**Anglo Saxon Time Period-Kenning Activity**

Κεnning A kenning is a literary device in which a poetic phrase substitutes for a noun. In the best kennings, one element of the phrase will create a striking, unexpected comparison. Often used in Anglo-Saxon poetry and especially in Beowulf, a kenning provides powerful imagery that would help the audience focus on the words of the scop or poet telling the story. A kenning also allows the scop some variety, so words don’t become overused. Finally, Anglo-Saxon poetry depended heavily on alliteration, and some kennings provided additional alliteration.

Here are examples:

sky-candle (the sun)

swan-road (the sea)

stout-hearted (brave)

battle sweat (blood)

light-of-battle (sword)

helmet bearers (warriors)

giver of gold (king)

earth-hall (burial mound, barrow)

dwelling place (home)

storm of swords (battle)

When we translate these kennings from Anglo-Saxon, they lose some of their poetic quality because the sound changes. For example, the alliteration may disappear. Listed below are some modern kennings.

Identify the concept each kenning represents.

1. gas guzzler

2. headhunter

3. muffin top

4. rug rat

5. land line

6. eye candy

7. cancer stick

8. boob tube

9. couch potato

10. tramp stamp

Create at least 5 kennings of your own. List them below along with the concept your kenning represents.