

Unit 1:

Anglo-Saxon Society

1066 – Claimants and Battles

The Norman Conquest – how William established control

Revolts and Rebellions

Anglo-Saxon Society: England before 1066

This topic focusses on the arrival of the Normans but you need to know about Change and Continuity and so you need to know about Anglo-Saxon society before.

- What do I need to know:
- What England was like before 1066..
 - The importance of the Godwin Family.



Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?

- The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.
- These fearsome warriors rowed across the North Sea in wooden boats to England and forced the tribes in Britain to flee their homes.
- Within a few centuries, the land they had invaded was known as England, after the Angles.



Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

- Believe it or not, the Anglo-Saxons were **warrior-farmers**. They began to invade Britain while the Romans were still in control.
- They wanted control and land.
- The Anglo-Saxons were tall, fair-haired men, armed with swords and spears and round shields.
- Their other skills consisted of hunting, farming, textile (cloth) production and leather working.

There were three groups of people who settled in Britain which together, are called the Anglo-Saxons. These three groups are called:

- Jutes
- Angles
- Saxons

The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as Anglo-Saxons.

For about 150 years the Britons fought the Anglo-Saxons, but by the year 600 the Britons had either been forced to flee to Wales or the West Country and had become slaves.

By the year 600 Britain had been divided into 7 main Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms:

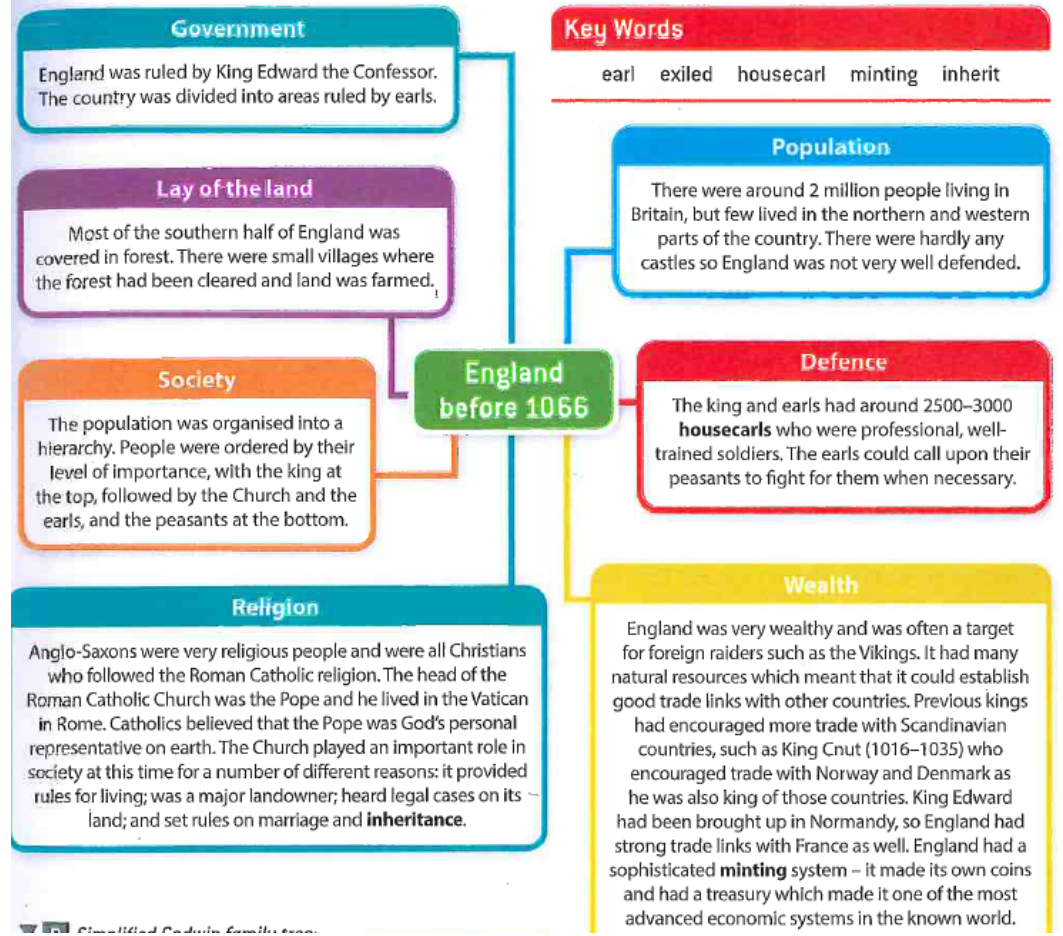
Northumbria, Mercia, Essex, East Anglia, Wessex, Kent and Sussex.



- Key Words:**
- Earl
 - Exiled
 - Housecarl
 - Inherit
 - minting

So what was life like in Anglo-Saxon England?

- Around two million inhabitants
- Life was hard
- Life expectancy low
- Most people farmed the land
- At the top of Anglo – Saxon society were the aristocracy (people who had wealth and power), in the middle the peasant farmers and at the bottom the slaves
- Religion was an important feature of society
- King Edward the Confessor had ruled since 1042



Anglo-Saxon Society: Edward the Confessor and the Godwin family



King Edward the Confessor's Rule:

- ▶ Ruled since 1042
- ▶ Before 1042, England had been ruled by Edward's half brother, Harthacnut
- ▶ His reign had been stable and largely peaceful, there was a growing threat from Normandy and Norway / Denmark
- ▶ The earls were the most important aristocrats, the relationship with the king was based on loyalty
- ▶ King Edward was not a warrior king he relied on his earls being a powerful military force, especially Earl Godwin
- ▶ During his time he brought many of his Norman friends to England as advisors
- ▶ This angered the Anglo – Saxons and caused some disagreement with Earl Godwin
- ▶ King Edward was a respected law – maker and he was very religious
- ▶ King Edward was married to Edith of Wessex, Earl Godwin's daughter

Key Words:

- Earl
- Exiled
- Housecarl
- Inherit
- minting



Who were the Godwins and why were they important?

