

History | Year 7 - Norman conquest | September to October

Battle of Hastings

1 **The Battle of Stamford Bridge**
 In September 1066, **Harald Hardrada** landed an army of 8,000 **Vikings** in the North of England. **Harold Godwinson** and his army marched 180 miles in 4 days to meet them.
Godwinson defeated the **Vikings** at the **Battle of Stamford Bridge**. **Hardrada** was killed. Almost as soon as the battle was over, **Harold** learnt that **William** had landed and he raced his exhausted army back to the south coast.

2 **Harold's Anglo-Saxon Army**
 5,500 **fyrd**, untrained farmers fighting with wooden shields and farm tools
 3,000 heavily-armoured **housecarls** armed with battle axes.

3 **William's Norman Army**
 3,000 well trained **infantry** with metal armour and swords
 2,000 **cavalry** on large warhorses
 800 **archers** who could fire over 100 metres

1 **The Battle of Hastings**
 Harold took a strong position at the top of **Senlac hill**. **Fyrd** and **housecarls** linked shields to form a **shield wall**.

2
 William placed his army in three rows: **archers** in front, followed by **infantry**, and **cavalry** protected behind

3
 William ordered attacks from his **archers** and **cavalry**, but they failed because of the hill and **shield wall**.

Battle of Hastings

4
 After a break for lunch, William tried a new **strategy**. He attacked with his **cavalry** who then **feigned** to retreat. Some English soldiers followed the **cavalry**, breaking the shield wall.

5
 With the shield wall broken, the Norman **cavalry** could charge at the **fyrd**.

6
Harold was shot in the eye and died. Without their leader, the English army was easily defeated.

7
William marched to London and was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066.

Contenders for the throne

| Name | Strengths | Weaknesses |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Harold Godwinson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nobleman with the support of English earls Edward had apparently promised him the throne as he lay dying Had been crowned king already after Edward had died | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harold had rebelled against Edward No proof that he had promised the throne |
| Harald Hardrada | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had been King of Norway for 20 years A feared warrior who had won battles across Europe Claimed that Emma's son Harthacnut had promised his family the English throne | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very weak claim to the throne Didn't speak English |
| William, Duke of Normandy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related to Edward through Emma, his great-aunt Edward had apparently promised him the throne in 1051 and Harold had agreed Successful leader in battle and had been Duke of Normandy for 30 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proof that he was promised the throne Didn't speak English |

Vocabulary

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Archers | Soldiers who fire arrows at the enemy from range. |
| 2 | Anglo-Saxons | A people from Germany who settled in England. |
| 3 | Barons | Wealthy landowners who control an army. |
| 4 | Cannibalism | Eating humans. |
| 5 | Cavalry | Soldiers who ride on horseback. |
| 6 | Claim to the throne | A reason why someone should be King. |
| 7 | Contenders | Challengers. |
| 8 | Deter | Use a harsh penalty to stop someone doing something. |
| 9 | Earls | Anglo-Saxon noblemen. |
| 10 | Edwin | Anglo-Saxon earl of Mercia. |
| 11 | Feudal System | William's system of giving out land. |
| 12 | Feigned | Pretended. |
| 13 | Harrying | Destroying. |
| 14 | Heir | Someone to become king or queen after you, usually a son. |
| 15 | Hierarchy | A system with the most important people at the top. |
| 16 | Infantry | Soldiers who fight on foot. |
| 17 | Knights | Loyal soldiers who fight for barons and the king. |
| 18 | Matilda of Flanders | William's wife. |

The Church

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Heaven and Hell | <i>Medieval Christians tried to live good lives to make sure they went to heaven.</i> |
| 2 | Doom paintings | churches showed Medieval Christians what was going to happen to them after they died. People who had committed spent eternity suffering in hell . Good Christians rose to heaven to be with God. |
| 3 | Deserved to go to heaven by: | doing good works such as helping the poor and sick buying an indulgence , a certificate that forgave your sins going on pilgrimage , a long journey to a religious shrine. |
| 4 | The Church hierarchy | The Pope the head of the Christian Church lived in Rome in Italy claimed power over all Christians and could excommunicate kings. The Archbishop of Canterbury was the most important priest in England was responsible for churches across the whole country. Bishops were the leaders of the Church in a region of England. Priests ran church services in a local area, called a parish . |
| 5 | Saints | One of the most popular saints was Saint Cuthbert who performed miracles such as calming a storm Medieval Christians worshipped saints by making a pilgrimage to a shrine (a statue of a saint or their remains). |

Monasteries

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | What happened in the monastery? | Prayer and worship took place in the church . The poor and sick were cared for in the infirmary . People came on pilgrimages to worship at the shrine of Saint Mary . |
| 2 | Who was involved in the life of the monastery? | The abbot was the monk in charge of the monastery . Monks lived and worked in the monastery , praying 5 times a day, growing food and helping the poor Local masons (builders) were employed to build new buildings Nobles donated money to the monastery so monks would pray for them to go to heaven The poor received charity from the monks |

Gender

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | men were superior to women | God expelled humans from the Garden of Eden because Eve was tempted to eat the forbidden fruit – this is known as the original sin Medieval Christians believed that this proved women were weaker than men and should take the blame for all of society's problems |
| 2 | Men | Peasant men were responsible for growing and harvesting food to feed the family. If the king needed men to fight, men had to be ready to serve in his army Men filled all of the roles in the Church. |
| 3 | Women | Royal women such as Emma of Normandy or Matilda were very powerful . Married women helped their husbands by managing the household or helping in the fields at harvest time. Childbirth was incredibly dangerous: two percent of pregnancies led to the death of the mother. |

Vocabulary

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | agriculture | farming |
| 2 | the Church | The international organisation that ran the Christian religion |
| 3 | gender | the characteristics of men and women |
| 4 | harvest | the period of gathering in the crops from the field |
| 5 | hierarchy | a system in which people are ranked by their power or status |
| 6 | monastery | a large religious building where monks lived and prayed |
| 7 | noble | a wealthy landowner who inherited wealth and power from his family |
| 8 | original sin | Eve eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden |
| 9 | patriarchal | ruled and dominated by men |
| 10 | peasant | a poor farmer who rented land from others |
| 11 | the Pope | the head of the Church |
| 12 | saint | an especially holy person who could perform miracles |
| 13 | to excommunicate | to kick someone out of the Church (only the Pope had the power to do this) |
| 14 | monarchy | a system of government in which kings and queens inherited their power |
| 15 | rebellion | when ordinary people rise up against the government |
| 16 | legitimate | proper, correct – i.e. descended from the previous king |
| 17 | heir | the person next in line to be king or queen. |
| 18 | interpretation | a historians' answer to a question about the past |
| 19 | taxes | money paid to the government |