

History knowledge organiser: How did the Normans secure power?

AD stands for anno domini
— year of our lord in Latin



January 5 1066 **Edward the Confessor** died **without** a clear **heir**. The Anglo-Saxons had been in England since 410 AD.



January 1066: **Harold Godwinson** is **crowned** King of England

1066/67: What we now call the **Feudal System** was **introduced** and more Motte and Bailey castles are built

The contenders for the throne

Harold Godwinson



- Ruled on behalf of Edward the Confessor at the end of his reign.
- Brother in law of Edward the Confessor
- Edward **allegedly promised** Harold the throne on his death bed

Harald Hardrada



- King of Norway
- Hardrada's father, Magnus, **had been promised** the English throne by Harthacnut

William of Normandy



- Duke of Normandy and one of the most powerful men in France.
- Cousin of Edward the Confessor
- Edward the Confessor **allegedly promised** William the throne in **1051**. **Harold Godwinson** allegedly agreed to support Edward's promise during a trip to Normandy in **1064**.
- Became **William the Conqueror** after the Battle of Hastings

Some Keywords



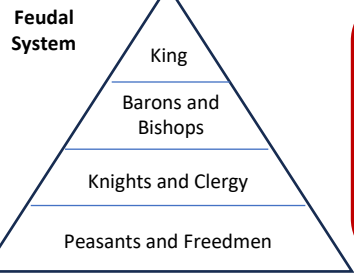
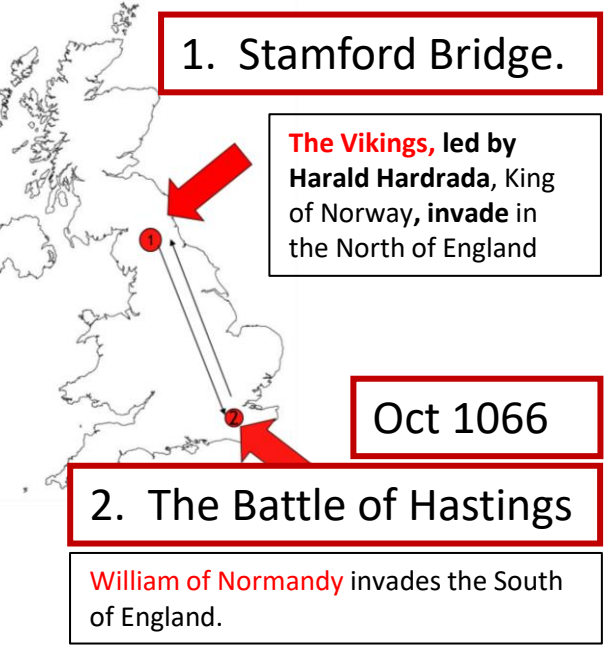
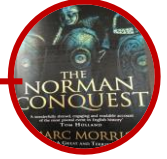
The Bayeux Tapestry is really an embroidery and is 70 meters long. It is an account of the medieval period in Normandy and England and it provides information about many things including Anglo Saxon's key army tactic of **key shield walls**



Heir: Someone who inherits another person's property and titles after their death



Motte and Bailey Castle: The type of castle built by the Normans on their arrival to England



Feudal System: The way Normans organised society. This worked by giving land and security in return for loyalty

Domesday Book: The survey conducted by the Normans to find out how much people owned

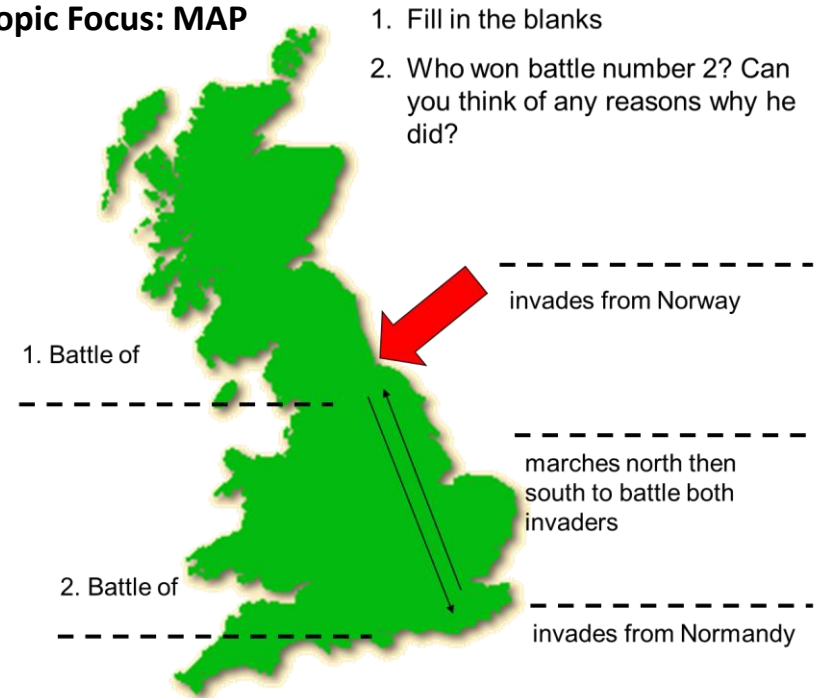


A **Commissioner** would collect the number of households, land and resources owned by a person

a. Quiz Questions:

1. Which event triggered the fight for the English throne in 1066?
2. Who were the four claimants for the English throne?
3. What key tactic did the Anglo-Saxon army like to use?
4. What is the Bayeux Tapestry?
5. How does the Bayeux tapestry depict (show) Harold Godwinson death?

b. Topic Focus: MAP



c. Chronology practice:

Put the following events in the correct order, earliest first.

- Edward the Confessor dies without a clear heir
- The Last Danish (Danes) king of England died
- Edward the Confessor was invited to return to England as King
- The beginning of Norman rule in England
- Harold Godwinson is chosen by the Witan to become King
- Battle of Stamford Bridge
- Battle of Hastings
- Harold Godwinson is killed
- William the Conqueror is crowned king

d. Individual practice:

Who are these individuals

1. The Earl of Wessex.
2. The King of Norway.
3. The childless Anglo-Saxon King of England.
4. The first Norman king of England.
5. Edward the Confessor's brother in law.