

Harold Godwinson

Harold Godwinson was an Englishman with the important title of the Earl of Wessex. He was one of the most powerful men in the country.



Links to Edward the Confessor:

- He was Edward's brother-in-law – his sister was married to the king.
- His father, Godwin, did not get on well with Edward. At one time, Harold and his father were banished from England for a year.
- Harold was a brave and respected soldier and leader, who commanded the king's army. It is thought that, on his deathbed, Edward promised the throne to Harold.

Harald Hardrada

Harald Hardrada was a Norwegian viking who had taken part in several raids on the English coast, before becoming the King of Norway. His reputation was fierce - Hardrada means 'hard ruler' and he was nicknamed 'the ruthless'.



Links to Edward the Confessor:

- He had no link to Edward the confessor, but a Viking called Cnut had ruled both Norway and England from 1016 to 1035.
- Harald's claim was supported by Tostig, who was Harold Godwinson's brother. The two brothers had fallen out and this was Tostig's way of getting revenge.

William, Duke of Normandy

William was the Duke of Normandy, a part of France. He had been in control of Normandy since he was seven years old, and was used to fighting to keep his land.



Links to Edward the Confessor:

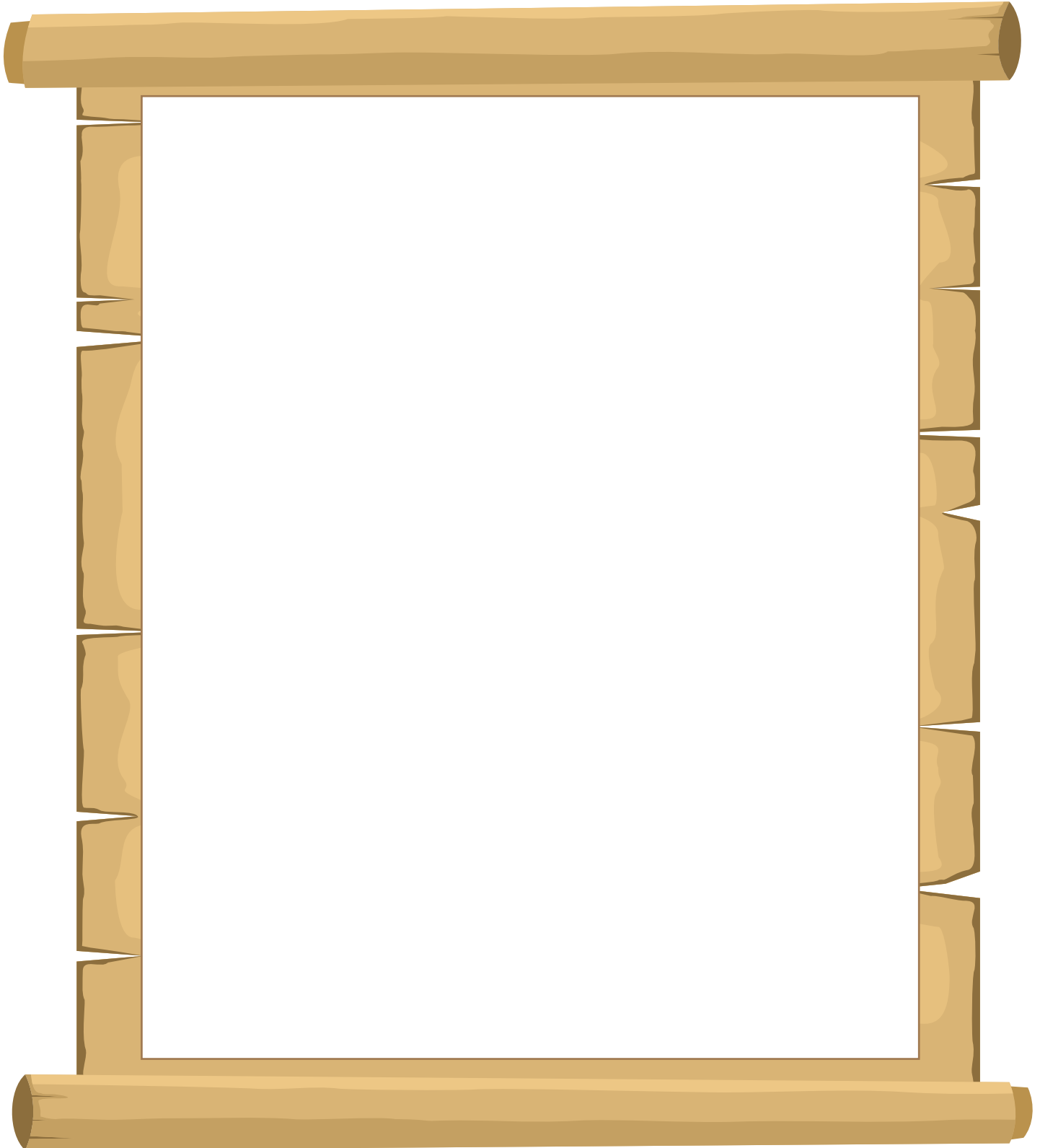
- William knew the king well - Edward had lived in Normandy from the age of 13 until he returned to England to be crowned king in 1042.
- William had sent soldiers back to England with Edward to support him. Because of this, William claimed that in 1051, Edward had promised him the throne when he died.
- It is also claimed that in 1064, when Harold Godwinson went to visit William in Normandy, he promised to support him when the time came to take the throne.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Decide who you think has the best claim to the throne, and then design a poster telling people why this man should be the next king.



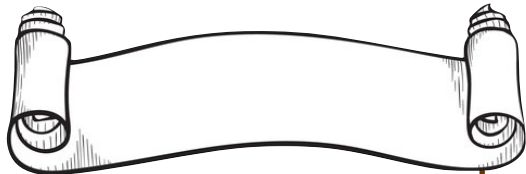
Name: _____

Date: _____



Decide who you think has the best claim to the throne, and then create a leaflet telling people why this man should be the next king.

(Cut out along the dotted lines and fold along the solid lines.)



The next king of England
should be...

He should be king
because...

Who is he?

His links to Edward the
Confessor...

Name: _____

Date: _____



Decide who you think has the best claim to the throne, and then write a speech telling people why this man should be the next king. Include the **qualities** he has, and why his **claim is stronger** than the other two contenders.

A large scroll with a wooden frame and a white writing area containing 20 horizontal lines for writing a speech.

The Norman Conquest

Witan Discussion Sheet



You are the **Witan**. Record the reasons **for** and **against** each contender to the throne. Decide who will be the next king of England!

Reasons **for**...



Harold
Godwinson

Reasons **against**...

Reasons **for**...



Harald
Hardrada

Reasons **against**...

Reasons **for**...



William, Duke
of Normandy

Reasons **against**...

Final decision of the Witan: _____ should be the next king of England.