



**Knowledge Organiser: History Year 7 Conquest and control** 

**Key information** 

The Norman Conquest was the Norman invasion of Britain in 1066. Following the death of Edward the Confessor, there were three main contenders for the English throne. William, Duke of Normandy, was one of these contenders. He successfully invaded England. Following this, William spent nine years conquering and gaining control of the whole of England. 28th September 1066, William Duke of Normandy arrives in the

south of England (Pevensay Bay) he sets up camp with his army and wait for the arrival of Harold and his Anglo Saxon army to arrive. When King Harold of England heard that William's forces had landed, he was three hundred kilometres to the north having just defeated Harald Hardrada, another invader who was intent on taking Harold's crown. Hardrada's forces were soundly defeated and Hardrada was killed, but King Harold's forces suffered numerous casualties as well.

While on the march back south, King Harold was informed of William's invasion and he was forced to march his exhausted troops three hundred kilometres to the south to meet the threat.

On the night of October 13, 1066, Harold's exhausted forces arrived in the area around Hastings. Harold may have been hoping to catch William by surprise

The Battle of Hastings – on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1066, they met at a placed called Senlac hill near Hasting. The Norman Army was much better trained than the Anglo Saxon army. They has better weapons and horses. The Anglo Saxon army was also tired from their long journey go Hastings, but also because they has just fought in the battle of Stamford Bridge against Harald Hardrada and his the Viking army from Norway. After two days of fighting the Normans were victorious. Harold II of England was defeated by William, duke of Normandy. This established the Normans as the rulers of England.

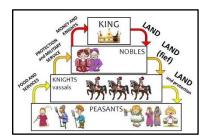
Key information

On the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1066 William was crowned William the Conqueror the first Norman King of England (1066–1087)

Harrying of the North - Some English people rebelled against William. The biggest rebellion was in the north of England in 1069. It was led by Edgar the Atheling who, as the only son of Edward the Exiled, who had a blood-claim to the throne. William defeated the rebellion but he still didn't trust the English people. In the north-east of England, from 1069 to 1070, he ordered villages to be destroyed and people to be killed. Herds of animals and crops were burnt. Most people who survived starved to death. Not only was the population reduced by 75% but land was salted (poisoned) to prevent people growing crops in the future. This is called the Harrying of the North.

Castles – Castles were vital to Williams's takeover of England. The Normans erected Motte and Bailey style castles all around England. They had a huge military and psychological impact that made it easier for William and the Normans to establish control.

Churches – churches has a huge influence on society in the Medieval period. By 1088 William had replaced ensured that the Normans had replaced Anglo Saxon in almost all the leading roles of the Church. Only 1 out of 16 bishops were English the rest Normans. By the 1200 all the wooden Anglo Saxon Churches had been replaced by Norman Stone Churches.



Key events

Battle of Fulford Gate (19<sup>th</sup> September 1066) Battle of Stamford Bridge (28<sup>th</sup> September 1066) Battle of Hasting (14<sup>th</sup> October 1066)

**Bayeux Tapestry**, medieval embroidery depicting the Norman Conquest of England in 1066,

Harrying of the North -

## Key people

<u>King Edward the Confessor</u> - Edward the Confessor was one of last Anglo-Saxon kings, Edward promised the throne to up to four different potential heirs before his death.

<u>William I -</u> also known as William the Conqueror as the first Norman King of England (1066–1087) At the Battle of Hastings William defeated Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England.

<u>Harold Godwinson</u> - Earl of Wessex. Harold was very powerful by 1066. He was possibly richer than the King, and had established alliances with all the major barons of England. He was the brother-in-law of King Edward and despite having the weakest claim to the Crown, he was in the strongest position.

**Edwin and Morcar** -Earls of Mercia and Northumbria.

Previously arch enemies of the Godwinson's, they seem to have made a deal with Harold in 1065, who helped Morcar into the Earldom of Northumbria in return for their support when Edward died.

<u>Tostig</u> - Brother of Harold and ex-Earl of Northumbria. Deposed by the Northumbrians in favour of Morcar, Tostig fled to Norway, where he plotted revenge against his brother Harold.

<u>Harald Hardrada</u> - King of Norway. Persuaded to invade Northumbria in 1066 by Tostig. Their victory at Fulford and their defeat and death at Stamford Bridge probably ensured the success of William's invasion at Hastings.

**Key Words** 

**Anglo Saxon** – come from the Angles and the Saxons, two tribes from north Europe (Parts now known as Germany, Belgium, Netherlands) who settled in England from the 5<sup>th</sup> Century after the Romans.

**Normans** - People from the Norman region in France, led by William the conqueror.

**Feudal system** - was a way of organising **society** into different groups based on their roles. It had the king at the top with all of the control, and the peasants at the bottom doing all of the work

**Key Words** 

Domesday Book - A record of the wealth of England

**Rebellion -** When people fight against their ruler

**Shield Wall** - A defensive strategy used in battle. Creating a wall by interconnecting shields

**Feigned Retreat** - A defensive strategy used in battle. Whereby a military force pretends to withdraw or to have been routed, in order to lure an enemy into a position of vulnerability. **Conquest**- Taking an area by using force

Skills

**Chronological order** - ability to place events in order **Identify** – pick out and use key information to identify points

that can help answer a question. **Describe** - give a description of what somethi

**Describe** - give a description of what something is or how something happened/changed.

**Explain** – giving a detailed description of why something occurred using causes and effects.

**Evaluate** – identifying the importance / significance of an event, looking both short and long term effects of an event. **Analysis** – looking at the 'WHY' something has change or is different considering all possibilities and linking it back to the importance/significance.

Term 1 Medieval Monarch

