

Death of Harald V of Norway (September 5, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The death of King Harald V of Norway, who had reigned for over 35 years, and the immediate accession of a new king. 👑

Who? King Harald V, who passed away at the age of 89, and his son Haakon, who immediately became King Haakon VIII.

Where? In Norway, a Northern European country—specifically in its capital, Oslo, where the King died at the national hospital.

When? Early in the morning on Friday, August 28, 2026.

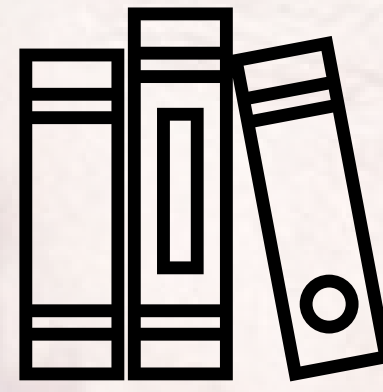
Why is it important? Because in Norway, the King does not run the country—elected officials govern—but he represents all Norwegians and symbolizes their unity.

🎯 **For this activity, your goal is to learn a little more about Harald V and his country, Norway.** 🇳🇴



OBJECTIVES

- Create a profile of Norway using an encyclopedic source
- Locate Norway on the Scandinavian Peninsula and understand its northern position
- Understand how glaciers carved out the fjords after the last ice age
- Discover the Sognefjord and the Geirangerfjord, two iconic Norwegian fjords



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading comprehension
 - Listening and video comprehension
 - Written expression (short answers)
- **Mathematics**
 - Calculating durations based on dates
 - Comparing large numbers
 - Reading data from a table
- **Geography**
 - Locating a country in Northern Europe
 - Country profile
 - Glacial landforms and coastal relief



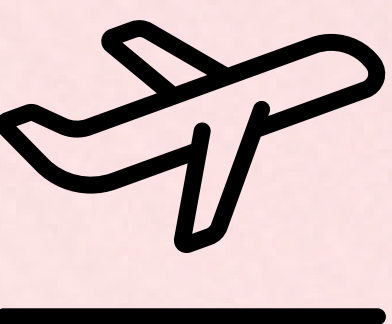
COMPETENCIES

- Locate and interpret information
- Listen to and understand a documentary video
- Read and interpret a data table
- Perform duration calculations
- Produce a structured response



DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they know what a king is and if they can name one.
- Ask them if they know of any countries that still have a king or queen today—and whether Canada is one of them.
- Locate Norway on a world map, then ask them to imagine the climate and landscapes of a country situated so far north.
- Show a photo of a fjord without identifying it, and gather their guesses: is it a lake, a river, or the sea?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Norway, the Northern Kingdom.

Consultation of the Norway Wikipedia page and filling of a five-field fact sheet using the information from the right-hand panel.

Capital — Oslo.

Area — 385,207 km²

Population — 5,633,770 inhabitants

Official languages — Norwegian and Sami languages

Currency — Norwegian krone.

STEP 2 — The Land of Fjords. Watching of two videos about the formation and landscapes of fjords, followed by answers to four written questions.

Q1 — True.

Q2 — Chile, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Alaska, Scotland, or New Zealand.

Q3 — The Sognefjord is 205 km long and reaches a depth of 1,600 m.

Q4 — In 2005.

STEP 3 — A Kingdom and Its Kings. Reading of an infographic showing the last eight kings of Norway, followed by answers to four questions involving locating information, calculation, and deduction.

Q5 — Haakon VII, who reigned for approximately 52 years, from 1905 to 1957.

Q6 — Approximately 35 years, from January 1991 to August 2026.

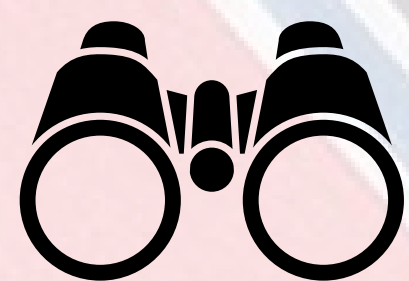
Q7 — The first four kings were kings of both Norway and Sweden. From Haakon VII onwards, they were kings of Norway only: in 1905, Norway separated from Sweden and appointed its own king.

