

Year 7 History Knowledge Booklet

Term 2: The Norman Conquest

Name:

Class:



Enquiry Question:

Why was the Norman Conquest so significant?

Big questions that will help you answer this enquiry question:

1. Who had the strongest army going into the Battle of Hastings the Normans led by William or the Saxons led by Harold?
2. What happened at the Battle of Hastings 1066?
3. Why did the Normans win the Battle of Hastings?
4. What problems did William of Normandy face on becoming King of England?
5. How did William control England Who was Earl Hereward the Wake?
6. How did the Normans control England through the Feudal System?
7. How did the Normans use the Domesday Survey (Book) to help maintain control of England?
8. How did the building of castles help the Normans keep control?
9. What was the best way to attack and defend a castle?
10. How did castles change overtime?
11. How did castles affect the life of ordinary people in England?
12. How did the Normans choose the best place to site a castle?

After the Battle of Stamford Bridge in September 1066, Harold Godwinson had won an heroic battle against the Vikings but then heard the news that William and his Normans had landed on the south coast of England in Pevensey a few miles away from the village of Battle. William and his troops had no time to celebrate their victory. Their tired and depleted army marched 250 miles to contest one of the most famous battles in English History– The Battle of Hastings.

Homework for week 1 and 2:

Draw a neat timeline showing the main events of William's rule from 1066-1086. Use lots of colour and try to annotate some information about each main features

Homework for week 3 and 4: History mystery

Instructions: Read the sources on p.4 and complete the following tasks:

1. Make a list of all of the different ways Harold may have died—what weapons were used? When did he die? Do any of the sources agree with the cause of Harold's death?
2. Can you trust the evidence? Is there anything to suggest that some of the sources are not reliable or cannot be trusted?
3. Write a paragraph that answers the question 'How did King Harold die?' - explain your ideas

Homework for week 5 and 6:

1 .Of all the things the Normans did and introduced to England which do you think is (are) the most memorable—Write two paragraphs to explain your choices.

Examples you might talk about– Winning the Battle of Hastings– His tactics/army

Introducing the building of castles/the Feudal System /Domesday Survey. William's harsh treatment of rebels-Harrying of the North etc. ..

2. Revision for the end of unit knowledge test

Homework for week 3 and 4: History mystery sources

Evidence A

Date 1080

Writer Amatus of Montecassino, a monk from Italy; the first written account of Harold being killed by an arrow in the eye.

'William gouged out Harold's eye with an arrow.'

Evidence B

Date 1067

Writer Guy of Amiens, a medieval writer from France

'With the point of his **lance** the first knight pierced Harold's chest, drenching the ground with blood. With his sword the second knight cut off his head. The third disembowelled him with his javelin. The fourth hacked off his leg.'

Evidence C

Date 1070

Writer William of Jumièges, a Norman monk. He claims he was at the battle. His **abbey** was given money by William the Conqueror.

'Duke William engaged the enemy at the third hour [about 9am] and continued until nightfall. Harold fell in the first shock of battle, pierced with lethal wounds.'

Evidence D

Date 1077

Made Probably made in England on the orders of Bishop Odo, King William's half-brother. Odo was at the Battle of Hastings.

This is one of the most famous pictures in British history. It is one of 72 pictures that make up a 70-metre-long piece of embroidered cloth called the Bayeux Tapestry. The scene shows two English soldiers – one with an arrow in his eye and another being cut down by a Norman on horseback. Above the picture, over both men, is written 'Hic Harold Rex Interfectus Est', which means 'Here King Harold has been killed'. But which soldier is meant to be Harold?



Evidence E

Date 1130

Writer William of Malmesbury, a monk. Historians believe this source was written after he had seen the Bayeux Tapestry.

'Harold continued; but when he fell from having his brain pierced with an arrow... he yielded to death... one of the soldiers with a sword gashed his thigh as he lay.'

Evidence F

Date 2000

Writer A modern historian.

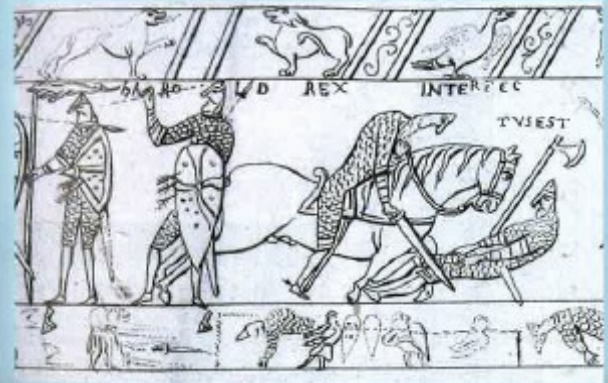
'In recent years some people have thought that Harold might be the figure on the floor being attacked by knights, rather than the man with the arrow in his eye. But it seems obvious that the words 'Harold Rex' are written directly above the arrow-struck man. This is significant. I believe that the knights would have then attacked him.'

