

SUBJECT: History

UNIT: Y11 Norman England-Conquer



What was England like before 1066?

- Sophisticated and civilised society with approximately 2 million inhabitants.
- Religion was key feature, and everyone followed Catholic Christianity.
- King Edward the Confessor had ruled since 1042 and his reign had been stable and peaceful.
- Prior to this, England had been ruled by Edward's half-brother, Harthacnut, whose father was Danish (therefore we see so many claimants to the throne later on).
- The Godwin's were a powerful ruling family in Norman England controlling a large area of England in 1066.



Who were the Normans?

William inherited Normandy at the age of 7 in 1035. Normandy= a rich area in North western France. Norman dukes had to acknowledge that French kings were superior, but they could raise their own armies. William had a link to England through Emma of Normandy who was the mother of Edward the Confessor.

Harold Godwinson

A powerful and rich English nobleman
According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Edward named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed.
Harold had been a deputy king and the witan nominated Godwinson as king.

William Duke of Normandy

The Norman chroniclers reported that Edward had promised his distant relative, William, the throne in 1051
William was a distant blood relative of Edward
The Bayeux Tapestry, shows Godwinson swearing an oath of support to William in a visit to Normandy in 1064

Contenders

Harald Hardrada King of Norway

A Viking warrior with a large army- Hardrada based his claim on the fact that his ancestor, King Cnut, had once ruled England (1016–1035)

Edgar the atheling

A rightful heir to Edward the Confessor and should have been crowned King of England
He did not have the wealth, power or strength of Harold Godwinson
He did not have the support of the Witan- he was only 15 years old

How did William prepare to invade England? French Support/Support from God - the Pope gave William the Papal Banner which meant William had the Pope's support in a Holy War. **Preparing his fleet** - William built a large number of flat-bottom boats to transport horses. He also made flat-pack castles to put up very quickly when they arrived. **Preparing his army** - William recruited men from all over France. Recruits were promised land and riches. He eventually had around 8000 men.

The Battle of Fulford Gate was fought on September 20, 1066, near York, England - between the army of King Harold Godwinson of England and an invading force led by Harald Hardrada, the King of Norway. The Norwegian army was decisively defeated, with Harald Hardrada and his son Olaf killed in the fighting.

The Battle of Stamford Bridge followed a few weeks later, on September 25, 1066. King Harold Godwinson, having defeated the Norwegians at Fulford Gate, marched his army from the south to meet the invading army of William, Duke of Normandy.. Harold's army was victorious.



Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

William's superior tactics	Harold's mistakes	Luck
William gained the Papal Banner , William had time to rest his army and train them on the actual battle ground. his army, William chose the site of the battleground on the base of Senlac Hill and William was on horseback so he had more control of his troops and could be more responsive.	King Harold hurried to face William; he could have waited but he chose to go straight to Hastings , Harold had fought alongside the Normans in 1064 and was aware of their tactics still used the shield wall, Harold chose to fight on foot rather than horseback, so it was difficult for him to communicate .	Both Hardrada and William decided to launch their invasions at the same time. The weather delayed William's invasion; this gave Harold time to defeat the Vikings before William arrived, some say that some of William's soldiers ran away, which led to the feigned retreat .