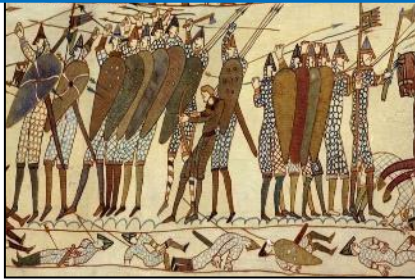


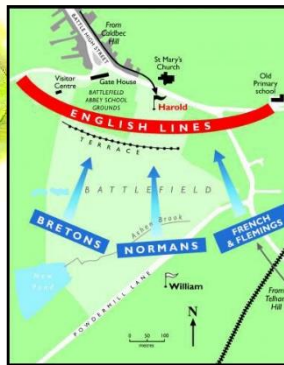
The Bayeux Tapestry

The Bayeux Tapestry is a long embroidered cloth made shortly after 1066 which tells the story of the events leading up to and including the Battle of Hastings. It shows Edward the Confessor's death, Harold Godwinson becoming king, William's claim to the throne, and the fighting at Hastings. From the tapestry we learn about Norman weapons, armour, horses, and battle tactics such as cavalry charges. However, it is biased because it was made by the Normans and presents William as the rightful king, while showing Harold negatively. This means historians must be careful when using it as evidence.



William using castles to keep control over England

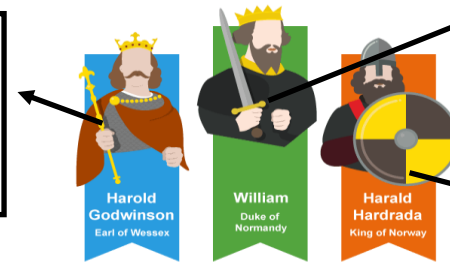
William used castles as a key method to control England after the conquest. He built motte and bailey castles quickly in important places such as London, York, and along main roads. Castles acted as military bases, protected Norman soldiers, and showed the local population that the Normans were powerful. William also used fear by punishing rebels harshly, destroying land, and carrying out executions. Together, castles and fear discouraged resistance and encouraged people to obey Norman rule.



The Norman Conquest- 1066

In January 1066, Edward the Confessor, King of England, died. He left behind no children so there was no clear heir to the throne. However, there were three men who believed that they should be the next King of England. They were:

English, one of the most powerful men in England, the most important bishops and nobles wanted him to be King



Normandy was the strongest part of France and he had been in control here for some time, had been promised the throne by Edward in 1051

King of Norway, a Viking (Canute) had ruled England from 1016-1035, one of the most feared warriors in Europe

Harold Godwinson had the advantage as he was in England and he wasted no time and was crowned King shortly after Edward's death. He waited for his rivals to make a move!

In September 1066 Hardrada landed in the North of England with an army of 10,000—they quickly took the town of York. Harold sent his troops up North and a fierce battle took place at Stamford Bridge. Harold's men win the fight but almost as soon as they were victorious Harold heard that William of Normandy had landed on the South coast near Hastings! There was no time to rest and he had to march his troops 250 miles South to meet William's men and decide the future of the country.

The Battle of Hastings

King Harold set his army on top of a hill called Senlac Hill. William travelled to meet him.

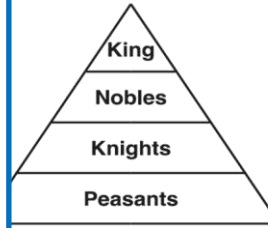
On the 14th October at about 9:30 in the morning the battle began. William unleashed his archers but Harold's men formed a strong shield wall. William sent troops to attack but they couldn't get through. William came up with a brilliant plan...he ordered some of his troops to pretend to run away...the English, thinking they were winning chased after them! They were massacred by William's cavalry and with the shield wall broken he could break through the English. Harold was killed (some believe by an arrow in the eye) and then chopped into pieces!

William had won, they marched towards London and he was crowned King on Christmas Day, 1066.