Q8 — Haakon VII, who became king in 1905, and Haakon VIII, who became king in 2026.



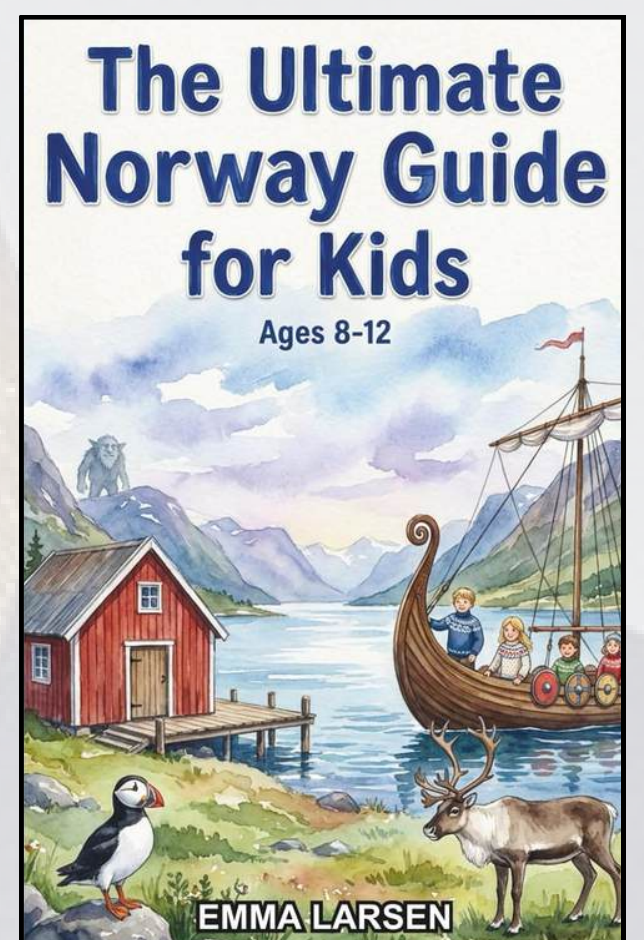
WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group review of what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them the most (the 1,200 fjords, the depth of the Sognefjord, a king who does not govern).
- Inform them that the last coronation of a Norwegian king took place in 1906 and that the royal crown has not been worn since. Ask: why keep a crown that no king wears?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Emma Larsen. *The Ultimate Norway Guide for Kids*.



The Nordic countries

Denmark — Copenhagen — 42,924 km² — ≈ 5.9 M — E

Finland — Helsinki — 338,455 km² — ≈ 5.6 M — D

Iceland — Reykjavík — 102,775 km² — ≈ 387,000 — A

Norway — Oslo — 385,199 km² — ≈ 5.6 M — B

Sweden — Stockholm — 449,964 km² — ≈ 10 M — C

Six words from Norway

FJORD → “a place where you cross water” → the fjord

SKI → “a split log, a wooden board” → wooden skis

TROLL → “the one who walks heavily” → the troll

SLALOM → “the trace on the slope” → the skier

KRILL → “small frying, very small fish” → krill

KRAKEN → “a twisted tree, with tangled branches” → the octopus



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Norway and its Nordic neighbors

