

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

5th Jan 1066 – Edward the Confessor died

6th Jan 1066 – Godwinson crowned King

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

12th Aug 1066 – William was ready to depart

Late May 1066 – Tostig arrived in England

18th Sept 1066 – Hardrada arrived

25th Sept 1066 – Battle of Stamford Bridge

28th Sept 1066 – William arrived in England

2nd Oct 1066 – Godwinson began marching south

13th Oct 1066 – Godwinson arrived at Hastings

14th Oct 1066 – Battle of Hastings

25th 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