VIKINGS AND THE WEATHER

1) Match the words with their definitions:

1. _____	a. A thick cloud near the ground
2. _____	b. Very strong winds
3. _____	c. Cold, grey and unpleasant
4. _____	d. Weather with a lot of fog
5. _____	e. Winds that become strong for short periods
6. _____	f. Light rain with very small drops

2) Read the text. look at the emojis and complete the spaces:

The Vikings depended on the sea to travel, trade, and explore new lands. However, their journeys also depended on the weather. Without modern forecasts or engines, they had to understand the seasons and choose the right time to sail. Strong 1)_____🌬️, rough 2)_____🌊, and heavy storms could easily damage a Viking ship or even sink it.

Because of this, Viking sailors learned to observe the sky, the wind, the 3)_____☁️, and the sea before beginning a voyage. They knew that sailing during late autumn or winter was very dangerous. During these months, gales (very strong winds) and high waves made the sea extremely difficult to cross.

The Baltic Sea, one of the main areas where the Vikings travelled, has cold and changeable weather. In 4)_____🍂 and winter, powerful Atlantic storms often move across the region. These storms bring drizzly rain, snow, and gusty winds that can suddenly change direction. 5)_____🌡️ may quickly fall from 8°C to 0°C or below after a cold front passes.

From October to December, the weather is often bleak, with grey skies, little sunshine, and frequent 6)_____🌧️. Many days are foggy, making it difficult for sailors to see the coastline or other ships. Thick fog can reduce visibility to less than 200 metres, making navigation dangerous, especially near rocks and narrow straits.

Rainfall during these months usually ranges from 30 to 80 millimetres per month, while snowfall becomes more common from December onwards. Snow may fall on 8 to 14 days each month, and temperatures often remain below 0°C throughout the 7)_____❄️.

Although Viking sailors were highly skilled, they respected the power of nature. By understanding the weather and waiting for safer conditions, they increased their chances of completing long voyages across the cold northern seas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

VIKINGS AND THE WEATHER

2) Read the statements and choose the correct option:



1) **Why did Vikings avoid sailing during late autumn and winter?**
   a) Their ships were too small for long voyages.
   b) The weather created several hazards that could threaten the voyage.
   c) Trading routes were closed during these seasons.
   d) Navigation was forbidden by local rulers.

2) Which statement is best supported by the text?
   a) Fog was considered more dangerous than strong winds.
   b) Viking sailors depended on experience rather than technology.
   c) Snowfall prevented all sea travel.
   d) Temperatures below 0°C immediately froze the Baltic Sea.

3) The phrase "changeable weather" implies that weather conditions
   a) remained predictable throughout the year.
   b) changed suddenly and frequently.
   c) were generally mild.
   d) only varied in winter.

4) It is suggested that successful Viking navigation depended primarily on
   a) advanced sailing technology.
   b) careful observation and environmental knowledge.
   c) military strength.
   d) favourable trade agreements.

3) Look at the weather forecast and plan your next expedition

Weather Forecast	Sail?	Why?
2°C, thick fog, gusty winds	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____
15°C, clear skies, light wind	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____
-3°C, gales, snow	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____
10°C, drizzly but calm	☐ Yes ☐ No	_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS