

# History: How did William of Normandy Conquer and Control England?

Year 7

Term 1



Timeline	
5 January 1066	The King of England, Edward the Confessor, dies.
6 January 1066	Harold Godwinson is named King of England.
20 September 1066	Harald Hardrada invades England with around 10,000 men.
25 September 1066	The Battle of Stamford Bridge is fought. Harold Godwinson defeats Harold Hardrada.
28 September 1066	William of Normandy invades England and orders the creation of Hastings Castle (a Motte and Bailey Castle).
14 October 1066	The Battle of Hastings is fought. William of Normandy defeats Harold Godwinson.
25 December 1066	William is crowned King of England.
1069	The Harrying of the North takes place.
1086	The Domesday book is completed.

Key people	
<b>Edward the Confessor</b>	Edward the Confessor was the King of England between 1042 and 1066. Edward had no sons or daughters which meant there was no clear heir to the throne. This led to a crisis.
<b>Harold Godwinson</b>	Harold Godwinson was a powerful and rich English nobleman. It is believed Edward named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed. The day after Edward's death, the royal council, known as the Witan, met and declared Godwinson king.
<b>Harald Hardrada</b>	Hardrada was the King of Norway and a Viking warrior. Hardrada believed he should be king based on the fact that his ancestor, King Cnut, had once ruled England. He invaded England to challenge Godwinson's rule.
<b>William of Normandy</b>	William of Normandy was already Duke of Normandy which was the most powerful part of France. Edward the Confessor and William of Normandy were very close and it is believed that Edward had promised William the throne in 1042.

Key Terms	
<b>Heir</b>	A person allowed, by law, to take the title or property of somebody after death.
<b>Saxon</b>	A group settled in England in the 5th century. They were in control until the 11th century.
<b>Viking</b>	A group of pirates and traders who were living in Norway, Sweden and Denmark between the 8th and 11th century.
<b>Norman</b>	A group that settled in Normandy, France, in the 9th century and became dominant in the 11th century.
<b>Claimant</b>	Someone who has a claim to become the next king or queen.
<b>Feigned Retreat</b>	A Norman tactic. To pretend to run away and then to take the enemy by surprise by turning round and attacking the enemy.
<b>Shield Wall</b>	A defensive formation, where soldiers stand shoulder to shoulder, holding their shields together. This makes it difficult for the enemy to break through.
<b>Bailey</b>	A large yard surrounded by a wooden fence. This offered increased protection for villagers and armies inside.
<b>Cavalry</b>	These were very important men in William's army. Around 2,000 of them fought at Hastings. They rode on the back of large horses carrying a sword or spear.
<b>Housecarl</b>	These were the well-trained fighters of Harold's army. Around 3,000 of them fought at Hastings. They fought with a battle axe.

Key Events	
<b>The Battle of Stamford Bridge</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>300 Viking long boats carried Harald Hardrada's army from Norway to England. They attacked and took over York by 24 September.</li> <li>Godwinson's army marched quickly north to meet the Viking threat. They travelled 210 miles in 5 days.</li> <li>Godwinson's army caught Hardrada by surprise. Hardrada had left his armour and his reserve soldiers 25km away. Hardrada was defeated and the Vikings surrendered.</li> <li>Whilst Godwinson was in the north of England, William of Normandy had invaded the south of England. Godwinson had to return south immediately to fight William.</li> </ul>	
<b>The Battle of Hastings</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>William of Normandy's army of 10,000 soldiers arrived at Pevensey on 29 September. He attacked the south of England, and prepared to meet Harold Godwinson's army in battle.</li> <li>Godwinson raced down south to fight William. On the 14th October, the Battle of Hastings began. Godwinson's army formed a shield wall on the top of Senlac Hill.</li> <li>William of Normandy used the feigned retreat, encouraging the Saxons to run down the hill, this broke up the English shield wall. Harold Godwinson was then killed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Castles</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motte and Bailey castles were wooden structures built into two parts: a motte (a mound of earth) where a keep was placed on the top to give the defender a height advantage and the bailey (a courtyard surrounded with a wooden fence).</li> <li>Motte and Bailey castles only took seven to fourteen days to build and allowed William to bring parts of England under control quickly.</li> </ul>	
<b>The Feudal System</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The feudal system allowed William to control the population of England. The King provided land in return for loyalty and protection.</li> <li>Land was given to 200 Barons (Lords) and 4000 Knights and farmed by 1.5 million peasants.</li> </ul>	
<b>William the Conqueror's Methods of Control</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1069. William crushed a rebellion in the north of England by destroying 75% of land and killing up to 100,000 people. This is called the Harrying of the North.</li> <li>The Domesday book was created in 1086 and contains all the property that people living in England own. 13,000 villages are visited. This allows William to tax the land and the possessions of the people of England.</li> </ul>	



**Trinity TV**

For more help, visit Trinity TV and watch the following videos:

**Trinity TV > Year 7 > History > Term 1 - Normans**