

Hamlet and the History of Denmark

According to
William Shakespeare

Two Kings

- Norway: Old Fortinbras
 - One son: Fortinbras
 - One (younger) brother
 - Killed by King Hamlet
 - His brother takes over, not his son and rightful heir
- Denmark: Old Hamlet
 - One son: Hamlet
 - One younger brother: Claudius
 - Killed by his brother
 - His brother takes over, not his son and rightful heir

Two Princes

- Norway

- Fortinbras becomes angry
- Gathers a group of thugs and criminals behind his uncle's back
- Threatens to invade Denmark
- Is told off by his uncle
- Goes against Poland instead

- Denmark

- Hamlet becomes angry
- Decides to kill his uncle
- Then does nothing for a very long time except get a lot of innocent people killed

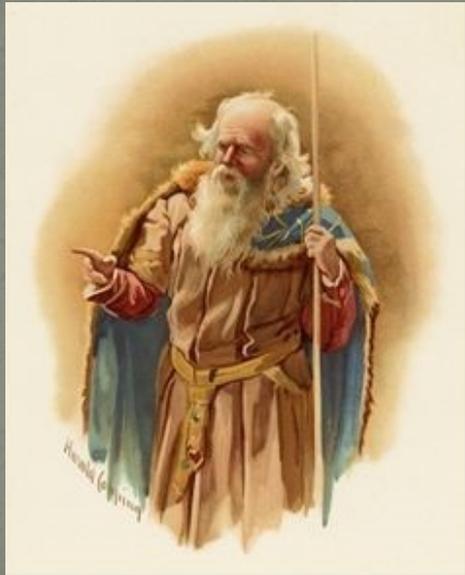
The Danish Royal Family

- Ghost = Old Hamlet, King of Denmark
- Gertrude
- Hamlet
- Claudius, King of Denmark



The Polonius Family

- Polonius, advisor to the Danish King
- Laertes
- Ophelia



The Friends

- Horatio
- Rosencranz
- Guildenstern



Soldiers

- Marcellus
- Bernardo
- Francisco



Courtiers

- Voltimand
- Cornelius
- Osric



The Norwegians

- Fortinbras
- Captain



Others

- Grave-diggers (clowns)
- Reynaldo
- Players
- Ambassadors
- A priest
- A gentleman



People Who Don't Say Anything = spear carriers

- Lords
- Ladies
- Officers
- Soldiers
- Sailors
- Messengers
- Attendants



The Story So Far - 1

- Old Fortinbras of Norway challenges Old Hamlet of Denmark to do battle
- They make an agreement of lands the victor should receive after the battle
- Old Hamlet kills Old Fortinbras in battle and gets the lands promised by him
- Fortinbras's brother takes power in Norway

The Story So Far - 2

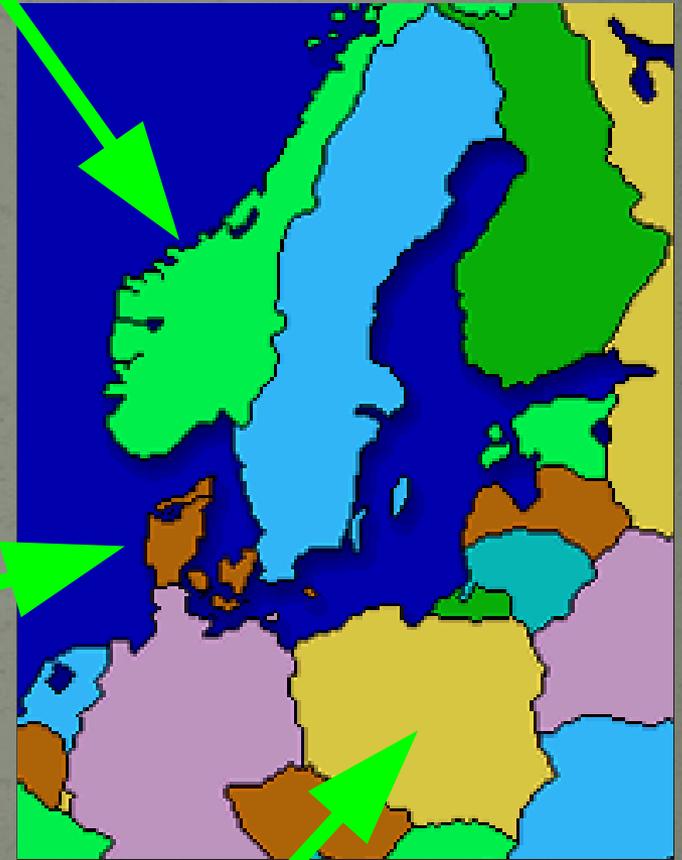
- Young Fortinbras gathers a group of thugs behind the king's (his uncle's) back and threatens to take back the lands his father lost
- Old Hamlet decides to do battle and prepares for war
- Claudius decides he can do better, kills his brother and takes power in Denmark.
- Claudius marries his brother's wife.

And the Play Begins

- Claudius's first official act is to tell the king of Norway what Fortinbras is up to
- The king of Norway tells Fortinbras not to attack Denmark and allows him to attack Poland
- Fortinbras moves his armies through Denmark to get to Poland

The Geography

- Shakespeare had absolutely no idea of how Denmark, Norway and Poland are arranged.



The Geography

- Shakespeare had absolutely no idea of how Denmark, Norway and Poland are arranged.
- According to him, the shortest way from Norway to Poland is through Denmark