- ▶ The Godwins were a powerful ruling family in England
- ▶ Earl Godwin (1001 – 53) was born in Wessex
- ▶ Anglo - Saxons
- ▶ Godwin and King Edward had a major dispute when Godwin refused to follow the king's orders, Godwin was exiled by the King
- ▶ Godwin returned with his army BUT King Edward was unable to raise an army, Godwin was stronger
- ▶ The king reinstated Godwin, the earls, their lands and their power = the power of the Godwins increased
- ▶ Earl Godwin died 1053 and his son Harold Godwinson becomes Earl of Wessex
- ▶ By the mid 1060s the Godwins had control of most of England and advised the king

An Uneasy King!

Sometimes a King named his own successor, But English and Norman ideas about this were different. This was quite important in the story of 1066.

- ▶ **English Customs:** The English regarded the dying King's 'last words' as more important than any promises made before that moment. The only way an earlier promise was stronger was if that promise had been made 'kept'. This means that the current king had crowned their successor and shared the throne with them from that point on.
- ▶ **Norman Customs:** Things were slightly different in Normandy where earlier promises of the throne were seen as final and they could not be undone later, even on the King's deathbed.

An uneasy King!

Edward the Confessor died on 5 January, with Harold at his side, and the very next day on the 6 January 1066, witnessed by prominent nobles Harold was crowned king. He was popular with the English lords. He was soon to be married to Ealdgyth, sister of the powerful Earls Edwin and Morcar, to strengthen his position. He was experienced having practically run England for some time as he was the 'Sub-regulus, a deputy king who represented Edward in battle.



What do I need to know:

- Who the Godwin's are
- How successful Edward the Confessor rule was.

The rules of inheritance

1. The son of a King would inherit the title (it does not have to be the eldest). If the king had no sons, then a male relative of a previous king could be chosen instead.



2. Post obitum = which means after death, this was a nomination for the next king



OR

Novissima Verba = where the king would name an heir of his choice



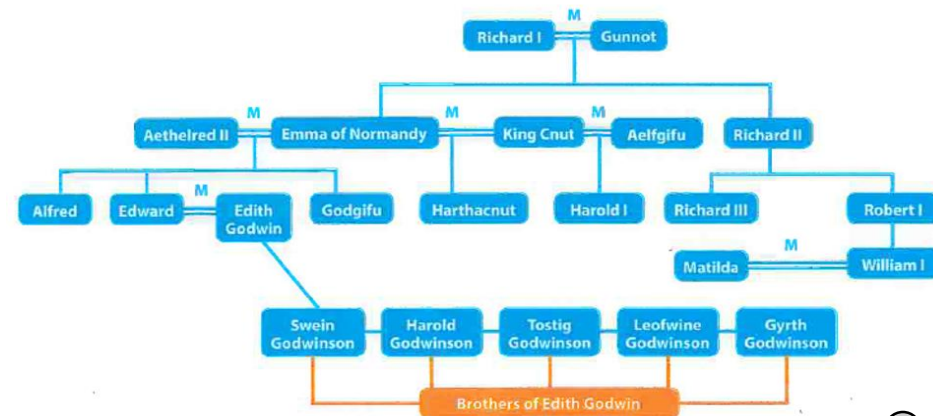
OR

The Witan = a council made up of a group of nobles and leading churchmen could suggest an heir or support the king's choice



3. The claimants could challenge each other for the throne and then the successful man was then crowned.

▼ A This family tree shows the ties between some of the claimants and their families



When Edward the Confessor died on the 5th January 1066 he had no children. As a result, it was unclear who was to become King. After Edward's death there were many powerful men who put forward their claim to the throne, four of whom presented the strongest claims. However, the claimants came from different countries and had differing levels of support.



Edgar the Outlaw (Aethling) (c1051-1126)

- The nearest relative and the great nephew.
- Only 14 years old.
- He had no money, no soldiers and no military experiences.
- His grandfather, Edmund Ironside, was Edward's half-brother.
- Edmunds son, Edward the Exile had been named as successor by Edward the Confessor in 1056.
- But he had died after his return to England in 1057.
- Edgar and his sister had lived with Edward and his wife Edith, since they were small children.
- Edgar was an Anglo-Saxon had the support of many earls.



Harald Hardrada: The Viking Warrior. (c1015-1066)

- Harald was the King of Norway and had ruled for 20 years.
- He was a seasoned warrior
- He was the leader of the famous Varangian Guard
- His name means 'hard ruler.'
- He had the support of Harold Godwinson's brother Tostig.
- Tostig flattered Hardrada and offered him the support of the north of England.
- Many people in the North were Scandinavian and so felt they should support him
- He was a powerful Viking with a large and successful army.
- He was related to King Cnut who reigned from 1016 to 1035.
- His claim was that, as Edward had no sons a relative of the previous king should be chosen.
- It was said that Hardrada's father Magnus had been promised the throne by Cnut's son, Harthacnut.
- Edward had claimed the throne, throwing Hardrada aside.

