

The last Anglo-Saxon Kings?

-Edward ("the confessor") was known for his religious faith. Although England was quiet and relatively prosperous during his reign, his failure to leave an heir led to the [Norman](#) invasion of England in 1066.

-Harold II was crowned following the death of King Edward.

-In 1066, Harold's army marched up to Yorkshire to stop Harald Hadrada of Norway and his huge army from invading. Harold's men killed Harald and thousands of his Norwegian soldiers in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Weeks later, Harold had to fight again. William, the Duke of Normandy, believed that he should be king of England and so he and his army came to battle against Harold. Harold and his troops marched down from Stamford Bridge to face the Normans in the Battle of Hastings.



What significant event happened in 1066?

-The Battle of Hastings is known as a significant historical event which shaped the future of Britain. King Harold and his army fought against King William of Normandy in the battle which took place on 14th October 1066.

-William of Normandy, who became known as William the Conqueror, became King. This brought the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end.

-After William became King of England, French became the language of the king's court. This blended with Anglo-Saxon English and over many centuries became the English language we use today.

-The famous Bayeux Tapestry, an embroidered linen cloth which depicts the story of the Battle, shows us information about weapons and architecture of the time, as well as the events of 14 October 1066. The Tapestry is 50cm wide and an amazing 70m long. It was embroidered by English women but made for the Normans to celebrate their victory, so it might not be completely truthful in the way it shows what happened.

Anglo Saxons and Vikings

-The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it. By AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings.

-King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

-The Vikings were Norse people from an area called Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). They travelled across the world to find good farmland and new places to settle.

-In AD 886, King Alfred made a deal with the Vikings and established a treaty which gave the Vikings control over northern and eastern England, an area which later became known as Danelaw.

-After the death of Alfred the Great in AD 899, the Anglo Saxon kings started to take back much of England.

-In AD 927 Athelstan won back the kingdom of York from the Vikings and united other leaders. Athelstan is regarded as the first king of Great Britain.

Why was 1066 a remarkable year?

Year Four History