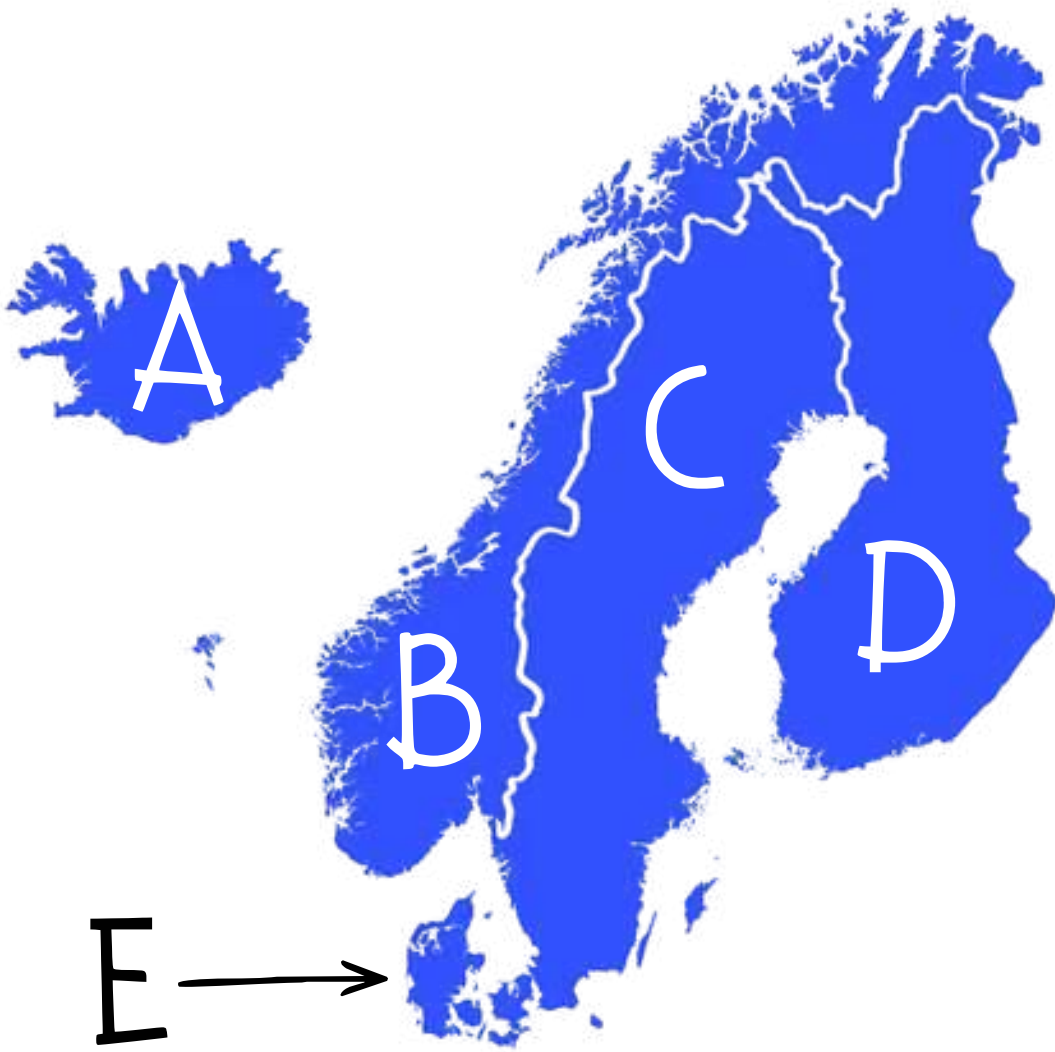
Take a good look at the map. At the far north of Europe, five countries share the High North: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. They are known as the Nordic countries.

They have a lot in common: long, dark winters and summers where—in the north—the sun refuses to set; forests, lakes, and coastlines carved out by the sea; and a lifestyle somewhat similar to ours, with a love for the outdoors, snow, and skiing.

Yet each has its own territory, capital, and population. Iceland is a volcanic island sitting in the middle of the ocean. Finland borders Russia. Denmark is the smallest and the southernmost of the group.

Five neighbors, five different profiles. It's up to you to discover them! Fill in the table below using Wikipedia!

country	capital	Area	Population	on the map (A-E)
Denmark				
Finland				
Iceland				
Norway				
Sweden				



English has borrowed words from dozens of languages around the world. And what has Norway contributed? Six words, in particular, that you likely already use without realizing it.

Words for snow, the sea, and monsters. Each one once held a different meaning: a wooden plank, a twisted tree, a track on a slope.

It's up to you to discover the hidden meaning of each word, and then match it to the corresponding image! (The internet can help!)

FJORD

"The trail on the slope"



SKI

"Small fry, tiny fish"



TROLL

"A place where one crosses the water"



SLALØM

"A split log a wooden plank"



KRILL

"A twisted tree with tangled branches"



KRAKEN

"The one who walks heavily"