The Rival Claimants


In 1066, Edward was seriously ill but a succession crisis was just around the corner. There were 4 men who believed they had a right to be the next king of England. **Edward was 62 when he died but had no heir.**

What do I need to know:
 ➤ to reasons for their claims to the throne.
 ➤ Strengths and weaknesses of claims.



Key Words:

- Aethling
- Bayeux Tapestry
- Sub-regulus
- Novissima verba
- Post obitum
- Witan



Harald Godwinson: (c1022-1066)

- He was the most important earl in England as the EARL OF WESSEX.
- He was not a blood relation but he was the King's brother in law as he was married to his sister Edith.
- The Godwins had tried and failed to overthrow Edward in 1051.
- They were exiled but dominated the Witan so they were allowed to return to England just a year later.
- Harold inherited his father's earldom in 1053.
- He was the richest man in England.
- He was a skilful military leader.
- He was the Sub-regulus' a deputy king who ran England for Edward and represented him in battle from 1060 onwards.
- Harold said that Edward had promised him the throne on his deathbed
- He had the support of the Witan.
- He had support of the English Nobles.
- William of Normandy alleged that Harold had earlier sworn him a sacred oath of fealty to support his own claim to the throne.
- Harold did not deny making the oath but he said he only swore it as he was a prisoner by William and his life was threatened so it wasn't binding.

William, Duke of Normandy. (c1028-1087)

- William took over as Duke of Normandy at the age of 7 and faced many attempts against his life in this position.
- William was a successful and brutal warrior.
- In 1047, William and his army won the battle of Val-es-Dunes and cut off the heads and feet of his enemies after they made a comment about his mother.
- He was a distant cousin of Edward through Edward's mother, Emma.
- William claimed that Edward had promised him the throne earlier in his reign.
- In 1051, the Godwins rebelled against Edward, and William travelled to England to give his support to Edward and as a result Edward promised him the throne.
- William said Harold Godwinson had sworn to support his claim to the throne in 1064.
- Wessex and Normandy had been allies since 988. They were natural trading partners and helped each other when facing threats such as the Vikings.
- This relationship had the blessing of the Pope.
- William had proved himself a capable ruler of Normandy and hoped to expand his power into England.

The Succession Crisis in 1066:

- England had a troubled history in the 50 years leading up to the succession crisis of 1066.
- There were no clear rules in place for succession to the English throne.
- Edward the Confessor had been a weak ruler. He increased Norman influence at court and allowed the Godwin's to increase their power.
- Harold was hurriedly crowned just one day after Edward's death. The haste reflected how insecure he felt. He knew he would face challenges from the other claimants.

What happened when Edward the Confessor died?

- 5th January 1066 – Edward the Confessor dies
- 6th January 1066 – Harold Godwinson crowned King of England

What happened to the 4 contenders?

- William, Duke of Normandy claims the throne was promised to him – he mobilises his troops in preparation for an invasion of Britain
- Edgar Aethling considered too young to be King or challenge the decision
- Harald Hardrada prepares to invade in the North
- 8th September – peasant soldiers, known as the fyrd, sent home to harvest the crops
- Harald Hardrada invades the north of England
- Earls Edwin and Morcar wait with the northern army to prevent the Norwegian forces from advancing

Harald Hardrada invades

From the moment that Harold Godwinson was crowned, he was aware that he faced a number of challenges to his throne. He marched south which part of his army to prepare for an invasion by William. He left the rest of his army under the command of his brothers in law earls Edwin and Morcar.

Harold prepares to strike!

- Haralf Hardrada of Norway invaded England in the September.
- He sailed up the river Humber with 300 ships and landed 16 km (10 miles) from the city of York. Earls Edwin and Morcar were waiting for him with the northern army and attempted to prevent the Norwegian forces from advancing to York

What do I need to know:

- The events of the Battles of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge
- Why Hardrada won Fulford
- Why he lost Stamford Bridge.

Key Words:

- Fulford gate
- Fyrd
- Hardrada
- Stamford Bridge
- Viking



The Battle of Stamford Bridge



Were the battles significant?



The Battle of Fulford Gate

Battle 1!

- 20th September 1066
- Fulford, just outside York
- Invaders – Hardrada, King of Norway, Tostig (younger brother of King Harold) and around 7000 Viking soldiers
- Defenders – Anglo – Saxon earls. Edwin and Morcar, and around 3500 members of the English Northern army
- Outline of the Battle: Only a few Norweigians arrived at the Battleground at first and the English won an advantage through superior numbers and the element of surprise. However, as the battle continued, more Viking troops arrived and their numbers eventually overwhelmed the Anglo-Saxons.
- Outcome – Hardrada and the Vikings won, but both sides suffered losses, the northern army were disorganised and scattered and Edwin and Morcar were forced to flee

The loss at Fulford meant that King Harold had to move quickly to deal with the Viking invasion. Harold had already disbanded the Sothern army earlier in the month, so he moved north with his private army and gathered forces as he went. The journey of 306km was covered in 4 days, and King Harold reached Tadcaster, a town on the outskirts of York, on 24th September. He waited overnight with his troops and on 25th September he entered York and came upon the Viking troops at Stamford Bridge. The Anglo-Saxons had the advantage that the Vikings were not expecting King Harold to reach York so quickly.

