

## The Oera Linda Book



| Category             | Choices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Title                | The Oera Linda book - Het Oera Linda boek - It Oera Linda boek                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Objective            | With this activity, pupils learn about the Oera Linda book and about the reliability of sources.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Target group         | First grades of secondary school                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Subject              | History, Frisian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Duration             | 35-55 min                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Link to curriculum   | Related to theme: Frisian canon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Languages            | Frisian, Dutch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Link to FREPA        | Knowledge about languages in Fryslân, Europe and the world                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Skills               | Listening, reading, speaking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Theoretical support  | Immersion, translanguaging                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Activity description | <p><b>Step 1: Introduction (10-15 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss prior knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is a source?</li> <li>- How do you know if a source is truthful?</li> <li>- How can you see if a source is reliable?</li> <li>- What are causes and consequences?</li> <li>- Have you ever heard about the Oera Linda book?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Show the video: (FR)</b></li> <li>• Ask some more questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What do you know now about the Oera Linda book?</li> <li>- In which period of history is this book published? Which period does the book tell about?</li> <li>- What else would you want to know about the book?</li> <li>- What would you say now about the reliability of the book?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Make the objective explicit: I learn what the Oera Linda book is, in which period this book belongs and which causes and consequences are related to it. I learn how to find out whether a source is reliable.</li> </ul> |

# The Oera Linda Book

| Category             | Choices                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| Activity description | <p><b>Step 2: Core (20-30 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the text on the worksheet, assignment 1, together. The text is about the Oera Linda book.</li> <li>• Discuss the text. Are there things that are unclear?</li> <li>• The pupils answer the questions from assignment 1.</li> <li>• Move on to assignment 2. The pupils will now look at the Oera Linda book in a different way. Read the information from the assignment together, then let them make the assignments individually.</li> <li>• Next, explain assignment 3: The pupils are going to search for more information on the Oera Linda book, for example on the following websites:<br/> <a href="http://www.11en30.nu/de-canon-vensters/het-oera-linda-boek">http://www.11en30.nu/de-canon-vensters/het-oera-linda-boek</a> (NL)<br/> <a href="http://www.11en30.nu/de-kanon-finsters/it-oera-linda-boek?language=fri">http://www.11en30.nu/de-kanon-finsters/it-oera-linda-boek?language=fri</a><br/> <a href="https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Vervalsing-of-echt/Pages/HomePage.aspx">https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Vervalsing-of-echt/Pages/HomePage.aspx</a> (NL)<br/> <a href="https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Ferfalsking-of-echt-/Pages/HomePage.aspx">https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Ferfalsking-of-echt-/Pages/HomePage.aspx</a> (FR)</li> </ul> <p>The pupils also review the reliability of the sources that they find.</p> <p><b>Step 3: End (5-10 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pupils briefly tell or present what they found about the Oera Linda book. Is it reliable or not? If yes, why? If not, why do some people still believe that it is true?</li> <li>• Discuss assignment 1 and 2 to check whether the lesson goals are achieved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What did you learn about the Oera Linda book?</li> <li>- What was the direct cause for publishing the Oera Linda book?</li> <li>- What was the consequence of the publication of the Oera Linda book?</li> <li>- When is a source reliable?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Materials            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worksheet 1, 2 and 3 - The Oera Linda book</li> <li>• Video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRK2qm9M7HU&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRK2qm9M7HU&amp;feature=youtu.be</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Tips                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information/used sources:<br/> <a href="http://www.11en30.nu/de-canon-vensters/het-oera-linda-boek">http://www.11en30.nu/de-canon-vensters/het-oera-linda-boek</a> (NL)<br/> <a href="http://www.11en30.nu/de-kanon-finsters/it-oera-linda-boek?language=fri">http://www.11en30.nu/de-kanon-finsters/it-oera-linda-boek?language=fri</a> (FR)<br/> <a href="https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Vervalsing-of-echt/Pages/HomePage.aspx">https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Vervalsing-of-echt/Pages/HomePage.aspx</a> (NL)<br/> <a href="https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Ferfalsking-of-echt-/Pages/HomePage.aspx">https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Ferfalsking-of-echt-/Pages/HomePage.aspx</a> (FR)</li> <li>• Extra suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils can make a presentation about a Frisian source of their choice. Discuss the content of the source, the causes/consequences and the reliability.</li> <li>- Assignment 3 can also be a homework assignment to present in the next class</li> <li>- Play a game to learn how to ask questions about the reliability of a story/source: divide the class into groups of three. Let each trio have a short moment for discussion and then one by one the groups come to the front of the class. Each pupil tells a short story about an experience in their life. Two of the stories are true, one is not. The pupils in the class can ask one question to each of the three pupils. Then they have to guess which story is not true.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# Work sheet 1 - The Oera Linda Book (History)

