



# YAK'S CORNER TEACHER GUIDE

This week we read about the re-emerging popularity of '80s trends and British author Brian Jacques. We also made a Yak Snack in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

## Paper Caper

**ACTIVITY:** Author Brian Jacques says, "If you want to be an author, you must learn to paint a picture with words." Chose a picture from your newspaper. Carefully study the picture, observing every detail. Then, without reading any text that accompanies the photograph, write a story about what you see happening in the picture. Try to choose words that exactly describe the images you see. (For fun, when you're finished, compare what you wrote with the story that goes with the picture.)

**STANDARD:** Students will be able to describe images through writing.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Adjectives and adverbs are often used in descriptive writing. Circle all the adjectives in your story and underline all the adverbs.

**STANDARD:** Students will identify words by part of speech.

## Virtual Vacation

**ACTIVITY:** With school back in session, September isn't a very good month for real travel. Instead, take a virtual vacation to Liverpool, England, to find out about the town where Brian Jacques lives. If you want to see lots of pictures of the city, go to [www.freefoto.com](http://www.freefoto.com). Do an Internet search, and you'll find plenty of other sites to explore. As you "travel" make a list of 10 interesting tidbits about Liverpool.

**STANDARDS:** Students will use the Internet to conduct research. Students will be familiar with major cities of the world.

## Hispanic Heritage

**ACTIVITY:** The National Historic Register's Web site, [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/hispanic/hisp00.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/hispanic/hisp00.htm), features information about Hispanic Heritage month, including a list of places that feature historic landmarks related to Hispanic culture. Mark these locations on a U.S. map. Based on your markings, which states do you believe have been most influenced by Hispanic culture? Look for city names in those states that seem to be Hispanic names.

**STANDARD:** Students will recognize contributions of various ethnic groups to American history and culture.

1. People, objects, events and institutions from what time period are considered medieval?
2. What event marked the beginning of this time period?
3. What time period followed the medieval period?
4. Chivalry and feudalism are medieval notions. What do these terms mean?

**STANDARDS:** Students will identify major periods in history. Students will develop vocabulary.

## '80s Extravaganza

**ACTIVITY:** Interview someone between the ages of 35 and 65 about what he or she remembers about the 1980s. Here are a few interview questions to get you started. Think of some questions of your own as well.

1. What is the most important political event you remember from the decade?
2. What kind of clothes did you wear?
3. Choose a favorite movie, TV show and song of the decade.
4. What were some major trends, interests or developments of the decade?

**STANDARDS:** Students will identify characteristics of recent decades in American history. Students will practice interpersonal communication skills.

## History Mystery

**ACTIVITY:** Brian Jacques' books are medieval tales. Research the answers to these questions:

DOUG GRISWOLD/KRT





# YAK'S CORNER ACTIVITY SHEET

www.yakscorner.com

Hey kids, this week we read about the re-emerging popularity of '80s trends and British author Brian Jacques. We also made a Yak Snack in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

## History Mystery

**ACTIVITY:** This week, we learned about British author Brian Jacques. Most of Jacques' books are set during medieval times. Research the answers to these questions:

What event marked the beginning of the medieval period? \_\_\_\_\_

How long did the medieval period last? \_\_\_\_\_

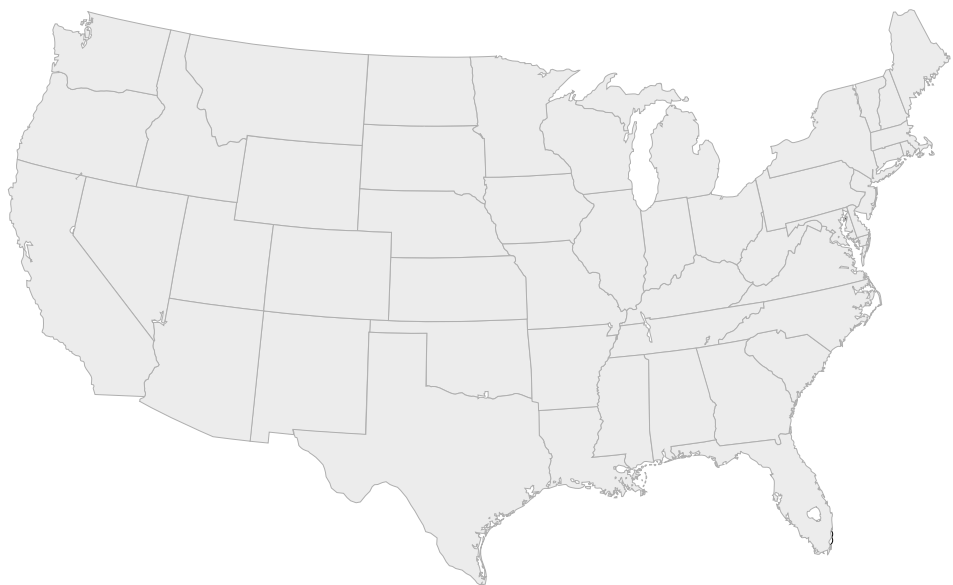
List three people and events you associate with the time period: \_\_\_\_\_

What does chivalry mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What is feudalism? \_\_\_\_\_

## Hispanic Heritage

**ACTIVITY:** The National Historic Register's Web site, [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/hispanic/hisp00.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/hispanic/hisp00.htm), features information about Hispanic Heritage month, including a list of places that feature historic landmarks related to Hispanic culture. Mark the states these locations can be found on the map to your right.



Based on your findings, which states do you believe have been most influenced by Hispanic culture? \_\_\_\_\_