- 25th September 1066
- Stamford Bridge, near York
- Invaders – Hardrada, King of Norway, Tostig (younger brother of King Harold) and Viking soldiers left from the Battle of Fulford Gate,
- Defenders – Anglo – Saxons with the support of King Harold and his private army who had marched from the south to the north (190 miles in 4 days) to deal with the Viking invasion
- Events: Hardrada was not expecting Harold so soon. His army was split on both sides of the river Derwent and more were not wearing armour.
- Outcome – The Anglo – Saxons had the element of surprise, King Harold's army, the Vikings did not defend the bridge properly, long and bloody battle, Harald Hardrada and Tostig were killed, King Harold victory
- According to sources only 24 of Hardrada's 300 ships were needed to return the survivors to Norway.

Significant because...	However...
Hardrada and Tostig's invasion meant that Harold was not in place to prevent William's invasion.	Harold had already sent the peasant soldiers (fyrd) home.
Edwin and Morcar made errors that meant the loss of thousands of men at Fulford Gate.	Harold was already on his way to support the northern army that suggests he did not think that Edwin and Morcar could defeat the Vikings.
Edwin and Morcar survived Fulford Gate, but they were unable or did not want to fight in further battles.	There is limited evidence to support this from the next battle.
Harold's success at taking the Vikings by surprise might have made him overconfident.	Harold had already planned for a further invasion in the south, he also needed the success in the north to remain King.

Why was William angry about Harold Godwinson being crowned King?

- William of Normandy expected the throne to pass to him, not Harold Godwinson.
- William claimed he was promised the throne by Edward in 1051 during a dispute with the Godwin family.
- William also said that Harold had sworn a sacred (before God) oath of allegiance (loyalty) and so should NOT have taken the throne over him.
- Harold had sworn an oath at Rouen in the Presence of Norman Nobles.
- Harold did not deny making the oath but he said that he only swore loyalty to William personally (not as a potential King of England).
- He argued that he had been forced to swear the oath because he had been ship wrecked and landed in Normandy and was held prisoner and being threatened by William.



William's preparation for invasion

When King Edward the Confessor died on 5th January 1066, Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England the very next day. However the Duke of Normandy expected the throne to pass to him.

- What do I need to know:
- William's preparations for the invasion
 - The strengths of his invasion plan
 - Where he landed.

Timeline: Events of 1066								
5-Jan	6-Jan	8-Sept	20-Sept	25-Sept	28-Sept	6-Oct	14-Oct	
King Edward the Confessor dies	King Edward buried and Harold Godwinson crowned king	King Harold has to disband his fleet and southern army	Battle of Fulford Gate	King Harold beats Harold Hardrada's invading forces at the Battle of Stamford Bridge	William, Duke of Normandy, lands at Pevensey	King Harold arrives back in London	King Harold leaves London	Battle of Hastings

Key Words:

- Coronation
- Holy War
- Mobilise
- Papal Banner



William's invasion preparations

French support

William had conquered the French province of Maine in 1063 and had a good relationship with the previous French king, Henry. Henry's son was 14 in 1066 so was too young to present a threat to Normandy. There was civil war in Anjou, and William was the most powerful man in north-west Europe as he had the most support. William had a secure base around Normandy as he had extended his area of authority over neighbouring provinces, and even as far away as Sicily, before invading England.



▲ A Map showing William's power and the areas that he controlled

Getting across the channel

The ships and men were gathered together for a long period, but William ensured that they were well fed so they did not suffer. He also moved his fleet from the mouth of the River Dives to the mouth of the River Somme at Valery, halving the journey to England to around 33km (20 miles).



▲ B Map showing the relocation of William's fleet

Support from God

William sent Lanfranc, a leading member of the Norman church, to Rome, where he persuaded the Pope that the English Church needed reforming and William was the man to do it. This led to the Pope giving a **Papal Banner** to William, which meant William had the Pope's support in what was now a **Holy War**.

How did William prepare to invade England?

Military preparations: the fleet

William did not have a navy so he built a large number of flat-bottomed boats that could transport horses. Weapons were produced and 'flat pack' castles were made, so that when the Normans landed, they could put up the temporary castles very quickly.

Military preparations: the army

Once William had the Papal Banner, he recruited men from all over France – from Aquitaine, Flanders, Central France, Maine and Brittany – and also Sicily. Many men joined because they wanted to be part of a Holy War, but recruits were also promised land and riches. Eventually, around 8000 men were ready to cross the English Channel.

How prepared were the Normans?

Gonfanon – a battle pennant used for signalling manoeuvres



Shield – kite shaped. to protect left side and leg



Elite skills – years of training to fight on horseback, special manoeuvres

Weapons – lance, also javelin, sword, mace



Saddle, stirrups, spurs – the knights saddles held them tightly in place on their horse so they could use their arms freely

Horse – specially bred to be strong enough to carry an armoured knight and trained for battle. William had to bring his war horses (destriers) across the Channel.

Armour – chain mail, conical helmet with nose piece



Landing in England!

The wind had been blowing the wrong direction at the River Dives and this led to the relocation of the Norman fleet. William eventually landed at Pevensey on 28th September 1066. During the summer months Harold had waited in the south with an army but when William didn't come, many of the English soldiers were allowed to return home. Harold himself had travelled North to face Harold. On arrival William's troops immediately starting building wooden castles structures and could defend their landing spot.

Who was more prepared to win?