Evidence G

Date 1729

Artist Bernard de Montfaucon, a French monk

A fascinating image, engraved by Montfaucon after seeing a drawing of the Bayeux Tapestry in 1729. You might notice that there is no arrow in Harold's eye, but a dotted line instead. This is another mystery! Did the monk forget to draw the arrow? Or wasn't there an arrow when he saw the tapestry? Was it a lance or javelin instead? Could the arrow in the tapestry have been added on later?



Motte and Bailey Castles

The Normans had taken control of England by force— they may have won the battle but not the war! English people hated the Normans and would have attacked them if they had been given a chance. Castles were a way of keeping the Normans and their followers safe. The Norman lords built castles wherever they settled.

The earliest castles were built very quickly— sometimes in just a few days. At first the Normans used earth and wood because these materials were easily available and quick to use. The early castles were known as Motte and Bailey castles because they had two main features. A large mound of earth (called the Motte) was constructed and a wooden tower was built on top. From this, the soldiers could see all the surrounding land in case of attack. It also meant that English people saw the castle wherever they went— so that they were always reminded of the strength of the Normans.

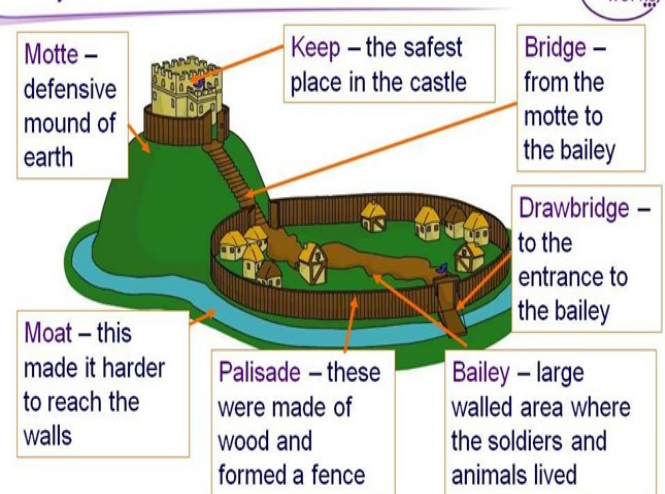
Beside the Motte was the Bailey which was a large court yard with a ditch and fence around the outside. Soldiers lived here during the day only retreating to the Tower or Keep at night or when being attacked. Animals and food were also stored in the Bailey.

It was important to build castle near major routes as it was easier for the Normans to stop rebellions or enemy soldiers in their tracks. In a way, they kept control over all the countryside within 20-30 miles of the castle. Castles were made harder to attack by building them on a hill or next to a river.

Over 60 Motte and Bailey castles were built all over England. The main problems with them was they could easily be set on fire and would rot in the wet, damp weather conditions of England.

Motte and Bailey castles were always going to be a temporary measure whilst the Normans established themselves in England. Stone castles were William's preferred choice but these needed time and a lot of labour to build.

Early castles

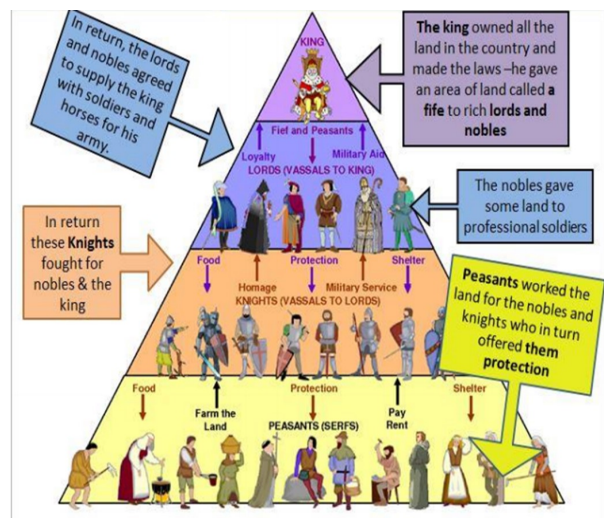
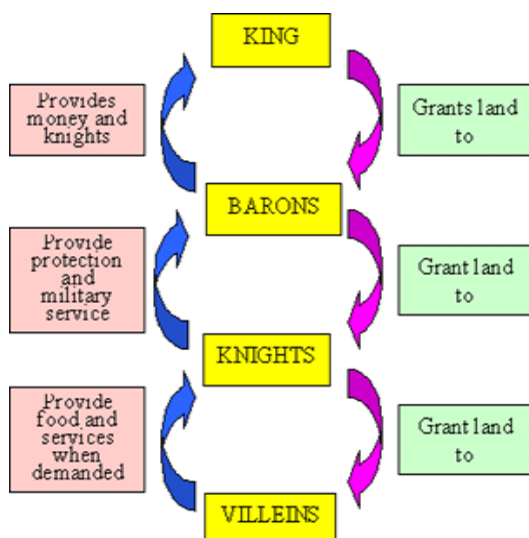


Stone Castles

The first stone castle built by the Normans in England was in 1070. These were much stronger and harder to attack and destroy. Initially built as a stone keep or tower but as ways of attacking a castle became more sophisticated a curtain wall was added around the keep supported by square towers. These later changed to round towers and a whole range of defensive features were added. The most sophisticated and expensive castle built was a Concentric castle with a double layer of walls for added protection. The introduction of gunpowder in the fourteenth century eventually made castles undefendable as they were unable to protect and defend the soldiers in them. Many of these buildings were then converted from places of defence and protection to buildings of comfort for the rich and powerful. This was done by removing defensive features and inserting windows to give more light and an airier feel. Many of these still remain today.

The Feudal System

After winning the Battle of Hastings and becoming king on Christmas Day 1066 William had to decide how to divide up the English land and that he won in battle. He was very careful not to just give land away. His supporters who helped him win were rewarded with land and wealth but in return they had to perform duties. This system of duties and rewards was called the Feudal System. It was a system that worked from the top down



The Domesday Survey

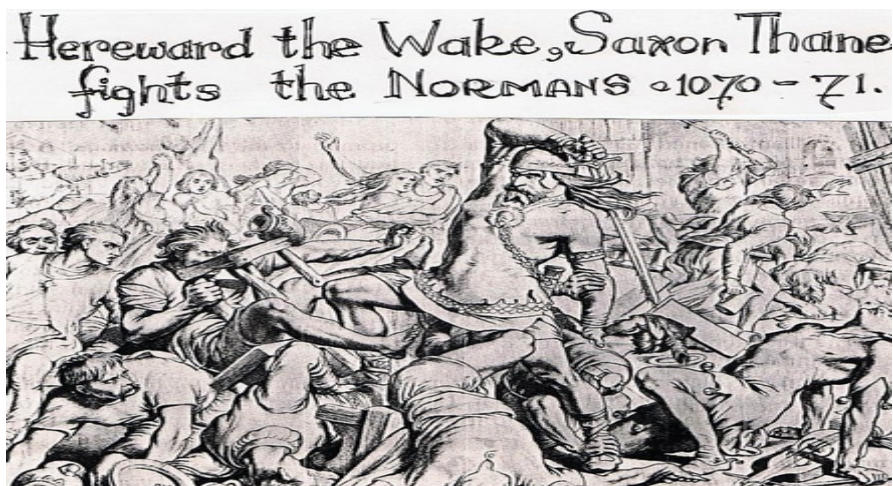
In 1086, William ruled throughout England. He was, however, concerned that his new kingdom might be attacked from abroad and wanted to bring in more soldiers from France for protection and this would cost a lot of money. He did not know how wealthy England was so in 1086 he sent officials out into the English parishes to carry out an enormous survey. When they had finished asking questions, a second group of officials were sent out to check that the villagers had been telling the truth— and this is why it was called the Domesday Survey as it was the Day of Judgement meaning if anyone failed to tell the truth they would be judged by God. It took a year to complete and the results were collected and written up in two volumes(Books) Great Domesday and Little Domesday. Once William knew how wealthy people were he could then charge them the correct amount of tax

How did William deal with rebellion? Who was Hereward the Wake?

The English did not always accept their new Norman lords especially when taxes were raised. In 1067, there was a rebellion in Kent and in the next one a more serious one in Exeter. Both were soon put down.

By far the most important rebellion took place in the north. With the help of a large Viking force English rebels burnt William's castle in York to the ground. Once he had defeated the rebels, William decided to teach them a lesson by destroying villages and farms across a wide area and slaughtered livestock. This was known as the 'Harrying of the North' and caused terrible famine and many people died of starvation.

