

# Year 7

## Norman Conquest

### Home learning

#### Autumn 1



Name:

Class:

Teacher:

## Contents

**Any page numbers mentioned in this booklet refers to a text book which can be found on this link**

<https://en.calameo.com/read/00077772117a59cd2f548?authid=hurCkOYvSJ5&region=international>

1. What was England like before 1066 - social structure and peoples.
2. Who were the 3 contenders?
3. Who won the Battle of Stamford Bridge and why?
4. William and Harold- weapons and battle tactics
5. What happened on the 14th October 1066?
6. Why was William able to win the Battle of Hastings?
7. How did Harold die?

# 1. What was England like before 1066?

Over the course of a few hundred years, Britain was invaded and settled by different countries, who all made their own contributions and made an impact on Britain.

## What did the foreign settlers bring to Britain?

Using pages 12 and 13 of the text book.

<https://en.calameo.com/read/00077772117a59cd2f548?authid=hurCkOYvSJ5&region=international>

1. create a mind map for **each** of the 4 groups (Celts, Romans, Vikings, Anglo-Saxons) with bullet point notes on :

- Contribution (what they brought) to Britain
- Impact they made on Britain.

2. Which people do you think had the biggest impact on Britain and why do you think that?

3 [Read through the information](#) ‘Who ruled England before 1066?’ and answer the 4 questions at the bottom of the sheet.

## 2. Who were the 3 Contenders?

On the 5th January 1066, Edward the Confessor, the King of England died. He had no heir to take over the throne. This meant that the Witan would have to choose a new king. Three men emerged as possible contenders for the throne. But who was suitable?

### Harold, William or Harald?

Fill in the tables below using the information using pages 18-19 of the text book

<https://en.calameo.com/read/00077772117a59cd2f548?authid=hurCkOYvSJ5&region=international>

Give each contender for the English throne a mark out of ten in each category. Use your results to help you decide who should be the next king of England.

 <p><b>Harold Godwinson</b></p>	<p><b>Nationality:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Title:</b> .....</p>
<p><b>Reasons why Harold should be king.</b></p>	
<p><b>Reasons why Harold should not be king.</b></p>	
<p><b>Mark the following categories out of ten:</b></p>	
<p>Claim to be the rightful successor to King Edward.</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p>Nationality and location of his supporters.</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p>Military and political experience.</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>/30</b></p>



**William of Normandy**

**Nationality:**

.....

**Title:**

.....

**Reasons why William should be king.**

**Reasons why William should not be king.**

**Mark the following categories out of ten:**

Claim to be the rightful successor to King Edward.

**/10**

Nationality and location of his supporters.

**/10**

Military and political experience.

**/10**

**Total**

**/30**



**Harald Hardrada**

**Nationality:**

.....

**Title:**

.....

**Reasons why Harald should be king.**

**Reasons why Harald should not be king.**

**Mark the following categories out of ten:**

Claim to be the rightful successor to King Edward.

**/10**

Nationality and location of their supporters.

**/10**

Military and political experience.

**/10**

**Total**

**/30**



### **3. The Battle of Stamford Bridge**

Harold Godwinson became the King of England. He had one main advantage to become the next King of England: he was English and in England when Edward died, unlike the other contenders. William, Duke of Normandy, and Harald Hardrada were not happy with Harold becoming the new King and decided to invade.

Harold Godwinson had to wait nine months before either of his rivals for the throne attacked. The first attack came in September 1066 when Harald Hardrada sailed over in 300 longboats with an army to England. The Vikings landed in York and soon started to take control over the north of England. Harold had to act quickly and he rushed with his army to meet Harald in the north. On 25 September 1066, King Harold surprised Harald Hardrada's troops near an old bridge in Stamford.

Early in the morning of 25 September 1066, the battle starts and it goes badly for Harald Hardrada's men as they were not prepared for Harold's men to attack. Their luck starts to change as a brave Viking blocks the bridge to stop the English from reaching the Vikings. As the English have no way to get over the ridge, Harald Hardrada's army fight Harold's men to a standstill.

Harold's men come up with a cunning plan. They attack the Viking blocking the bridge from underneath by stabbing him with their swords. This works and the Viking is killed and the English make their way across the bridge.

