

## OVERVIEW

In 1066 the King of England, Edward the Confessor, died without an heir. Three men all competed for the throne, resulting in two key battles. By the end of the year the French-speaking William of Normandy was in charge.

Many Saxons rebelled against their new King as he was an invading foreigner. William had to work hard to gain full control of his new kingdom, and it took him 5 years to gain control over the whole country. He used various methods, including terror as well as rewarding loyalty. A new system of taxation also made him a rich and powerful king.

## KEY INDIVIDUALS

**Edward the Confessor** - Saxon King of England who died in 1066 without an heir

**Harold Godwinson** - Saxon noble who became King when Edward died

**Harald Hardrada** - King of Norway who invaded in 1066 and lost the Battle of Stamford Bridge

**William the Conqueror** - Duke of Normandy who invaded England and won the Battle of Hastings

**Tostig** - brother of Godwinson who died at Stamford Bridge

**Pope Alexander II** – head of the Church who supported William’s claim

**Hereward the Wake** – leader of a rebellion against William in the Fens

## HISTORY KNOWLEDGE

### ORGANISER

### YEAR 7 – TERM 2

## THE NORMAN CONQUEST



## KEY TERMS

**Bayeux Tapestry** – a Norman embroidery depicting the events of 1066

**Cavalry** – soldiers on horseback

**Claimants** – people who believed they had a right to the throne

**Conquest** – to take over a country

**Coronation** – ceremony to crown a monarch

**Heir** – a person who inherits something.

**Homage** – to swear loyalty to the King / a lord

**Housecarls** – Saxon soldiers with axes

**Illegitimate** – a child whose parents were not married

**Invasion** – to attack another country

**Monarch** – a King (or Queen)

**Oath** – a solemn promise

**Witan** – a council of wise men in Saxon England

## 1066 TIMELINE

**5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1066** – Edward the Confessor died

**6<sup>th</sup> Jan 1066** – Godwinson crowned King

**Late Jan 1066** – William started to build a fleet and gathered his army together

**12<sup>th</sup> Aug 1066** – William was ready to depart

**Late May 1066** – Tostig arrived in England

**18<sup>th</sup> Sept 1066** – Hardrada arrived

**25<sup>th</sup> Sept 1066** – Battle of Stamford Bridge

**28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1066** – William arrived in England

**2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1066** – Godwinson began marching south

**13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1066** – Godwinson arrived at Hastings

**14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1066** – Battle of Hastings

**25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1066** – William crowned at Westminster Abbey

## WILLIAM’S METHODS OF CONTROL

**The Harrying of the North** – the destruction of villages and crops in the North of England where rebellions had taken place

**Feudal System** – a hierarchy in which land was given in exchange for loyalty

**Motte and Bailey Castles** – a network of bases for soldiers to control local areas

**Domesday Book** – a survey of property for tax purposes