There was more resistance to William, centred around Ely in the Fens, east of England. The rebels used their knowledge of the area to hide in dangerous marshes and create havoc with the Normans. In 1071 the rebellion was eventually put down and their leader Earl Hereward the Wake managed to escape. He was eventually killed but not before he himself killed fourteen Norman soldiers.



Knowledge recall questions

1. Who were the three possible contenders to the throne after Edward the Confessor died?
2. Which contender came from France?
3. Who fought in the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
4. Who won the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
5. What were the two types of soldiers fighting for the English?
6. What were the three types of soldiers fighting for the French?
7. How many miles did Harold's men have to march to meet William at Hastings?
8. Why did this put them at a disadvantage?
9. What formation did the Anglo-Saxons get to during the Battle of Hastings?
10. Who provided the left-flank of the Normans?
11. What is the technical term for soldiers running down a hill?
12. When did the Battle of Hastings start?
13. When did the Battle of Hastings finish?
14. Who won the Battle of Hastings?
15. Name three of the problems facing the new King of England in 1066
16. How did he deal with the problems he faced?
17. How did the English feel about the new King?
18. What were the first type of castles built?
19. Name two advantages of this type of castle
20. Name two disadvantages of this type of castle
21. What was the Domesday book?
22. How many villages did the officials visit?
23. Who was at the top of the feudal system?
24. Who was at the bottom of the feudal system?
25. What were peasants known as?
26. What was a portcullis?
27. What were trebuchets?
28. Name two types of jobs people could do in castles
29. Give two advantages of castles for life in England
30. Give two disadvantages of castles for life in England

Summary

1.	After Edward's death in January 1066, there were three powerful men who all had a claim to the throne. Although Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England, his competitors weren't willing to give up on their claims to the throne without a fight.
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Key Events

2.	1063	1063 – Harold Godwinson became Earl of Wessex.
3.	1064	1064 – Harold Godwinson leads an embassy to William of Normandy.
4.	1065	1065 – Tostig banished. Morcar is new Earl of Northumbria.
5.	Jan 1066	Jan 1066 – Edward the Confessor dies. Coronation of Harold as King.
6.	Jul 1066	Jul 1066 – Harold prepares forces in the south against invasion.
7.	Sep 1066	Sep 1066 – Harald Hardrada of Norway invades England.
8.	20 Sep 1066	20 Sep 1066 – Battle of Fulford Gate.
9.	21 Sep 1066	21 Sep 1066 – King Harold marches his forces North to face Hardrada.
10.	25 Sep 1066	25 Sep 1066 – Battle of Stamford Bridge.
11.	28 Sep 1066	28 Sep 1066 – William of Normandy lands at Pevensey.
12.	1 Oct 1066	1 Oct 1066 – Harold begins to march south to face William.
13.	14 Oct 1066	14 Oct 1066 – Battle of Hastings.
14.	25 Dec 1066	William is crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey.

Key Words

15.	Oath	A promise to do something. Often sworn on religious relics.
16.	Fyrd	The army of the Anglo Saxons.
17.	Housecarl	Highly trained professional troops serving as a bodyguard to their lord.
18.	Shield Wall	A tactic used by the Saxons and Vikings where shields are overlapped in a defensive formation.
19.	Feigned Retreat	Is a military tactic whereby an army will pretend to withdraw.
20.	Cavalry	A soldier mounted on a horse.
21.	Witan	The powerful lords and bishops who were the advisers to the Anglo-Saxon King.
22.	Infantry	Soldiers who fight on foot.

Key Individuals

23.	Edward the Confessor	King at the start of 1066 whose death triggers a succession crisis due to there being no clear heir.
24.	Harold Godwinson	The powerful Earl of Wessex who claimed to have been appointed King by Edward on his death bed.
25.	Harald Hardrada	The feared King of Norway. His claim came from an agreement with a previous King in 1042.
26.	William of Normandy	The Duke of Normandy and cousin of Edward. He said Edward had promised him the throne in 1061 and that Godwinson had confirmed the promise in 1064.
27.	Tostig Godwinson	The brother of Harold Godwinson and Earl of Northumbria. He lost his Earldom because of his tyrannical rule and joined Hardrada.