By midday, King Harold's men are in control and Harald Hardrada is killed. The Vikings continue to fight but lose the battle and King Harold is declared

#### **Activities**

1. Who succeeded Edward the Confessor as King?
2. Which of the rivals attacked first and when?
3. What are the reasons for King Harold's victory?
4. What do you think was the most important reason for King Harold winning the Battle of Stamford Bridge

**The Extent-o-meter:  
How important were the tactics of Harold Godwinson to the defeat  
of the Vikings at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?**

	How much?	How far do you agree?	How important?	What impact?
	100%	Totally	Extremely	Radical
	80%	Strongly	Major	Significant
	60%	Quite strongly	Substantial	Considerable
	50%	Undecided	Quite	Moderate
	40%	Some extent	Somewhat	Partial
	20%	Slightly	Minor	Little
	0%	Not at all	Irrelevant	Not at all

**Identify which criteria you are going to use, colour in the thermometer to the appropriate point, and write a paragraph to explain your decision.**

	100%	
	90%	
	80%	
	70%	
	60%	
	50%	
	40%	
	30%	
	20%	
	0%	

#### **4. Weapon and battle tactics- How did Harold and William's armies compare?**

Look carefully at the scene from the Bayeux Tapestry below.  
Label the different parts of soldiers equipment you can see.



**▲ SOURCE 5** *The Norman cavalry ready for battle*

Read through pages 22-23 from the text book

<https://en.calameo.com/read/00077772117a59cd2f548?authid=hurCkOYvSJ5&region=international>

Complete all 3 tasks in the blue 'Over to you' box on page 23. For question 3 remember to explain your decision and support with examples.

## 5. The Battle of Hastings

### Key Facts



Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 1066 – the Battle of Hastings itself.



Takes place on a hill called SENLAC HILL



English (Anglo-Saxon) army – made of up of Huscarls and Fyrd.

- Huscarls – wielded big axe
- Fyrd – farmers and common people



Norman (French Army)

- Archers – Bow and Arrows
- Cavalry – Soldiers on horseback
- Infantry – soldiers fighting on foot

**Answer the following questions from the video: (BBC Teach - Norman Conquest 4/6) [click here](#)** The video lasts 6 mins. You will need the questions in front of you as watch

1. What did William promise to those who vowed to fight for him?
2. Which powerful religious man supported William's claim?
3. How many soldiers did William have?
4. Why did William have to wait several weeks before sailing to England?
5. How did William force Harold to go to him?
6. How did this weaken the English army?
7. What time did the battle start?
8. Explain the formation of both armies.
9. What advantages did the Norman army have?
10. Who initially appeared to be winning the battle and why?
11. Explain the trick played by the Normans.
12. What happened to the English shield wall and why was this important?
13. What happened to Harold Godwinson?
14. What did William do immediately after the battle?
15. When was he crowned King of England?

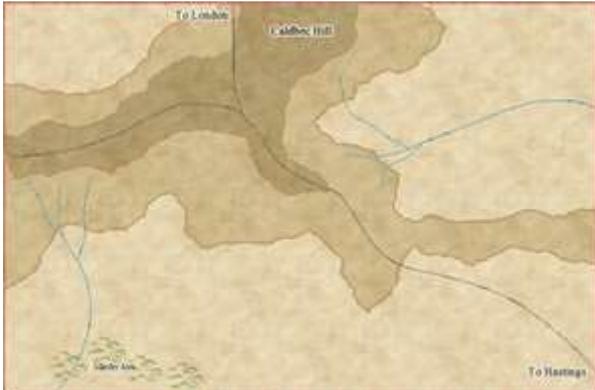
# Chronology of the Battle

Divide the story of the battle into 6 'parts/phases'. For each phase of the battle explain what happened in the box. If you can draw where the 2 sides would have been on the map.

Each phase links to a paragraph from the text book (pages 24-25) to help you.  
<https://en.calameo.com/read/00077772117a59cd2f548?authid=hurCkOYvSJ5&region=international>

In the first table below - design 3 simple icons to represent the different parts of the Norman Army. Use these icons on the maps

<b>Cavalry</b>	<b>Archers</b>	<b>Soldiers</b>	<b>Anglo-Saxon Army</b> 
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	<p><b>The build up</b> (page 24)</p>
	<p><b>The battle begins</b> (page 24)</p>

