

# William the Conqueror and The Normans- History

## Key Vocabulary

<b>William the Conqueror</b>	William the Conqueror was the first Norman king of England, reigning from 1066 to his death in 1087.
<b>Bayeux Tapestry</b>	The Bayeux Tapestry is an embroidered cloth, about 70 metres long, illustrating events leading up to the Norman Conquest and made between 1066 and 1077
<b>Norman</b>	William the Conqueror's army. The Normans invaded England in 1066 and came from Normandy in the North of France.
<b>Motte</b>	Large man-made mound on which a tower was placed for defence.
<b>Bailey</b>	Flat area at the foot of the motte containing store-rooms, animals etc.
<b>Barons</b>	Nobles who fought for William at Hastings & were re- knights Soldiers who were given land in the Feudal system warded with large areas of land to control for him.
<b>Feudalism</b>	Norman way of organising society so that everybody is rebellion. An uprising against the ruler loyal to the king
<b>Knights</b>	Soldiers who were given land in the Feudal system.
<b>Artefact</b>	An object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest from an archaeologist.
<b>Witan</b>	A council of nobles which helped the king to rule in Anglo-Saxon England.

## Anglo-Saxons

When the Romans left Britain, there was no strong army to defend Britain and so tribes called the Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded. They left their homelands in Germany, Denmark and Northern Holland and rowed across in wooden boats. They ruled in England for around 500 years. They never went home. They were hunters and farmers and made everything out of leather. They enjoyed horse riding, hunting, feasting and music making.

## Vikings

They came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They sailed overseas to search for better land for farms. They used long ships to make their journey. Men wore tunics and women wore dresses with a pinafore over it.

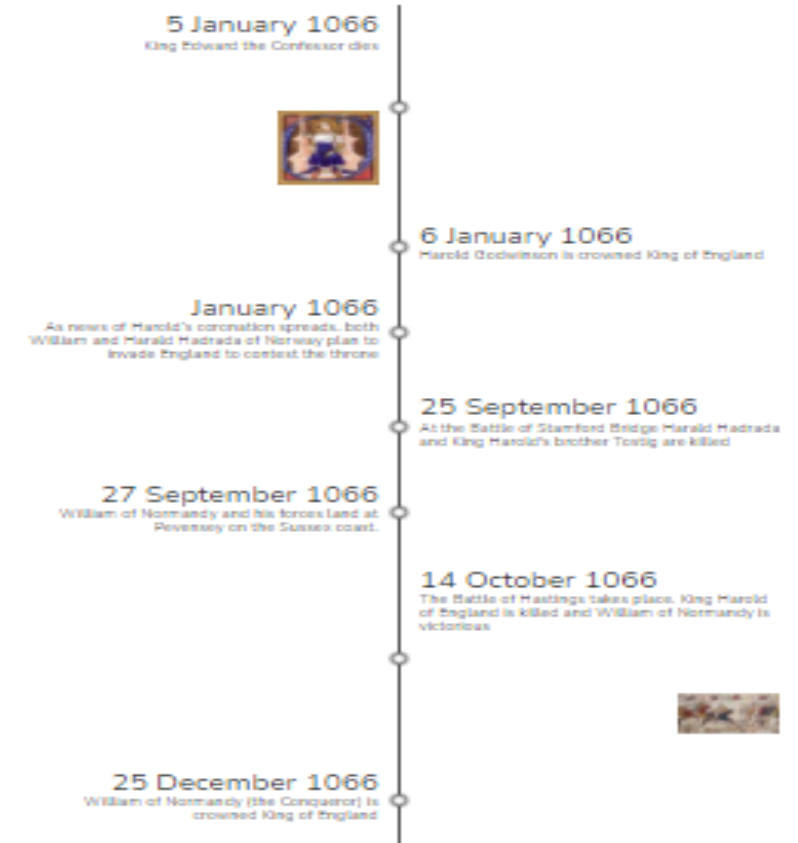
## The Battle of Hastings

Fighting was sparked by the arrival in England of William the Conqueror. The battle was against William the Conqueror (Norman) and King Harold (Anglo-Saxon). William had an advantage. The battle was unusually long by medieval standards. It was fought and won in one day, starting around 9am and ending at dusk. The Norman's won by pretending to be scared which is a well-known ancient tactic called "feigned flight" which involved them pretending to run away. It tricked the English troops into breaking formation, opening themselves up to attack.



### Castles:

The Normans built castles as bases for offensive patrols into the surrounding area. Norman castles were large, imposing buildings that were built to intimidate, bully and administrate the local area. They commanded the landscape in every direction. The location was incredibly important. They had to be high enough to see attackers coming, defend important routes such as the old Roman roads or river crossings, have easy access to resources such as wood, food and water, and also have natural advantages for defence. Castles were often located near a bend in the river or on the coast as the water could provide a natural moat. The first castles were wooden and called motte & bailey. Later, they were built out of stone, with higher walls & towers.



### Harold Godwinson- Anglo-Saxon

Earl of Wessex, one of the most powerful men in England Harold's sister was married to King Edward. Harold was a brave and respected soldier with a tough streak. The Witan, wanted Harold to be the next king. Edward promised the throne to William on his deathbed.

### William of Normandy- Normandy Duke of France.

William came from a fighting family. He was a brave soldier. Edward's cousin. Edward had lived in Normandy from 1016-1042. Edward had supposedly promised that William should be King of England. Harold had promised to support William.

### Harald Hardrada- Viking King of Norway

Vikings had ruled Britain before most feared warrior in Europe- Hardrada means 'hard ruler' and his nickname was 'The Ruthless'. Harald was supported by Tostig, Harold's Godwinson's brother who wanted revenge.