## Assignment 1: The Oera Linda book

### Text

In the year 1867, the mysterious book "Oera Linda" is published in Friesland. The book describes the glorious history of the Frisians as founders of the European civilization. The Frisians are descendants of Frya, one of the ancestresses who was appointed by the upper goddess Wralta. Without the Frisians, we would not have had the Greek alphabet and the Greek democracy.

The book was written in a pseudo\*-runescript, on old paper and made-up old-Frisian. In the 19th century, people had a need for more knowledge on their ancestry and their country. The "Oera Linda book" gave answers to the questions of the Frisians. The scholars from the 19th century were divided about the reliability of the book. Many people were however convinced that the Oera Linda book told the truth about the Frisian history. Also abroad, this was believed. The book was even translated into other languages besides Frisian and Dutch.

For a long time, the author of the book was unknown. Several people were pointed to as possible fraud. After 137 years, Goffe Jensma, a Groningen professor, writes that François Haverschmidt must be the author. This reverend, known under the pseudonym Piet Paaltjens, was reverend in Foudgum, among other places, but he thought that the Bible should not be taken literally. In the "Oera Linda" book, the same message is found. Jensma thinks that the book fits Haverschmidt perfectly. But we still are not 100% sure, especially because Haverschmidt has denied until his death that he had anything to do with the book. Nowadays, people think that Haverschmidt had written the book to teach his community a lesson. With the help of nautical carpenter Cornelis over de Linden and linguist Eelco Verwijs, who he met in Den Helder, the book was published. That the book was actually believed and would change into a new Frisian "Bible", was probably not the intention of Haverschmidt.

\*pseudo - fake, not real

### Sources:

- Tresoar (z.j.). *Oera Linda Boek Vervalsing of echt?* Accessed via <https://www.tresoar.nl/ontdek/Oera-Linda-Boek-Vervalsing-of-echt/Pages/HomePage.aspx>
- NRC.nl (2004). 'Paaltjens schrijver Oera Linda'. Accessed via <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2004/11/24/paaltjens-schrijver-oera-linda-7712075-a156252>
- De Kanon fan de Fryske Skiednis. (z.j.). *Het Oera Linda-boek: Het gemystificeerde Friesland*. Accessed via <http://www.11en30.nu/de-canon-vensters/het-oera-linda-boek?language=ned>

### Questions:

- What is the Oera Linda book? What is it about?
- In which period does this book belong?
- Why do you think that many people believed it?
- Why did the author write this book? What is the cause?
- What happened after publication of the book? What is the consequence?
- Do you think Jensma is right about François Haverschmidt as author of the book? Why do you think so?
- The thing that directly precedes a situation can be called the "immediate cause". That is like a last push in a certain direction. What made the author publish the book?

## Work sheet 2 - The Oera Linda Book (History)

### Assignment 2: Reliable sources

#### Explanation

On the internet you can find many different sources. But not every source on the internet is reliable. Older sources, such as books, paintings or artefacts are not always reliable. Like now, there were people who could make fake sources or even invent sources. To find out whether a source is reliable, you can ask several questions:

Fill this table in about the Oera Linda book:

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Who is the author?               | What function/role did he have?                                                                                                                     |  |
|                                  | Was he an eye witness of the event he writes about?                                                                                                 |  |
|                                  | Which information could he have had?                                                                                                                |  |
| When is the source made?         | Is the source created during the event or (much) later?                                                                                             |  |
| Where is the source made?        | Is the source made in the direct environment of the event?                                                                                          |  |
| What kind of source is it?       | Diary, letter, newspaper article, report, propaganda, official document, etc.                                                                       |  |
| What is the goal of the source?  | To inform, to convince, to amuse, to spread propaganda, etc.                                                                                        |  |
|                                  | For which audience is the source?                                                                                                                   |  |
| What can you use the source for? | What questions can be answered with the information from the source?                                                                                |  |
| Is the source representative?    | Does the information from the source relate to the whole group who it is about?                                                                     |  |
| Is the source reliable?          | Is there a reason to doubt the reliability of the source? Does the author have a reason to write things in a different way than they actually were? |  |

After filling in the table:

Do you think the Oera Linda book is reliable? Why?

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