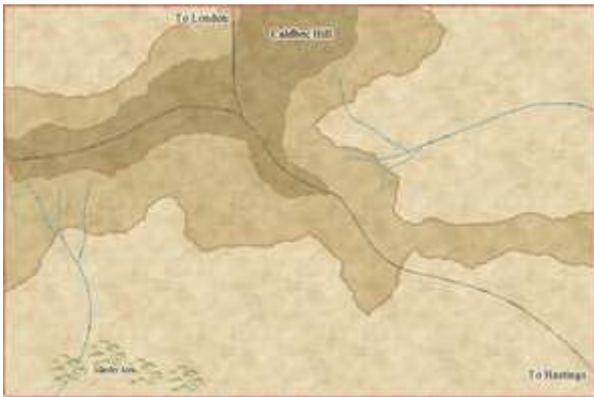
**Phase One-**

**Phase Two -The battle begins**



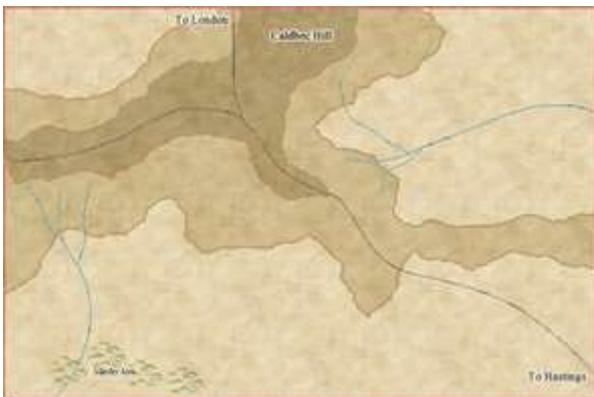
**Phase Three-**

**William changes tactic** (box 1 cartoon page 25)



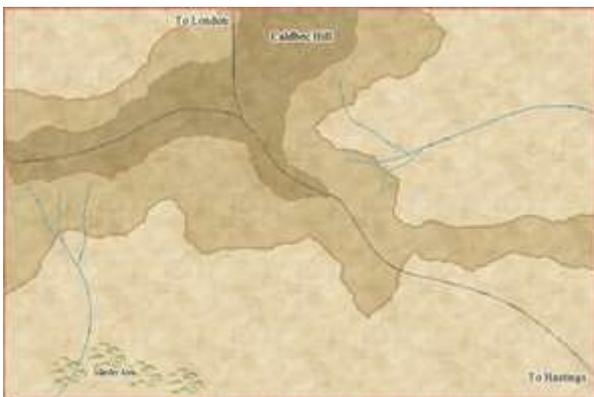
**Phase Four**

**Harold in trouble** (box 2 cartoon page 25)



**Phase Five**

**William takes his chance** (box 3 cartoon page 25)



**Phase Six**

**Harold killed** (box 4 cartoon page 25)

**Extra challenge:**

Which Phase above can be considered the turning point of the Battle of Hastings? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## **6. Why was William able to win the Battle of Hastings?**

The size and composition of the Norman and Saxon armies before the Battle of Hastings is difficult for historians to work out. Primary sources have tended to exaggerate the numbers on both sides. Below is an historian's best guess at who fought in the battle.

### **Harold's Saxon army**

#### **Housecarls: 3,000 men**

These were the well-trained, experienced full-time fighters of the Saxon army. They wore armour of a chain-mail coat made of iron rings. They also carried a kite-shaped shield and wore iron helmets. They were armed with a mighty battle-axe – capable of killing a horse! They also carried swords, spears or a small throwing axe.

#### **The Fyrd: 5,500 men**

These were mostly local, untrained peasant farmers with a duty to defend the country. Only the leaders (the local landowners), would be armed like the Housecarls. The rest had no armour. Some had round, homemade wooden shields and leather helmets. Their weapons varied. Some had axes, but others had only farm tools and anything they could find.

### **William's Norman army**

#### **Infantry: 3,000 men**

These were well trained, experienced full-time fighters. They wore armour including chain-mail coats of iron rings, kite-shaped shields and an iron helmets. They were armed with a sword, a spear or an axe.

#### **Cavalry: 2,000 men**

These were the best soldiers in the army. They were highly trained full-time fighters. On flat ground, infantry could not stand up to the power of a knight. They wore armour including a chain-mail coat of iron rings, a kite-shaped shield and an iron helmet. They carried a sword, spear or axe. Blunt instruments such as the battle mace were also used. They rode large trained warhorses.

**Archers: 800 men**

These were highly trained men. They didn't normally wear armour as they needed to be able to move freely, though some did wear leather or iron helmets. They carried their bow and a quiver of arrows (with a range of up to 100m). Many also carried a small knife or sword.