	King Harold and the Anglo-Saxons	Duke William and the Normans
Type and size of army	Fyrd; around 7000	Mixture of trained mercenary forces from Normandy and Western Europe; around 7000
Specialist soldiers	Housecarls and thegns	Knights, trained from the age of three, riding horses that were trained to kick and bite in battle.
Weaponry and armour	Double-handed axes, pikes, large circular shields; Housecarls had armour; peasants used pitchforks, farming equipment, and weapons and armour taken from fallen soldiers.	Bows, large tear-shaped shields that covered from chin to knee, pikes, armour
Battle style	Shield wall formation: interlocking round shields to prevent enemy soldiers from penetrating the line; use of double-handed axe. Most soldiers were foot soldiers or infantry . King Harold was positioned in the centre of his troops on foot as Anglo-Saxons did not use horses in battle.	Various: infantry attacked on foot, archers were used to wear down the enemy. Troops were organised into divisions: each division commander used a system of flags to communicate so they could change tactics in battle. William rode a horse. Knights on horseback carried lances and made up the cavalry .
Position in battlefield	Positioned at the top of Senlac Hill	Arrived at the battleground first. Chose a site at the base of Senlac Hill, on an old Roman road which ran over the top of the hill. There was marshy land on either side so the road itself became the battlefield. It was an important road – Harold had to use it to get to William, and William had to use it to get to London. It was a site that would change the course of English history.
Previous experience in battle	King Harold was an experienced general and had successfully fought against the Welsh and Vikings.	Duke William had conquered many areas around Normandy and as far afield as Sicily.
State of the army	King Harold had marched his army north in four days to face Harald Hardrada on 25 September. He then marched his army south, arrived in London on 6 October, and left London on 11 October to face William. His army was exhausted.	William had landed at Pevensey on 28 September. The Normans erected a castle and then made their way along the south coast, burning villages as they went. They arrived in Hastings and had several days to rest and prepare for the battle with King Harold and the Anglo-Saxons. William brought plenty of horses and supplies so the army could refuel before the battle.
Extra support	King Harold was a popular king amongst most Anglo-Saxons and had the support of the Witan and some of his brothers.	Duke William had the support of the young King Philip I of France. He also had the Papal Banner from the Pope in Rome [and therefore the support of God].

Norman Warfare

The Normans used a variety of tactics in order to win battles. Knights on horseback, called cavalry, were trained from the age of 3, and the horses were trained to kick and bite. Archers were also used frequently. The army was divided into divisions, and flags called gonfanon were used to signal manoeuvres on the battlefield. The Norman army was made up of professional soldiers who spent many hours practicing.

Timeline: Build-up to the battle, 1066



The Battle of Hastings: Tactics

King Harold was in York, recovering from the Battle of Stamford Bridge, when he heard about William's invasion fleet landing in Pevensey. Harold's armies were exhausted from long marches and the battles with the Vikings.

Harold's decision:

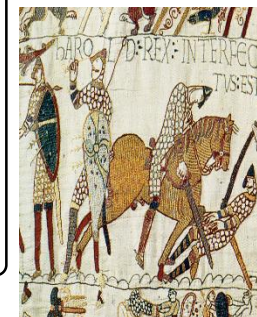
Harold's difficult decision as to whether to launch a surprise attack on William or allow his soldiers to rest was soon decided for him. Harold heard news that William and his Norman forces were attacking villages on the south coast and were making their way to London. So Harold left immediately and marches his tired army south to confront the invading Normans.

Factors that influences the outcome of the Battle?

Harold's Mistakes	Williams leadership and tactics	To Summarise!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King Harold hurried to face William: he could have waited for between 20-30,00 extra troops from the South-West, but he chose to go straight to Hastings. Harold fought alongside the Normans in 1064, and was aware of their tactics but still used the old Anglo-Saxon techniques of the shield wall. Harold chose to fight on foot rather than horseback, so it was difficult for him to communicate with his troops or give orders in the battle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both William and Hardrada decided to invade at the same time. The weather delayed William's invasion this gave him the benefit as Harold had defeated the Viking before he arrived. William chose to delay his invasion, this demoralised Harold's soldiers. The double invasion occurred during harvest season, which led to desertions (people running away) from the fryd. William gained a Papal Banner so his soldiers believed they had God's blessing to fight and if they died, they went to heaven. This boosted morale. William chose the site of the Battleground. William took his time invading, he ensured that he had made all the preparations necessary. William's troops were highly organised into divisions with a system of communication. William was on horseback so had more control of his troops and could be more responsive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both William and Harold made extensive preparations for war and both assembled large armies and navies. The Battle of Stamford Bridge was a convincing victory for Harold but Harold's army arrived at Hastings exhausted. The Battle of Hastings was a very closely fought encounter. The Normans used archers and cavalry, while the English relied on foot soldiers and hand-to-hand fighting. William won the Battle of Hastings due to a combination of superior tactics, better leadership, the flexibility and discipline of his troops as well as a little luck. By winning the battle, William cleared the path to become King, but he had much more work to do to fully secure the English kingdom as his own.

What do I need to know:

- The events and outcomes of the Battle.
- The strategy and luck on both sides
- The location of the Battle.



Key Words:

- Conroi
- desertion
- Demoralised
- Feigned retreat
- gonfanon
- Senlac Hill

The Battle of Hastings: Events

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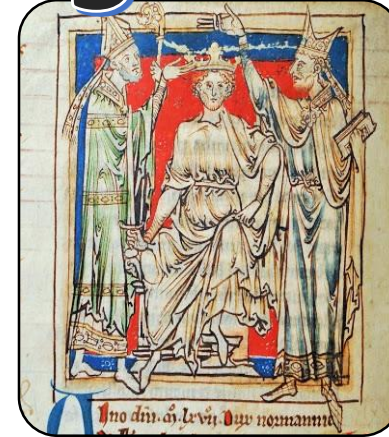
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Key Words:

- Conroi
- desertion
- Demoralised
- Feigned retreat
- gonfanon
- Senlac Hill



How secure was William as King of England?

