

History – The Battle of Hastings/ The Norman Conquest Did Edward the Confessor choose the right successor?

What I should already know: Significant people already studied include Samuel Pepys, Guy Fawkes, Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole, George Stephenson, Boudicca and Neil Armstrong. You have already looked at the Roman invasion of Britain.

Enquiry Questions

- Who were the contenders for the throne in 1066?
- What happened at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings?
- What problems did William face after the Battle of Hastings?
- What were Norman castles like?
- What was life like in Norman times under the feudal system?

Key Vocabulary

Archers – Men skilled with a bow and arrow.
Arrowslits – Narrow slits in the wall of a stone keep castle, through which archers could fire their arrows.
Bailey – The part of the castle where people lived and animals were kept.
Battlements – At the top of the stone keep castle walls, used for observing as well as firing arrows from.
Castle – A large, strong castle where a noble lived with his family and servants. Many castles were built to defend the people inside against attacks.
Cavalry – Highly trained fighters who rode war horses.
Drawbridge – A wooden bridge over the moat that could be raised or lowered.
Feign – To fake or pretend
Feudal system – A power structure where people were given land in return for loyalty and services.
Fyrd – Untrained peasants who were called up to defend their king and country.
Heir – A person who is next in line to the throne.
Housecarls – Well-trained, experienced fighters who were full-time members of the army.
Infantry – Well-trained, experienced men who fought on foot.
Keep – The strongest and most secure part of the castle, usually at its centre.
Knights – A soldier on horseback who had to follow many rules including following a master.
Lords – Rich Normans who had authority, control and power over others.
Moat – A deep ditch dug around a castle for protection against enemies, usually filled with water.
Motte – A large hill on which the castle keep stood.
Motte and bailey castle – The earliest type of castle William the Conqueror built in England made up of a motte and a bailey.
Noble – Belonging to a class of people with a high rank or title.
Palisade – The wooden fence surrounding a motte and bailey castle.
Peasants – A member of the class of farm workers and small farmers.
Portcullis – A strong, heavy barrier that could be lowered vertically at a gateway to block it.
Prosperous – A wealthy and successful person or place.
Shield wall – A wall of shields held by soldiers standing close together.
Stone keep castle – Later Norman castles, built to replace the motte and bailey ones.

Historical Skills

Pupils will:

- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the period studied.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- Address, and sometimes devise, historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources and that different versions of past events may exist, giving some reasons for this.

Witan - A group of wise men who advised the king on all matters.

Timeline

1033 – Alliance between France and England against the Vikings – the Normans claim to the English throne.

1065 – Meeting between Harold Godwinson and Duke William. Did Harold agree that William should become King of England when Edward the Confessor dies?

Jan 4th 1066 – The death of Edward the Confessor.

Jan 6th 1066 – Harold Godwinson crowned King of England.

Sept 1066 – Harald Hadrada, King of Norway, launches a Viking invasion.

25th Sept 1066 – The Battle of Stamford Bridge – Harold Godwinson defeats Harald Hadrada and the Vikings at York.

28th Sept 1066 – Duke William lands at Pevensey, on the south coast of England. The Norman invasion begins.

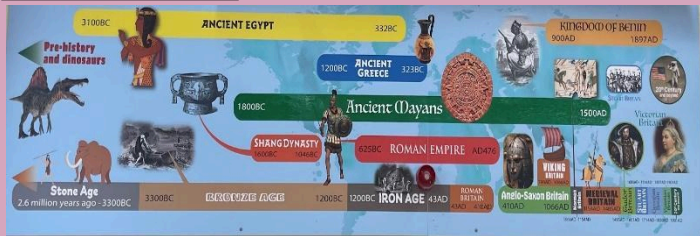
14th Oct 1066 – Battle of Hastings! Harold Godwinson is killed.

25th Dec 1066 – Duke William is crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey in London

What came next?

- William the Conqueror dies at Saint-Gervais near Rouen, France and was succeeded by his son, William II.
- In 1154, civil war led to the end of the Norman period and the beginning of the Plantagenet period under the reign of Henry II.

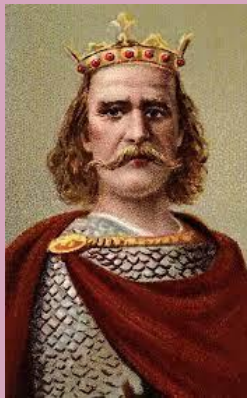
Our school timeline



Useful images



A part of the Bayeux Tapestry, depicting the Battle Of Hastings.



Harold Godwinson



Harald Hadrada



William of Normandy

Links to other curriculum areas: Art/ Forest Schools – Making weapons/ shelters. English/ WCR – Anglo Saxon Boy