- Use the information above to complete this table.

	Harold's Saxon army	William's Norman Army	Who had the advantage?
How many trained, experienced soldiers?			
How many soldiers with armour?			
How many cavalry?			
What weapons did soldiers have?			

1. Look at the information in the table. Who do you think had the stronger army? Explain why.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. Can you think of any other reasons that gave William or Harold an advantage before the battle started?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**1.** On your grid, colour code which factor you think it is; William's Skill, English Mistake or Harold's Bad Luck?

<b>WILLIAM'S SKILL</b>	<b>ENGLISH MISTAKES</b>	<b>HAROLD'S BAD LUCK</b>
<p>Military Tactics:</p> <p>William was a skillful leader who tricked the English into running down the hill and breaking their shield wall.</p>	<p>Tired Army</p> <p>The English army were weakened after the Battle of Stamford Bridge, they were not ready for a second fight.</p>	<p>Journey South</p> <p>Harold decided to march the army South to fight the invading Normans without resting his army before another fight?</p>
<p>Preparation</p> <p>William had prepared the Norman army. He had been building up the invasion fleet and his army for years.</p> <p>He also made sure that his army were well equipped with soldiers, archers and cavalry.</p>	<p>Use of Cavalry</p> <p>Unlike Harold's army, William made use of the tactic of cavalry. This was knights on horseback</p>	<p>Three Claimants</p> <p>When Edward the Confessor died he had promised the throne to three different claimants.</p> <p>Whoever was declared the King of England first would have the unfortunate job of fighting off the other two.</p>
<p>Use of Cavalry</p> <p>Unlike Harold's army, William made use of the tactic of cavalry. This was knights on horseback who were skilled fighters.</p>	<p>Changing Wind</p> <p>While Harold was in the North of England when the wind along the South coast changed allowing William to sail to England.</p>	<p>Harold's Death</p> <p>Harold was killed during the battle leaving no clear leader for the Saxon Army. They then made lots of mistakes which led to their defeat.</p>

**2. Which factor do you think best explains why William won? Write a conclusion.** I think William won because.....

Write a narrative account of events in October 1066 that led to William winning the Battle of Hastings.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The position of Harold's and Williams armies at the start of the battle
- The fake retreats used by William during the Battle.

**You must also use information of your own**

Key Words to support your answer

- Senlac Hill
- Pope
- Archers
- Shield wall
- Cavalry
- Fyrd
- Housecarls
- Normans
- English
- William
- Harold
- Fake retreat
- Arrow in eye



Top tips...

1. *To begin, introduce what you are going to talk about*
2. *Remember to write in paragraphs*
3. *Remember to use correct punctuation including full stops and capital letters*
4. *Use linking phrases:*

<i>At first</i>	<i>Secondly</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Next</i>
<i>After</i>	<i>Finally</i>	<i>Meanwhile</i>	<i>So</i>
<i>Slowly</i>	<i>At the same time</i>	<i>Because of this</i>	

## 7. How did Harold die?

At the Battle of Hastings, King Harold II was killed. However, there has been a lot of dispute between historians as to how he was killed. Below are the three sources commenting on Harold's death. But which one is more reliable than the others?



*The Bayeux Tapestry, 1070s*

“... Harold fell, his brain pierced by an arrow. One of the soldiers with a sword gashed his thigh as he lay on the ground.”

*William of Malmesbury, 1140*

“Harold and his two brothers had fallen close together. The King could not be recognized by his face which had been cut by a sword – only by certain marks on his body.”

*William of Poitiers, 1071*

**Harold Godwinson was hacked to death with a sword.**

Which source(s) support this view?  
Give details of what they say.

Which source(s) contradict (disagree with) this view?

**Harold Godwinson was killed with an arrow in the eye.**

Which source(s) support this view?  
Give details of what they say.

Which source(s) contradict this view?

**Harold Godwinson died when he was shot in the eye AND hacked with a sword.**

Which source(s) support this view?  
Give details of what they say.

Which source(s) contradict this view?

## Which source do you think is the most reliable?

### Things to consider

- Who made the source? Are they a supporter of Harold or William? Would you expect them to say that?
- When was the source made? Were they there? How would they have known about Harold's death?
- Which source matches your own knowledge the best?

I think that ..... is the most reliable source

because

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

How do you think Harold died?

He was shot in the eye.

He was hacked with a sword.

He was **both** shot in the eye and hacked.