

The Bayeux Tapestry

The Bayeux Tapestry is an embroidered cloth measuring 230 feet in length, showing the events leading up to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. Its creation was ordered by Bishop Odo and narrates the story through a series of scenes, showcasing the Battle of Hastings, the death of King Harold Godwinson, and the coronation of William the Conqueror. Rich in detail, it serves as a valuable historical document, providing insights into medieval warfare, clothing, and architecture, while offering a Norman perspective on the conquest.



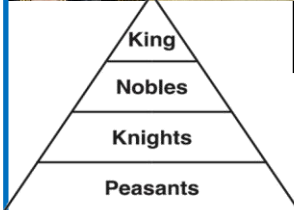
William keeping control over England

William quickly crushed any enemies—especially at Dover Castle

He built many castles across the country to control different areas—the first castles were known as Motte and Bailey castles.

William sent officials all over the country to make a survey of the country he had conquered—this became known as the Domesday Book

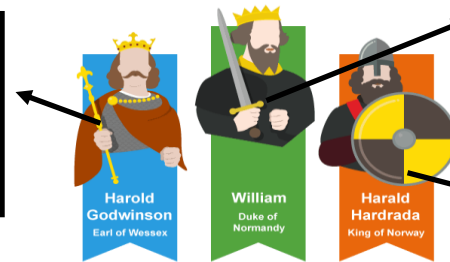
William brought in the Feudal System, where land was given to loyal people, in order to control the country.



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.