

THE CHRONICLES OF SPLATACUS

(be part of the adventure)

PART 2

Splatafeld entertains the Saxons and the Vikings

by Mike Redwood

Splats Entertainment

This is part of a series of plays set throughout the history of Britain. Following the story of Splats travelling players as they adventure their way through history meeting the Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Medieval folk and Renaissance Tudors. As each new settlers join Splats we invite your pupils to joins us to. Find out more at www.Splatsentertainment.com

CAST FOR ACT 1

SPLATAFELD

MUM

ERIC/A

KING GUTHRUM

KING ALFRED

VARIOUS SPEAKING VIKING

SPLATACUS CIRCUS TROOP

WARRIOR 1

WARRIOR 2

ACT 1

MUSIC CUE1:

NARRATOR: This is the story of our home, not my house or yours but the island we live on and all the peoples who have adventured through this green and pleasant land. Waves of tribes have come to this island but our story is about the jugglers who entertained them, this is the story of my family of travelling entertainers called Splats. We are Splatacus circus, and now you are a part of it. We came to this island with the Romans but that is another story, ours is about the time you call the Dark Ages and a great Saxon King called Alfred and his deadly enemy the Viking King Guthrum.

Let me introduce myself, my name is Splatafeld and I am an Anglo-Saxon entertainer.

NARRATOR does something entertaining CAST cheers.

I live on a little island in the Somerset marshes. In the summer my family travels around the towns performing our juggling show and in the winter, when the roads are too muddy or the snow too heavy we live on this island in the marshes.

SPLATFELD: This is my mum.

MUM: Hello.

MUM performs a ribbon and bows.

SPLATFELD: This is Eric, he was a Viking slave.

NARRATOR: Ah, Yes. People have slaves. If they capture an enemy man, woman or even a child they make them their slave. So you see why the Vikings and the Saxons hate each other so much. But my mum bought Eric in a slave market because she felt sorry for him. Now he is free and very helpful when we go to entertain Vikings in their vast wooden halls as he speaks their language.

ERIC: Hello.

ERIC performs a poi and bows.

NARRATOR: On our island in the marshes we are surrounded by the sea and so nobody comes and nobody goes much. It is very safe. Which is quite useful as we are living in dangerous times. Recently, King Guthrum the Viking decided he liked our country and invaded it.

MUSIC CUE 2: **DANCE OF THE PAST**

CAST makes two VIKING ships.

NARRATOR: The Vikings are from countries far away called Denmark, Norway and Sweden. We called them all Danes. They are highly trained warriors with swords, axes and spears. These people don't have enough land at home and can't grow enough food and so they go Viking, which is another word for pirate or thief they come to our land and steal our gold, silver, food in fact anything they can.

VIKINGS all roar.

NARRATOR: Some of the Vikings decided they liked it here.

VIKING1: Lovely weather.

VIKING2: The snow turns to water before it lands!

VIKING3: The snow is so warm it is actually melted falling out of the sky!

VIKING4: Wow!

NARRATOR: It hadn't taken them long to fit in, they were already talking about the weather. King Guthrum said...

KING GUTHRUM: Let's invade.

NARRATOR: and They did. They took over the East our country and gave it a new name.

VIKING5: Let us call it Danelaw.

VIKING6: We are Danes...

KING GUTHRUM : ...and we make the laws.

VIKINGS all roar.

NARRATOR: And so the East of our country was taken over by Danes but the south was still us the Anglo Saxons.

KING GUTHRUM: Well, no it's not because we are invading it now.

SAXONS are having a Christmas party singing 'JINGLE BELLS' VIKINGS attack and SAXONS scatter slow motion. KING ALFRED and two WARRIORS escape in slow motion.

MUSIC CUE 4: **WARNING BELL TOLLING**

VIKINGS: Attack.

NARRATOR: The Vikings attacked at Christmas when the Saxons weren't expecting it. No one fought in the winter you see, it was hard to move on the muddy roads and in the cold.

With only two bodyguards King Alfred of the Saxons just managed to run away and hide here on our marshy island. My mum said he had to work for his food like everyone else, he was in charge of the cooking. But he got a bit distracted trying to think of a better name than Dane law.

KING ALFRED holding a piece of paper as he writes(could have this line)

KING ALFRED: Danelaw, rubbish name. I am going to win my kingdom back and give it a better name..... (*declaims*)
THE LAND OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS LAND.

