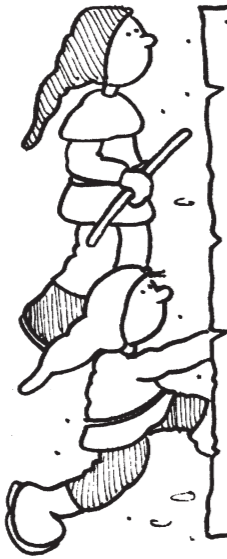


Language change

- Read this poem written in 1387 by Geoffrey Chaucer. It describes a chase.



Ha! Ha! the fox! And after hym they ran,
 And eek with staves many another man;
 Ran Colle our dogge, and Talbot and Gerland,
 And Malkyn, with a distaf in hir hand;
 Ran cow and calf, and eek the verray hogges.
 So were they fered for berking of the dogges
 And shouting of the men and wimmen eke,
 They ronne so hem thoughte hir herte breke.



The words are pronounced just as they are spelled.

Spelling in 1387	Modern spelling

- Underline the words you recognise, but which are spelled differently today.
- Make a chart and record these words.
- Circle the words you do not understand. Read them aloud.
- Copy and complete the chart below.

Words I do not understand	What I found out about them



- Write out the poem in modern English, using the information you have found. Compare your poem with a partner's.

Teachers' note The children should recognise most words except 'eek' (also) and probably 'staves' (sticks) and 'distaf' (staff) by their sound. They will not find 'eek' in a dictionary. Text-level work in Year 6 will probably include some Shakespeare and the same process can be followed.