The battle started a 9.00 am.

The archers walked up to Senlac Hill and fired a volley of arrows.

Some of the Norman infantry charged up the hill but were blocked by the housecarls.

The Anglo-Saxons' main form of defence was the shield wall.

Housecarls overlapped their circular shields and this was a very effective way of defending their position.

After the first Norman attack failed, a section of the Norman army ran away from the Norman line.

Members of the Fyrd ran after them but became stuck in the marshy land at the bottom of Senlac hill. The Normans turned and slaughtered the Anglo-Saxons who chased them. This tactic became known as the feigned retreat it slowly drained the shield wall of Anglo-Saxons.

Midday: There was a break in the fighting to allow both sides to remove their dead and wounded.

William changed his tactics and moved his archers from the front of the battlefield to behind the infantry. The change in position of the archers meant that, rather than flying over the heads of the horsecars, their arrows hit the Anglo-Saxon army squarely and caught them by surprise.

William ordered his cavalry to charge which led to heavy casualties on both sides. Harold's troops managed to stay in formation but the Normans deployed their feigned retreat again. Both sides suffered heavy losses and William ordered his knights to dismount and attack on foot. At the same time his archers fired their arrows and the knights and infantry charged at the Anglo-Saxons.

4pm:

By this time the Anglo-Saxon shield wall was beginning to disintegrate and the Normans began to attack and break through the sides of the wall. The remaining housecarls fell into a defensive position around Harold. It was at this time that King Harold was killed. Seeing his death, the fyrd broke ranks and fled.

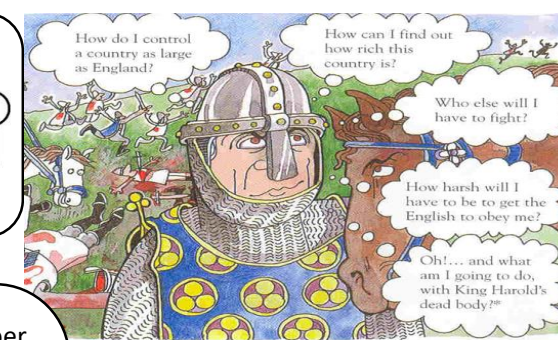
- William won the Battle of Hastings on the 14th October 1066.
- However, he was not in control of the rest of England.
- The country was full of angry Anglo-Saxons, many of whom were still loyal to the King William had just killed.
- Two powerful Anglo-Saxon earls, Edwin and Morcar, had not been at Hastings, and there were still significant English forces ready to oppose William.
- 25th December 1066: William is crowned King of England.

How did William seize control after Hastings?

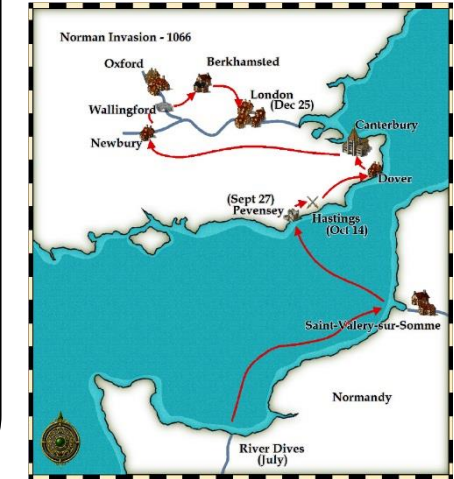
Year	Event	What happened
14 th October 1066	Battle of Hastings	The English infantry was broken, William had won the battle. He gave thanks for victory by founding an altar and later an abbey at the place known afterwards as Battle.
October 1066	William took the treasury	Following the defeat of Harold at the Battle of Hastings, William made it his first priority to gain control of the English treasury.
Late October / Early November 1066	William took London	William mounted a campaign of devastation in and around London which forced Edgar Atheling to surrender.
25 th December 1066	Coronation of William	William, Duke of Normandy, was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey.
1066 onwards	The feudal system	All land belonged to the crown. One quarter was treated by William as personal property and the rest was leased out under strict conditions.
1067	Distribution of land	William distributed land to his trusted Norman barons. He was careful to ensure that no one man was given too great an area in any given region. The estates were also scattered all over the country to easily put down any sign of rebellion against Norman rule.
1070	Taxation	Tithes were introduced. Under this system, the population had to pay one-tenth of their annual increases in profit for the upkeep of the church.
1070	William refused to allow the church power	Although William was very religious, he refused to allow church authority to be greater than his own.

Key Words:

- Earl
- Exiled
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- 25th December 1066: William is crowned King of England.



William Crowned King of England

William met little resistance as he moved around southern England. But his army was repulsed to the south of London as he tried to enter it. William had to march around the city looking for suitable river [crossing](#) points. As he did so he laid waste to the land depriving the Londoners with supplies. William crossed the Thames at Wallingford and at Berkhamsted he was met by a peace delegation including Edgar the Aetheling, Aldred of York, Wulfstan bishop of Worcester, Walter bishop of Hereford several other high ranking Earls who accepted William as their new King. William the Conqueror was crowned King of England on December 25th 1066, Christmas Day, at Westminster [Abbey](#) in London. William's control of England was not complete. In the following years he had to deal with several uprisings against him.


Revolts 1067-1075!

What do I need to know:

- Who William's opponents are.
- They key rebellions.
- The ways William dealt with rebellions.