SPLATAFELD: Doesn't sound right...

ERIC: what about me I am a Dane?

SPLATAFELD: and I am bit Roman.

KING ALFRED: Mmm,must work on that.

KING ALFRED: Well I am still king of this marsh island.

MUM: No you're not, I am.

NARRATOR: They could smell burning Mum said...

MUM: Can I smell burning?

ERIC: He burnt the oat cakes.

SPALTAFELD: You told him to watch them.

MUM: Now you are in trouble.

KING ALFRED: Sorry. I have a lot of gold. I can pay for it?

ALL: Gold?

SPLATAFELD: Do you?

MUM: Where?

BODY GAURD1: He buried it on Puffin Island.

SPLATAFELD: Where is that?

BODY GAURD 2: Only he and the Puffins know.

NARRATOR: Alfred new he needed to get his buried gold to pay his army and his cooking wasn't working out but he didn't know how to get his gold Splatafeld said...

SPLATAFELD: We will help you?

ERIC: If you share your gold?

KING ALFRED: If we get the gold I can pay an army to fight the Vikings? Lets do it.

ALL: Hurray.

NARRATOR: But we had a problem, we were surrounded by Vikings all looking for King Alfred.

All VIKINGS go Grrr...

My mum came up with a brilliant idea.

MUM: Why don' t we go disguised as our travelling circus?

ERIC: Even the Vikings like to see a show.

KING ALFRED: I can play the [choose an instrument from school] and sing.

SPLATAFELD: Lets get the show on the road!

KING ALFRED: And I can spy on the Vikings as we travel.

BODY GAURD1: We can't perform any tricks?

BODY GAURD2: So will tell everyone what you are doing.

BODY GAURD 1: and all meet back on this marsh island

BOTH GAURDS: WITH YOUR ARMY.

MUSIC CUE 5: **ROSSINI MAGPIE THEIF** (TO COVER CHANGE)

NARRATOR: ...and so we set off with our whole circus troop. Alfred sent his two warriors to find the rest of his army to meet him at our marshy island. If Alfred's army found out how brave he was disguising himself as an entertainer Alfred's army would follow him into battle. They liked a bit of reckless bravery and considering his playing and singing he really was brave. Let's see what happened with the next group. A round of applause for this group.

THE END OF ACT 1

CAST FOR ACT 2

SPLATAFELD
 MUM
 ERIC/A
 KING GUTHRUM
 KING ALFRED
 FRIAR
 VARIOUS SPEAKING VIKING
 SPLATACUS CIRCUS TROOP
 BODY GAURD 1
 BODY GAURD 2

Act 2

The CIRCUS TROOP walk on the spot as if travelling.

NARRATOR: So we set off on our journey with all the circus troop. It was a long winter walk, the rain was heavy, the roads were muddy and we kept meeting mad Vikings but when we did we showed them our tricks which they loved...

MUSIC CUE6: **CIRCUS MUSIC**

The CIRCUS TROOP perform and the VIKINGS enjoy it. CIRCUS TROOP wave goodbye walk and meet more VIKINGS.

VIKING1: If you don't make us laugh, we will give you a three axe review.

SPLATAFELD: Is that the same as a three star review?

ERIC: This is a bit more painful.

VIKING2: ONE AXE IN THE CHEST.

VIKING3: ONE AXE IN THE BACK.

VIKING4: ONE AXE IN THE HEAD.

SPLATAFELD: Oh!

ALL VIKINGS laugh.

The CIRCUS TROOP perform a circus scarf juggling.

NARRATOR: But Alfred's playing wasn't so good...

KING ALFRED plays his chosen instrument badly.

NARRATOR: The only thing worse than his playing was his singing.

KING ALFRED (to the tune of 'The wheels on the bus')

The Vikings in the boat go row,row, row, row row row, row row row.
The Vikings in the boat go row, row, row, row row row, row row row.
All day long.

KING ALFRED sings it very badly, **VIKINGS** go to attack then, **CIRCUS TROOP** feather balance, **VIKINGS** laugh and decide not to kill **ALFRED**. **VIKINGS** wave goodbye to **CIRCUS TROOP**.

NARRATOR:and so finally we made it to the port of Bristol. Then I understood why they called him Alfred the Great. He was really very inventive. He had created a navy and they met him.

