

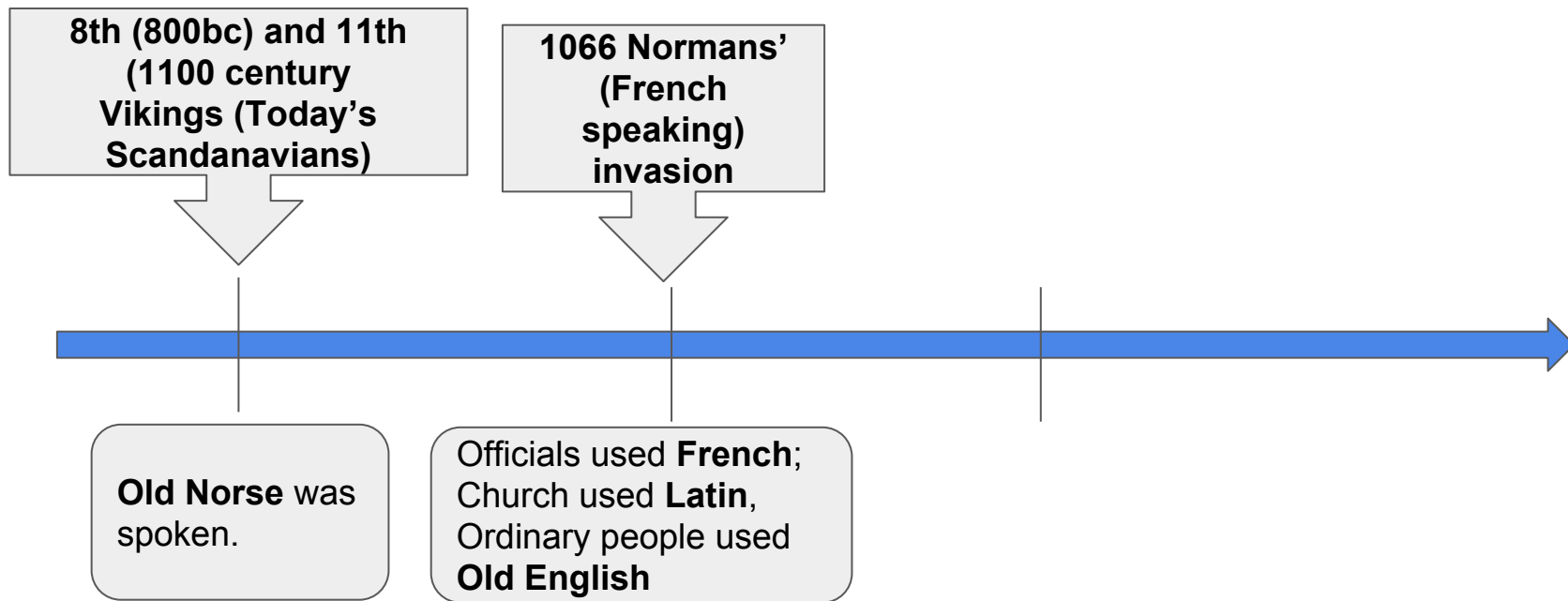
The History of the English Language

Week 2

Video: Where did English come from?

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/where-did-english-come-from-claire-bowern>