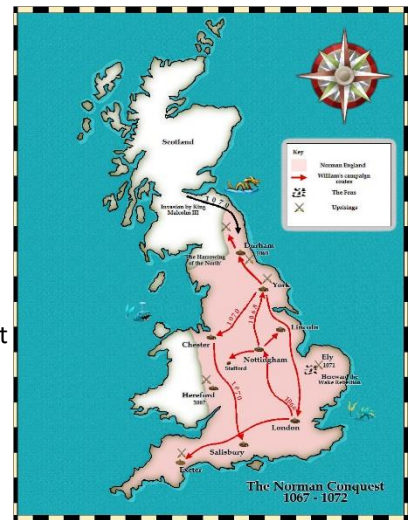
Key Words:

- Fortifications
- Negotiation
- Treasury
- Siege
- Ravaging



Revolts 1067 – 1075

- ▶ 1067 Hereford
- ▶ 1068 Exeter
- ▶ 1068 Mercia
- ▶ 1068 York
- ▶ 1069 York
- ▶ 1069 Harrying of the North
- ▶ 1069 South West
- ▶ 1069 East Anglia
- ▶ 1072 Scotland
- ▶ 1075 Revolt of the earls



1067 Hereford	1068 Exeter	1068 Mercia	1068 York	1069 South West	1072 Scotland	1075 Revolt of Earls
<p>Trouble broke out in Herefordshire when Edric the Wild started a revolt with a number of English followers. Edric was supported by the Welsh princes and managed to steal property along the Herefordshire / Welsh border.</p> <p>Outcome: Edric failed to take control of the area</p>	<p>The city of Exeter rebelled against William's rule. William took back control by besieging the city, Exeter held out for 18 days and then were forced to surrender to the King.</p> <p>Outcome: The King built a castle on the highest ground and left his half brother Robert of Mortain in charge.</p>	<p>Edwin and Morcar provided a challenge to William's rule. The two earls began to gather allies against William and in Edwin's land in Mercia.</p> <p>Outcome: William acted as quickly as soon as he realised there was danger. He led an army swiftly northwards, stopping in Mercia ensuring no revolts and then to Northumbria, building castles along the way.</p>	<p>Edgar needed allies in order to continue his pursuit of King of England, he flees to the North. Edgar attacked York and the North of England became the most rebellious area of England. Danish Vikings joined forces with Edgar and Waltheof. The joint English and Danish army defeated the Norman forces and captured the castle in York.</p> <p>Outcome: William decided to deal with the attack in York himself, and marched North, as he approached the Vikings retreated and William paid them to leave.</p>	<p>William is once again under attack from King Harold's sons, who landed in Exeter in the South West and attacked it.</p> <p>Outcome: The Norman soldiers placed at the castle after previous unrest, defeats them and forces them to return to Ireland.</p>	<p>Scotland invades northern England in 1070 led by King Malcom III of Scotland.</p> <p>Outcome: William assembled his troops and marched on Scotland and by 1072 King Malcom III was forced to sign the Treaty of Abernethy, this meant that he accepted William as his overlord and exiled Edgar.</p>	<p>William faced rebellion from his own Norman earls. Ralph de Gael and Roger de Breteuil had support from a variety of people, this included King Philip of France who did want William to become too powerful. This was a serious threat to William. However, William did not deal with the threat himself, he left it to his trusted regents, Lanfranc and Odo.</p> <p>Outcome: During Christmas of this year, William had the rebels blindfolded and murdered, Earl Roger was imprisoned and Ralph retreated to Brittany. This was the last serious threat during William's reign.</p>

Timeline of rebellions

25 th Dec 1066	March 1067	Dec 1067	1068	Jan 1069	1070	1072	1075	1076
William is crowned King of England	William returns to Normandy and there is unrest in Herefordshire and Wales	William returns to England. William distributes land in areas of potential rebellion to his loyal barons.	Rebellions in the South West. Siege of Exeter by William. Earls Edwin, Morcar and Edgar flee north.	Rebels burn Norman Earl of Commines to death in Durham. Rebellion in York Vikings invade Revolts in: Dorset, Somerset, Staffordshire and Cheshire. King Malcolm of Scotland marries Edgar's sister, Margaret.	'Harrying of the north.' Unrest In East Anglia	Scotland invades northern England.	Revolt of the Norman earls	Last English earl, Waltheof killed by beheading. Scottish Raids in Northumbria

The North of England was the most rebellious area, as it saw itself as semi-independent from the rest of the country. There was also a large number of people who were of Danish Viking descent who sympathised with their country of origin. To help secure him against rebellion, King William tried to make alliances with the remaining English earls, Edwin, Morcar and Waltheof, however the English earls refused to be ruled by William.

Earls Edwin and Morcar:

- Fought Hardrada at Fulford Gate
- After Hastings they were the most powerful remaining Anglo-Saxon earls.
- In **1068** they rebelled against William in **Mercia**.
- Edwin and Morcar provided a challenge to William's rule.
- The two earls began to gather allies against William and in Edwin's land in Mercia. William acted as quickly as soon as he realised there was danger. He led an army swiftly northwards, stopping in Mercia ensuring no revolts and then to Northumbria, building castles along the way.
- In **1068**, Edwin and Morcar, with Edgar the Aetheling, fled William's court, and went north. ***This began the Harrying of the North.***

The Harrying of the North and Hereward the Wake!

How did William punish the North?

- William to punish York and the north laid waste to vast areas of land around York, burning and salting the fields and killing any living creature.
- The Domesday Book written in 1086 records that 80% of Yorkshire was known as 'waste' which meant it was uncultivated and unpopulated.