William using castles to keep control over England

William introduced the feudal system to tightly control land, loyalty, and power in England. He claimed ownership of all land and granted it to his barons in return for loyalty, advice, and soldiers when needed. Barons then divided their land among knights, who promised to fight for William. Peasants worked the land to produce food and rent, supporting everyone above them. This system meant everyone had a clear role and owed loyalty upwards, with William at the top. William also spread barons' land across different areas so no one could become too powerful.

In 1086, William ordered the Domesday Book, a detailed survey of land, wealth, and people in England. Royal officials travelled around the country asking questions about who owned land, how much land there was, how many people lived there, and how much it was worth. Nothing could be hidden, which meant William knew exactly how rich his kingdom was. The Domesday Book helped William collect taxes more effectively, especially the geld tax, and ensured people paid the correct amount. It also allowed William to settle arguments about land ownership and reminded people that the king was watching and in control. Together, the feudal system and Domesday Book helped William maintain strong control over England.



How did William change religion under his leadership?

William changed religion in England to help strengthen his rule. He replaced many English bishops and abbots with Norman churchmen who were loyal to him. William ordered the building of large Romanesque stone churches and cathedrals, which showed Norman power and authority. By controlling the Church, William gained support from religious leaders and used religion to help govern England more effectively.



The Norman Conquest - Y7 (Key words)

Who were the Contenders to the Throne?

Key word	Definition
Contender	A person who believes they have a right to be king.
Succession	The process of choosing the next king.
Edward the Confessor	King of England who died in January 1066.
Harold Godwinson	Earl of Wessex who became king in 1066.
William of Normandy	Duke of Normandy who claimed the English throne.
Harald Hardrada	King of Norway who also claimed the throne.
Witan	A council of important Anglo-Saxon nobles who chose the king.

What happened at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?

Key word	Definition
Battle of Stamford Bridge	Battle fought on 25 September 1066 in the north of England.
Viking	Warrior from Scandinavia (Norway/Sweden etc).
Invasion	An armed attack on a country.
Surprise attack	An attack when the enemy is not prepared.
Shield wall	A defensive formation using shields.
Defeat	To be beaten in battle.

What was the Battle of Hastings and why did William win?	
Key word	Definition
Battle of Hastings	The battle fought on 14 October 1066 between Harold and William.
Normans	People from Normandy in France.
Cavalry	Soldiers who fought on horseback.
Archers	Soldiers who fought using bows and arrows.
Tactics	Plans used in battle.
Feigned retreat	Pretending to run away to trick the enemy.
Turning point	A moment that changes the outcome.

Who resisted the Normans and what happened when they did?	
Key word	Definition
Resistance	Fighting back against control.
Rebellion	An organised attempt to overthrow the ruler.
Edgar Ætheling	Anglo-Saxon with a weak claim to the throne.
Hereward the Wake	Leader of resistance in East Anglia.
Harrying of the North	William's brutal punishment of northern England.
Scorched earth	Destroying land to weaken the enemy.

How did William use the Feudal system and Domesday Book to control England?	
Key word	Definition
Feudal system	A system of land and loyalty with the king at the top.
Hierarchy	A ranking system.
Baron	A powerful noble given land by the king.
Knight	A soldier who fought for a baron or king.
Vassal	Someone who holds land in return for loyalty.
Domesday Book	A survey of land and wealth completed in 1086.
Tax	Money paid to the king.

What does the Bayeux Tapestry tell us about 1066?	
Key word	Definition
Bayeux Tapestry	An embroidered cloth showing events of 1066.
Source	Evidence from the past.
Bias	When a source shows only one side of the story.
Oath	A serious promise.
Propaganda	Information used to persuade people.

How did William use castles and fear to control England?	
Key word	Definition
Castle	A strong building used for defence and control.
Motte and bailey	Early Norman castle made of wood and earth.
Garrison	Soldiers waiting in a castle.
Intimidation	Using fear to control people.
Punishment	Something given to stop rebellion.

How did William change religion under his leadership?	
Key word	Definition
Church	The organisation of Christian worship.
Bishop	An important church leader.
Archbishop	A senior bishop.
Romanesque	A style of building with thick walls and round arches.
Cathedral	A large, important church.
Authority	The power to command and make decisions.