MUSIC CUE 7: RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES

KING ALFRED Clicks his fingers and a ship appears through the cast making it. **ALL CIRCUS TROOP 'HURRAH'**.

SPLATAFELD: Later when he invented school I wasn't so happy about it.

NARRATOR: So we set sail for Puffin Island. We met all sorts of weather; gales and storms and then no wind at all until suddenly we saw:

A ship appears through VIKING CAST making it.

ALL: Vikings AHHH, ROW!!!!!!!!!!

ALFRED'S Ship row.

NARRATOR: it was definitely Vikings chasing us. We knew they were Vikings as they had monster figureheads on their ship. We rowed and we rowed until we got to Puffin island and we ran and we ran and we ran, then we crept and we crept and we crept through the scary trees until...

SPLATAFELD: Aahh....

ALL: Who are you?

FRIAR: I am the Friar. Have you got any Cheese?

NARRATOR: This is the Friar he lives in ...

FRIAR: Cheese?

NARRATOR: no, the monastery on Puffin Island and he helps king Alfred hide his ...

FRIAR: Cheese?

NARRATOR: No, Gold, and now all he wants is...

FRIAR: Cheese?

KING ALFRED: Have you still got the gold hidden for me?

FRIAR: Yes Lord, in the caves on the cliff. Cheese?

KING ALFRED: Here's Cheese.

NARRATOR: You see, the Friar had lived alone on the Island to pray to god. He was a holy man and ate only bird eggs but he really missed cheese.

NARRATOR: The grown ups went to get the gold. They were frightened as the Vikings were on the Island they told us to stay hidden but we had a brilliant idea.

ERIC: Lets burn the Viking ship!

SPLATAFELD: They will only have one old guard with it.

NARRATOR: With out the blessing of my parents we crept down to the ship, knocked out the old Viking and set fire to the ship.

MUSIC CUE 8: FIRE
Just then King Alfred and the rest of the troop appeared being chased by the Vikings.

FRIAR
MUM, ALFRED: Get to the ship quick.

VIKINGS: Our ships on fire. We are stuck.

FRIAR : No cheese for you. HA HA.

MUSIC CUE 8: ROWING

NARRATOR: We had the gold and we rowed to Chester a town in the north to complete our journey back to the safety of the marshes by road. Let's see how they get with group three. A round of applause for group two.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

CAST FOR ACT 3

SPLATAFELD
MUM
ERIC/A
SLASHER FOWL VIKING JUDGE
KING ALFRED
FRIAR
VARIOUS SPEAKING VIKING
SPLATACUS CIRCUS TROOP
BODY GAURD 1
BODY GAURD 2

NARRATOR: When we landed we were in Danelaw, the land of the Vikings in the north of the country. My mum thought we would be safer in our disguises as travelling entertainers was working well until we meet the most deadly of VIKINGS the hardest to entertain he slasher Fowl. Famous for his cutting marks ,with his axe if he didn't like your show.

SLAHSER FOWL: Welcome to the Execution Factor now remember if we like your act you live if we dont it's...

VIKINGS: You wont be dead (*dramatic pause*) you will be totally dead.

The CIRCUS TROOP are giving their best show biz smiles as they don't understand.

NARRATOR: He was a hard unfeeling judge who claimed he only wanted the best entertainment for his Vikings. Eric understood he said...

ERIC: I don't think you want to know what they said.

Music and Circus show ongoing VIKINGS clap.

NARRATOR: The show was going well until Alfred decided to sing.

KING ALFRED: My turn.

MUM: (*slow motion*) Nooooo

KING ALFRED (to the tune of 'The wheels on the bus')

The Vikings in the boat go row,row, row, row row row, row row row.
The Vikings in the boat go row, row, row, row row row, row row row.
All day long.

SLAHSER FOWL: I have seen some bad acts and this is the worst so meet my bad axe.

NARRATOR: When we thought it couldn't get any worse, it did. The body guards arrived and said...

BODYGAURD1: King Alfred, your army has gathered at the marsh island.

BODYGAURD2: Ready for battle King Alfred.

BODYGAURD1: We told them about you spying on the Vikings.

CIRCUS TROOP freeze and smile **VIKINGS** get their swords out.

NARRATOR: Alfred's bodyguard had travelled around the kingdom telling his warriors that Alfred was spying on the Vikings. Everyone thought he was so brave that they decided to fight for him. Oh dear, But they had blown King Alfred's disguise.