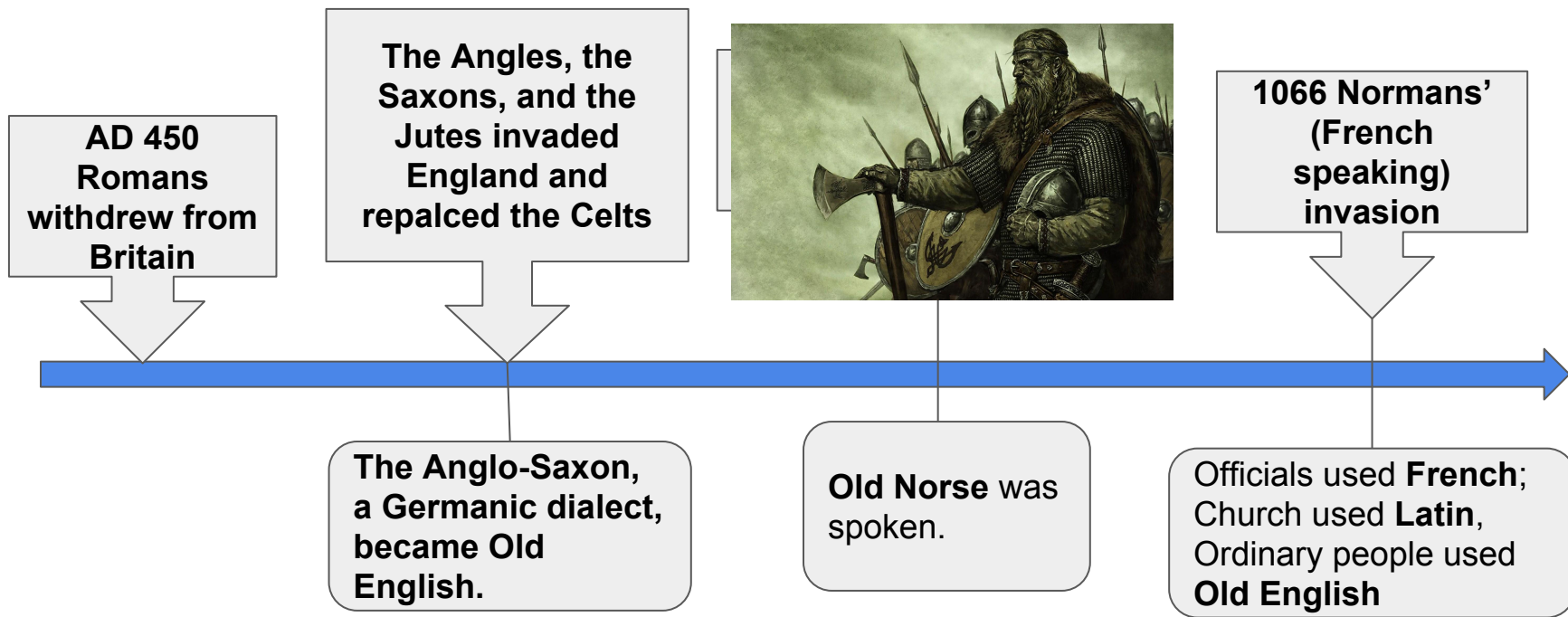
As you listen, try to construct a timeline of how English developed.



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Checking your understanding

1. English shares many words with _____ because of borrowing.
 - a. Punjabi
 - b. Khmer
 - c. French
 - d. Navajo

2. English is a member of the _____ language group.
 - a. Germanic
 - b. Finno-Ugric
 - c. Viking
 - d. Latin

3. We can tell that languages are related to one another because _____.

- a. Scribes recorded when the languages split
- b. The language was written down
- c. They have some similar grammar
- d. They show regular consistent changes

The case of English words

- Up to **85-90%** of the words in English are borrowed words.
- Guess the origin of the following words:
 - Kow-tow → Chinese
 - Baguette → French
 - Spaghetti → Italian
 - Antique → Latin
 - Yoga → Sanskrit
 - Sabbatical → Greek/Latin
 - Judge → French
 - Sky → Old Norse
- Did English come from German? Was it a German dialect?

Old English



Twī	Woden	Thur	Frig	(Saturn)	(the Sun)	(the Moon)
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday

Vikings/Scandinavian influence

Body Parts	Leg, Skull, Freckle
Actions	Sream, crawl, take, lift

French influence on English

Government	Parliament, democracy,
Wealth	In vogue, mansion, beef, mutton

English, German

Modern languages

Proto-Germanic

*An undocumented
parent language (no
longer spoken)*

Proto-Indo-European

*An undocumented
parent language (no
longer spoken)*