Edgar and the York Rebellion 1068-1069

- Edgar needed allies in order to continue his pursuit of King of England, he flees to the North.
- **King Malcom of Scotland** gave Edgar his support against King William. Malcom had just married Edgar's sister so was now related to him.
- Events spiralled out of control in **January 1069** when the Norman **Earl Robert of Commines** and his men were **murdered** by English rebels.
- Edgar attacked **York** and the North of England became the most rebellious area of England.
- 240 Danish Viking ships invaded in the summer of 1069.
- They joined forces with Edgar and Waltheof. The joint English and Danish army defeated the Norman forces and captured the castle in York.
- William decided to deal with the attack in York himself, and marched North, as he approached the Vikings retreated and William paid them to leave.

What do I need to know:

- **Why William punished the North.**
- **What happened in the Harrying of the North.**
- **To explain the importance of the Harrying of the North.**



Key Words:

- Harrying
- Hereward
- Danelaw
- Edwin
- Morcar
- Salting
- Waltheof



1068 South West

William is once again under attack from King Harold's sons, who landed in Exeter in the South West and attacked it. The Norman soldiers placed at the castle after previous unrest, defeats them and forces them to return to Ireland.

1069 East Anglia

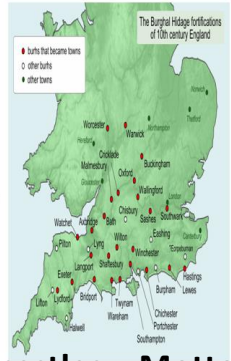
Why did Hereward the Wake rebel?

- After Harrying the North, the English earls Edwin and Morcar continued to cause problems for William in East Anglia.
- They joined forces with King Swegn of Denmark and Hereward the Wake, an English thegn (a person who owned land).
- Hereward had a grudge against William and wanted to dethrone him, the attackers used guerilla style tactics in the marshes in East Anglia.
- They set up a base on the Isle of Ely, where they built up supplies to survive a siege. William was not able to use his usual tactics, so had to develop a new attacking method – siege towers.
- The events at Ely did not all go William's way, however in the end the Monks helped William find a secret rout to Hereward and he disappeared and the rebels surrender to the Normans.

What changed with castles?

Anglo Saxon Castles

- Built royal castles or burghs
- Defensive features
- Built for the King

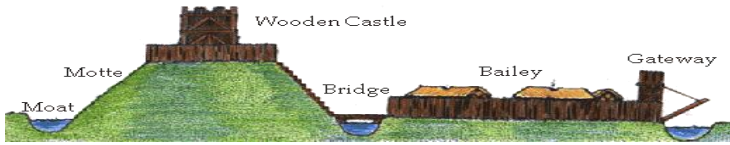


Norman castles

- Built castles as bases to control the area
- Used to control Anglo Saxons after the Normans took control
- Built by nobility to protect themselves
- Symbolised Norman suppression of the Anglo Saxons
- Higher than previous built castles

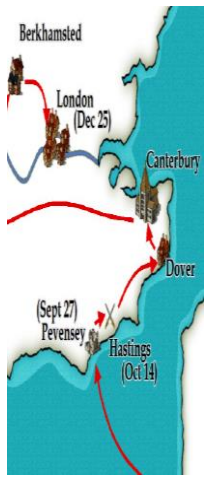


The first castles – Motte and Bailey



The Normans needed to build their castles quickly – sometimes in just a few days so at first they used earth and wood which were easily available and quick to use. Using this method they could build **Motte and Bailey** castles in **2 weeks**.


- Where were Castles built?**
- Castles were built at sites that were strategically important
- William personally ordered the building of a number of castles
- Castles were often built near an existing town, on high ground, close to a water source
- Often land had to be cleared to build houses within the castle grounds
- The location of castles was extremely important as they had to be high enough to see attackers coming and defend important routes



Method of Control: Castles



- What do I need to know:**
- Why William built castles.
 - Where castles were built?
 - How castle building changed.
 - About Pevensey castle.

- Key Words:**
- Crenellations
 - Fort
 - Pevensey
 - Ramparts
- 

Why was William a Castle Builder?

- William defeated Harold Godwinson in the Battle of Hastings
- Between 1066 and 1086 the Normans built around 500 motte and bailey castles
- These castles were part of William's long term strategy to secure his position on the throne of England
- As soon as William landed in England to attack Harold he rebuilt a castle in Pevensey
- Defeated Anglo Saxons did not want William as their leader
- Normans built castles as bases for offensive patrols in different areas in England – to protect Normans from further attack



The first castle – Pevensey Castle

- Pevensey was the first Norman castle
- It was typical of castles during Norman England
- Was originally created as a temporary shelter for William and his nobles, to use as a base to launch their invasion of England
- Pevensey was seen as the gateway to Britain as it was a coastal location
- Already there were stone remains of a Roman fort
- William used these to build his motte and bailey castle and he incorporated the Roman remains into the castle
- Pevensey developed as an important castle site during the Norman period and beyond

What was the purpose of castles?

- Norman castles were built for defense against invaders and to control the Anglo – Saxons
- Norman castles were primarily built by nobility
- Castles symbolised Norman suppression of Anglo Saxons
- Norman castles were large imposing buildings built to intimidate, bully and to administrate the local area
- Norman castles were a visible distinction between the rulers and the ruled
- Motte and Bailey castles were easy to build and made use of geographical features, such as hills
- Wooden motte and bailey castles were built until 1070
- After 1070, stone keeps were added and by 1100 all new castles were made from stone