1	5 th January 1066 – Edward the Confessor dies, leaving no heir.
2	6 th January 1066 - Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England
3	20 September 1066 - Harald Hardrada, a Viking claiming the English throne invades England with more than 10,000 men in 200 longships
4	25 September 1066 Harold Godwinson, defeats and kills Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge but it wears down Harold's army.
5	27 th September 1066 - William Duke of Normandy, invade the south of England. He builds a castle and the Normans pillage and burn the south
6	14 October 1066 – The Battle of Hastings. Harold marches south to meet William, where they battle at Hastings.
7	25 th December 1066 - William is crowned king of England at Westminster Abbey.
8	1068 – William begins the building of castles across England in Warwick, York, Nottingham and Cambridge
9	1069-70 – Rebellions in the North of England which leads to the Harrying of the North where William devastates the north in an effort to stop the rebellions, over 100,000 die and large areas of land are destroyed.
10	1085 – William orders the Domesday Book survey of England
11	1086 – William I of England dies

Key People

12.	Harold Godwinson	English, Earl of Wessex, a powerful leader of England. His sister was married to Edward the Confessor.
13.	William of Normandy	A Norman and Duke of Normandy in France, cousin of Edward the Confessor. An experienced leader and fighter.
14.	Harald Hardrada	A Viking, King of Norway. Most feared warrior in Europe, claims he was promised the throne.

15.	The Norman Conquest – a period between 1066-88, where William of Normandy and his Normans invade, conquer and rule England.
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Key Words

16.	Anglo-Saxon	People who settled in Britain after the Romans left and lived in England when the Normans invaded.
17.	Homage or Oath	To promise to give allegiance to someone (e.g. King) publically.
18.	Feudal System	The social structure of Medieval England that William used to keep control and loyalty of his people.
19.	Villein	Peasants at the bottom of the Feudal System
20.	Noble	Barons, Earls or other rich land owners who pledge their loyalty to William in the Feudal System
21.	Knight	A soldier who serves a noble, they usually ride horses and wear armour. Ruled over the villeins
22.	Cavalry	A soldier mounted on a horse
23.	Motte and Bailey	The first castle created by William. It was made out of wood and had a higher Motte part and a low Bailey part.
24.	Archbishop of Canterbury	In charge of running the Catholic Church in England overall, answered to the Pope.
25.	Stone Keep	Castle made out of stone with towers for defence
26.	Pillage	To steal from a place during war.
27.	Domesday Book	'The Great Survey' which told William the value, ownership and resources owned in England in 1085. It allowed him to calculate how much taxes he could charge.
28.	Tax	Compulsory money paid to the king or government.
29.	Rebellion	An act of resistance to the government or King

Summary.

After William had won a famous battle for the Normans at Hastings in 1066, he wanted to cement his victory by controlling England. He did this in three main ways. Firstly, he built castles to keep his soldiers safe and reinforce the might of the Normans. Secondly, he introduced a method of ruling and controlling the population, a system of duties and rewards known as The Feudal System. Thirdly, to run the country successfully William needed money, and by introducing the Domesday Survey William's officials managed to find out England's wealth and this was recorded in the Domesday Book.

Castle Development overtime

Motte and Bailey Castles introduced in 1066 as a temporary measure until stone could be replace them



Stone Castles began with the building of a Keep or tower later to be protected by a Curtain wall which encircled the keep



Square towers were placed in the curtain wall to strengthen them but these were subject to Trebuchet attack and undermining.



This led castle developers to design round towers

Features were added to strengthen defences such as a moat, a Barbican, Portcullies Murder Holes



Gunpowder was introduced in the Thirteenth Century but was ineffective, however in the fourteenth century cannons were far more effective in their ability to breach stone walls and castle building ceased.



The castles that remained were turned into places of luxury for royalty and the wealthy.

Enquiry Question: Why was the Norman Conquest so significant?

Wider Reading List

- 1066: A new history of the Norman Conquest by Peter Rex.
- The Stormin' Normans (Horrible Histories) by Terry Deary
- The History Detective Investigates: The Normans and the Battle of Hastings by Philip Parker.
- The Cut-throat Celts (Horrible Histories) by Terry Deary
- The Very Bloody History of Britain by John Farman
- The Battle Of Hastings (Great Events) by Gillian Clements
- The Battle of Hastings by Jim Bradbury
- The Norman Conquest - The Battle of Hastings and the Fall of Anglo-Saxon England by Marc Morris
- The Battle of Hastings (Read and Learn: Important Events in History) by Helen Cox-Cannons
- <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/1066-and-the-norman-conquest/what-happened-battle-hastings/>
- <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/The-Battle-of-Hastings/>
- Castles from the Air: An Aerial View of Britain's Finest Castles by Paul Johnson
- Battle Castles: 500 Years of Knights and Siege Warfare by Dan Snow.
- Stories of Castles by Lesley Sims
- The Early Norman Castles of the British Isles by Ella Armitage
- Norman Stone Castles (1): The British Isles 1066-1216: British Isles 1066-1216 v.1 (Fortress) by Christopher Gravett

