would have been wiped out when the Vikings invaded!)