SLAHSER FOWL: That explains the singing.

VIKINGS: It's Alfred, get him.

CIRCUS TROOP: Run away.

MUSIC CUE 9: WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE

CAST pass like trees in the distance. Tree gloves on whilst the others are riding a horse staying stationary. A sign comes up with 'Hammerwitch' on.

KING ALFRED: Hurray, I have my army back, lets ride.

SPLATAFELD: What about the gold?

ALFRED: We will bury it here in this field. As long as I know where it is.

MUM: It can be dug up when the country needs the money.

First they bury the gold and then...They are behind a screen and the trees move but the riders are stationary chased by VIKINGS.

As the chase comes to an end the CAST line up as SAXON shield wall and VIKINGS run away. A sign for 'Eddington' comes up.

ALL: Hip Hip Hurrah.

NARRATOR: Everyone was happy with the victory but Alfred wasn't.

KING ALFRED: The Danes don't want to be Vikings they want to live here as farmers.

SAXONS: What???

ALFRED: ...and we Christians have to forgive and share?

SAXONS: What???

ALFRED: So we will split the country?

NARRATOR: So Alfred decided to invite Guthrum to become a Christian and the country was split in half. Alfred was very happy with us he said.

KING ALFRED: Thank you. You can be my royal entertainers.

SPLATAFELD: What about the Royal gold?

KING ALFRED: I am sure there will be a time when the country really needs the money.

SPLATAFELD: and then they can find it in Staffordshire.

NARRATOR: Alfred just needed a name for his new land.

KING ALFRED: How about **MAINLY SAXON LAND?**

ERIC: What about the Vikings who live here?

WARRIOR: ...and the Celts?

WARRIOR: and the left over Romans?

ALFRED: Lets say we are a bit English, that doesn't sound to strong?

ALL: No.

NARRATOR: Yes English includes everyone. Angleland, the land of the Anglo Saxons we thought it would catch on. And we also new that by making Guthrum a Christian, letting them have some land would make them feell welcome and less fighty and with Alfred's amazing inventiveness it wouldn't be long until the whole country would be united under the name of Angleland.

MUSIC CUE 10

Historical Fiction

This is a historical fiction and is a combination of facts we know from evidence, myth and fiction. As you know the Dark Ages are called that simply because there was little written down after the Romans left in the fifth century. This was because the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings didn't write things down. It was with the Christian missionaries that written language was introduced by the monasteries. The facts we do have are from the *Saxon Chronicles* commissioned by King Alfred. King Alfred was a keen Christian and believer in the usefulness in reading and writing. History is 'written by the victors' as Churchill's phrase goes so even this Chronicle is not absolutely true. But from this Chronicle we are able to establish facts. Further evidence is provided by Bishop Asser's use of a version of the Chronicle in his work *Life of King Alfred*, known to have been composed in 893. You may want to show your pupils images of the Saxon Chronicles. A second source for this period is archaeological. Exciting discoveries are Sutton Hoo and of course the Staffordshire Hoard. I have taken a great historical liberty by connecting the Staffordshire Hoard to King Alfred as it firstly is very early days in it's discovery and secondly it may be up to 100 years earlier but still it is Anglo-Saxon artefacts and very exciting. So here are lists of facts, legends and fiction that you can explain to your pupils and look at.

Facts.

There was a King Alfred who was called Great.

There was a King Guthrum of the Vikings.

The Vikings were called Danes and were from Norway, Sweden and Demark.

Going Viking meant stealing, raiding and pirating. They weren't always Viking.

The Vikings did invade at Christmas.

King Alfred did hide in the marshes of Somerset with only a few followers.

The Anglo-Saxon did gather an army and fight a battle at Eddington in 878 and defeat the Vikings.

King Alfred did create the navy and schools.

When Danes were being Vikings they placed frightening carved dragon heads as figureheads to scare their enemy.

King Alfred did create the idea of England and the name.

Some Anglo-Saxons did bury a very rich horde of gold in Staffordshire.

Guthrum did become a Christian.

Alfred was a devout Christian maybe that is why he shared the land the or gold or was it inventive diplomacy?

Legend

Alfred burnt the cakes whilst in hiding.

Alfred spied on the Vikings by pretending to be an entertainer.

