

## Artefact 1 (Norman weapons) Transcript

[Audio: background music, light and upbeat. Person talking to camera.]

(Setting: Warehouse, historical dolls, Norman Kite Shield)

(Large sign with text and images:

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Images include: The skeletal jaw of a dinosaur, Lady's Miao Boots (China/Thailand), children reading Viking books and examining ancient Viking pottery, child holding a rock.)

(Adam Bushnell) My name's Adam Bushnell and I'm an author. Today I'm going to show you how to inspire creative writing in the classroom using Durham Learning Resource artefacts.

(Object: A wooden Norman Cross Bow, a grey Norman Kite Shield.)

(Adam Bushnell) The artefacts that we've got today are Norman artefacts. The first thing we've got is this here which is a Norman Kite Shield with a boss in the middle. The Boss was used for bashing at the enemy. A kite shield wasn't whole body but was most of the body for maximum protection.

(Object: Adam Bushnell is holding the Norman Kite Shield and a silver sword. There is a large, pointed part in the middle of the Norman Kite Shield, known as the Boss.)

(Adam Bushnell) Now, the other thing we have on the table here is a Norman crossbow. The crossbow bolts would have been loaded in the top; the drawstring pulled back. This is the trigger that can send crossbow bolts flying at an incredible speed.

(Object: Adam is holding a large wooden crossbow.)

(Adam Bushnell) Then the other artefact that we have is this here which is a Norman sword.

(Object: Adam pulls out a large Norman Sword from its case.)

(Adam Bushnell) The Normans were very influential upon the history of Durham. The history of the place where we live. During the time of the Anglo-Saxons Durham was known as 'Dun holm' which meant 'Hill Island.' The 'Dun' meant hill and the 'holm' meant island.

(Adam Bushnell) When the Vikings invaded and settled here it became known as 'Dun Elm' when the Normans arrived, they renamed it 'Duresme' and it was the Duresme Cathedral that was built in Durham replacing the old wooden church that was there. Part of the reason that the Normans were so successful in their conquest of England, was because of the weapons that we have here. The Kite Shield was an enormously effective weapon for blocking but also for hitting and attacking. The sword was off top quality; the French blacksmiths they spent hours and hours crafting the best possible sword that they could.

(Object: Adam Bushnell is pointing at each object on the table whilst talking about them- The Kite Shield and the sword.)

(Adam Bushnell) However, it was the crossbow that revolutionised warfare. Before that, it was long bows that were being used and then it became the crossbow.

(Object: Adam Bushnell is holding the Norman crossbow)

(Adam Bushnell) If I was teaching a creative writing lesson about these objects and these artefacts I would also talk about 'Heraldry.' Heraldry are the colours that knights used.

(Adam Bushnell) This shield here, is it in its bare form.

(Object: Adam Bushnell picks up large, grey Norman Kite Shield.)

(Adam Bushnell) What the Normans used to do is cover it with an animal skin and then paint it for the colours of their household. Ten colours were used in the time of the Normans.

(Action: Adam Bushnell is using his fingers to represent the numbers of colours.)

(Adam Bushnell) There was red, white, blue, yellow, green, orange, brown, purple, pink and black; each of those colours had a different meaning. Usually, you use three colours on your shield. This would have been covered with an animal skin. Then it would be painted with three colours or perhaps even with a design of an animal or a symbol which also had meaning as well.

(Action: Adam moves his hand over the front of the Norman Kite Shield to explain where the colours and materials would be.)

(Adam Bushnell) Now, the ten colours, what they meant with this is- Red represented strength; white or plain silver would have represented peace; blue would have represented loyalty and friendship; yellow meant generosity; green meant that you were hoping for something; orange meant that you wanted to be the best; brown meant that you were a winner; purple meant that you believed in things being fair you believed in justice; pink represented love; and black meant sadness (that you

were sad about something.) A Norman Knight would have had three colours that best represented them and their household.

(Adam Bushnell) My suggestion for you is this the children could design their own Kite Shield and add three colours of their choosing; writing down what it means so that they imagine that they are a Norman Knight. That this is in the first person, and they are carrying the shield of their household with their heraldic colours.

(Adam Bushnell) Then, they could have the crossbow and imagine what it would be like to hold one of these and feel it in the battle. What it would be like to load the crossbow bolts.

(Object: Adam Bushnell is holding both the Norman Kite Shield and crossbow whilst talking.)

(Adam Bushnell) Then they could do a piece of creative writing, in the first person, imagining that they are a Norman Knight. These objects and artefacts, they are available for your school, for Durham Learning Resource members. Imagine the excitement in the classroom and the writing opportunities that there could be based upon using these.

(Text: Navy Blue Screen with text saying 'Durham Learning Resources' logo and a 'Durham County Council' logo.)