



Knowledge Organiser: Did the Normans bring a “truckload of trouble” in 1066?

Edward the Confessor died in 1066 with no heirs, leaving a disputed succession. William of Normandy defeated Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings. 1066 saw monumental change in English history. The invasion of the Normans ended 500 years of Anglo-Saxon rule, and ushered in a new phase of English history. Historians like Simon Schama have said that the Normans brought a “truckload of trouble” to England.		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words.	
		Jan 1066	Death of Edward the Confessor	Monarch	The king or queen of a country.
Summarise your learning		25 Sept 1066	Battle of Stamford Bridge	Contender	Someone who competes to be the next king of England.
		14 Oct 1066	Battle of Hastings	Conquest	To take over a country by force.
Topic 1: Claimants	Edward the Confessor died in 1066 with no heir. William of Normandy, Harold Hardrada, and Harold Godwinson all claimed the throne.	1069 /70	Northern Revolt and Harrying of the North	Battle	A violent fight between different groups of people in order to achieve success or control.
Topic 2: Battle of Stamford Bridge	Harald Hardrada invaded in the north of England. Harold’s army marched north to defeat the Viking army at Stamford Bridge.	1085	Surveying for the Domesday Book begin	Feudalism	A system in which people were given land and protection by people of higher rank, and worked and fought for them in return.
Topic 3: Battle of Hastings	William invaded the South so Harold marched his army from the North to confront William and the Normans at the Battle of Hastings. William defeated Harold, who was killed in the battle.			Peasant	A poor person of low social status who works on the land.
				Lord	A man who owned land or property and who had power and authority over people.
		Who or what were these people/events?			
Topic 4: Taking control forcefully	Anglo-Saxon rebellions forced William to act forcefully against the English and led to the Harrying of the North. From 1066 to 1087 William and the Normans also built nearly 700 motte and bailey castles, which were relatively quick to build, but difficult to capture, and helped William control England.	Normans	People from Normandy, in Northern France	Domesday Book	The record of a survey of the land of England carried out by the commissioners of William I in 1086
		Anglo-Saxons	People who lived in England. Their ancestors had arrived from northern Europe from the 5th century.	Castle	A large building with defensive features.
Topic 5: Taking control peacefully	The Normans introduced the Feudal System to ensure allegiance. This was a system in which landholders provide land to tenants in exchange for their loyalty and service. William also did a survey of land in England which was recorded in the Domesday Book.	Vikings	Men from Norway. England had previously had Viking Kings.	Rebellion	A violent organized action by a large group of people who are trying to change their country's political system.
		The Godwins	The most powerful Anglo-Saxon family. Harold Godwinson became King. Edith Godwindattter had married King Edward the Confessor.		
Topic 6: Extent of change	There were changes such as the Feudal System, churches, castles, law and order, and the language of the ruling class (including the introduction of surnames). There was also continuity from Anglo-Saxon times such as the legal system, farming and money.	Domesday Book	A survey to determine how wealthy the Kingdom was, and how much the king could raise through taxes.		
		Harrying of the North	William’s response to a rebellion in the North was to destroy the crops and damage the land.		