The idea of the cow horned raiding Viking is a legend. They were mainly people looking for land to settle on.

Fiction

There was no Splatafeld that helped King Alfred. Although, there were travelling jugglers and some of our jokes are that old. The journey they take does make geographical sense though.

Create your own Historical fiction

Maybe your pupils could find their own historical facts and make a fiction. It is helpful to pick a very specific event and then weave a fictional character into it.

PROP MAKING

1) SIGNS: 'EDINGTON', 'PUFFIN ISLAND', 'HAMMERWITCH'

2) CIRCULAR SHEILDS

For all Saxons and Vikings

3) TREE HANDS

by Greca

How to Make Tree Hands

These are for Acts 1, 2 & 3. The children who are going to be trees in the chase will use these. They are priority and you need to make at least ten pairs.

You will need:

- Green Card or paint
- Scissors
- Glue

1. Cut out the card base this should be at least 10cm wider than the child's hand.

3. Cut out the leaves from green card or paper. You can draw on the leaf ridging with a black pen.

Then glue them onto the base.

4. Cut out a wrist strap out of any spare card this needs to be large enough for the children to ge

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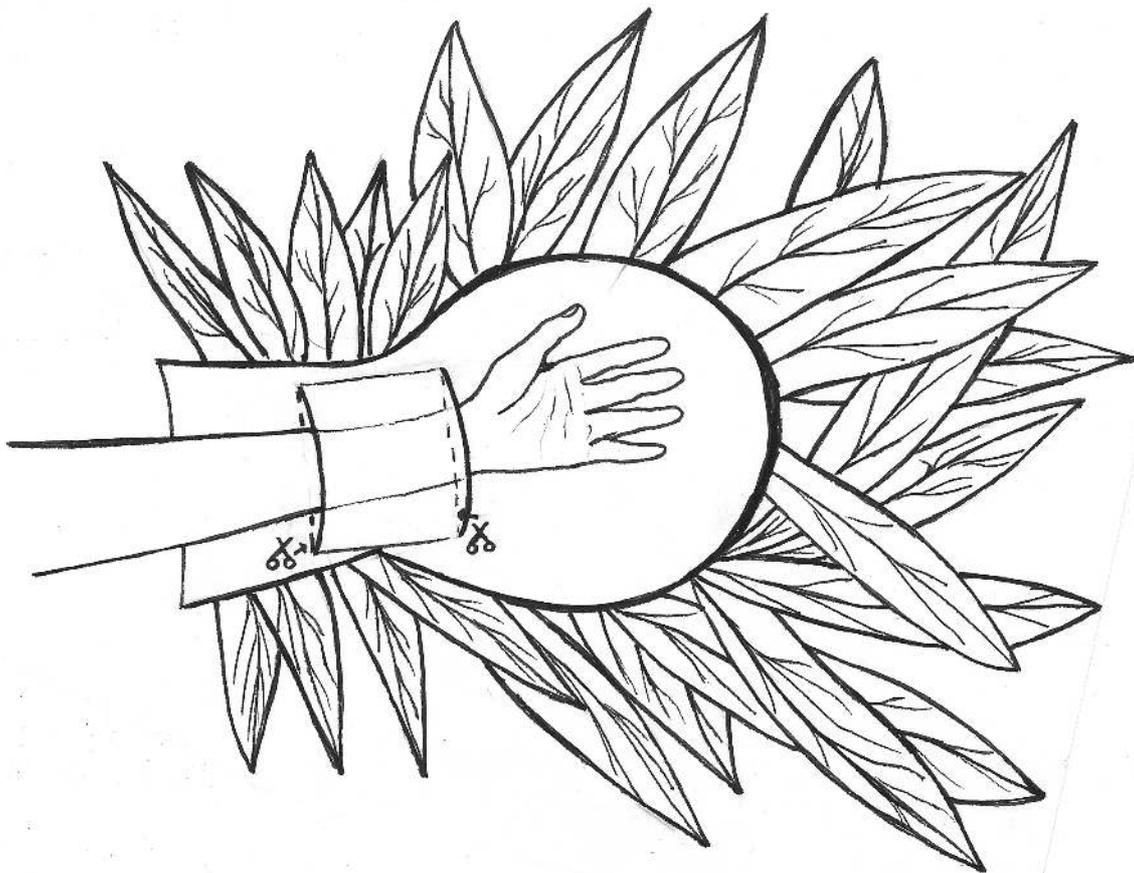
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4)Helmet

Every scene will need 10 of these.

