



## VIKING BRAIN TEASERS

In order to make sense of lots of “completely baffling” happenings in Nature, the ancient Norse decided that they were all caused by the gods and giants and nature spirits, rather than trying to arrive at some sort of scientific explanation.

See if you can make your brain go “ancient Norse” and match these natural occurrences to their mythical causes.

NATURAL PHENOMENA		THE CAUSES
1.The cracking of the ice in glaciers and the roar of distant avalanches		a.Turbulent air currents caused by Odin racing across the sky on Sleipnir
2.Vast, towering, unexplored mountain ranges		b. The light from the frosted mane of a horse which pulled a chariot driven by the kidnapped son of a human being
3.Sunlight		c. Giants who’ve stayed out all night, forgotten to go home and been turned to stone by the early morning light
4.Moonlight		d. The light from the glowing mane of a horse which pulled a chariot driven by the kidnapped daughter of a human being
5.Deep chasms and crevasses		e. Dwarves hiding behind rocks and whispering (only at night, of course!)
6.The rumble of thunder		f. Frost giants partying or having family rows
7.Echoes that occur naturally in mountainous areas		g. Damage caused by clumsy giants when the earth was first being made
8.Lightning		h. Fire giants blowing their tops!
9.Gale force winds		i.The noise made by the wheels of Thor’s chariot rumbling on clouds as he charged across the sky
10.Volcanoes		j. The sparks and flashes caused by Thor striking rocks with his hammer Mjollnir

## ANSWER KEY:

- 1) F
- 2) C      The giants had the same problem as the dwarves- they were said to be petrified by daylight
- 3) D & 4) D      The gods originally created the bright bits in heaven (sun, moon, stars...that sort of thing) from sparks that happened to shoot out of the fiery land of Muspell. However, one day a human man living down in Midgard had the cheek to name his children Sun and Moon. He (rather confusingly) called his son Moon and his daughter Sun! The gods didn't like this one bit (they would have preferred Dwayne and Lisa) so they immediately snatched the kids and gave them the full-time and extremely demanding job of steering the chariots that guide the sun and moon through the sky. Moon leads the way and Sun follows close behind him. They are constantly pursued by two gigantic wolves called Skoll and Hati who will eventually catch them and eat them – but not in our lifetime(thank goodness)
- 4) D
- 5) G
- 6) I      The Vikings believed that every time they heard the sound of thunder it was actually the noise of the wheels of Thor's chariot rumbling across the clouds (but if they heard it on cloudless day they knew it would just be the roar of a passing Jumbo jet)
- 7) E      The dwarves were notorious gossips
- 8) J
- 9) A      Odin dashed about the sky hunting for the evil god Loki
- 10)                      H