To Make: Scissors, Tape, and a length of String or paper.

Print out the 2 parts per child. Cut out pieces on page. Cut out the eye hole in each piece. Turn the two pieces over (face down) and position them together as shown in figure with the edges touching but not overlapping. Tape the straight area where they meet.

Now turn the entire piece around so the four points are facing you. Begin taping together the two middle edges, starting between the eyes and working towards the outside. It's VERY important to join only half an inch or so at a time, and don't let the edges overlap.

The piece should begin to curve as you work your way outwards, as shown in figure 1b.

This seam may prove difficult at first, but it's easy once you get the hang of it. After the two edges are joined all the way to the corners (don't join the small flat areas at the top) you may join the two outer seams in this same manner.

) HELMET IS FOR ALL SAXONS AND VIKINGS.

- 1) KING GUTHRUM STYLED ON THE STTON HOO MASK (CUT FACE PLATE OUT IF YOU WANT)
- 2) KING ALFRED
- 3) DRAGON HEAD FOR VIKING SHIP



top right piece

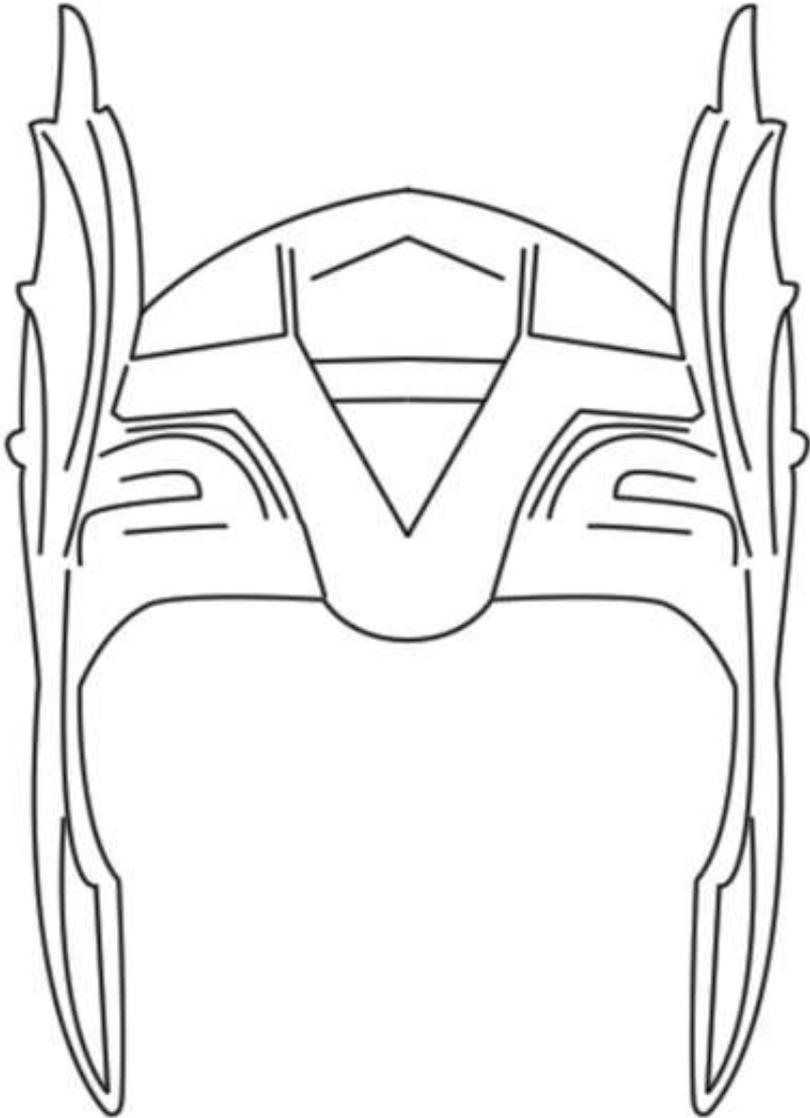


top left piece



KING GUTHRUMS HELMET

KING ALFRED'S HELMET



THE BEAST HEAD TO GO ON THE VIKING SHIPS ONE FOR EACH SHIP.

