

The Anglo-Saxon rule (449-1066)

After the Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons **migrated** to Britain from north-western Europe (area we now call Germany). There were seven main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex). Due to the threat of Viking invasions, the kingdoms united as the Kingdom of England in the year 927.



January 5th 1066: Edward the Confessor Dies

Normally when a king or queen dies, their son or daughter takes over their throne and becomes the new king or queen. Edward though had no children. This led to four people claiming that they should become the next king of England.



Claim 1: Edgar Atheling

Edgar was the last Anglo-Saxon prince alive after his father was killed in 1057. He was however just 15 years old in 1066 and was considered to be too young to rule.



Claim 2: Harold Godwinson

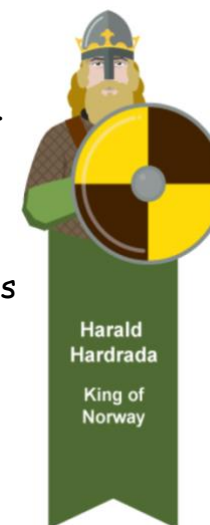
Harold was King Edward's brother-in-law and he was one of the most powerful men in England. When the king became ill, Harold was trusted to run the kingdom with other important **nobles**. It is believed that King Edward promised his throne to Harold shortly before he died.

Harold was crowned king when Edward died.



Claim 3: Harald Hardrada

Harald was a famous **Viking** warrior and skilled commander. Harald's **ancestors** were once kings of England and he believed he should therefore rule England. Harald Hardrada's claim was supported by Harold Godwinson's brother Tostig.



(4) William

William was a cousin of King Edward. William claimed that King Edward had promised him the throne of England when he visited England in 1051.

In 1064, Harold Godwinson (Claim 2) visited William in Normandy. William claims that Harold also promised that William will be the next king of England when King Edward died.



Year 4 (Geography/History Topic 3)



Dear Parents,

Our next topic is 'The Normans'. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by helping them to learn the key words (in purple) and the facts on this sheet.

There are some homework activities on the back of this sheet. Your child can complete these at any time. Your child's teacher would love to see what they have created, so please send any completed homework into school for us to display.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards - Year 4 teachers



(1) The Battle of Stamford Bridge

After Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England, Harald Hardrada lands in Yorkshire with 300 ships carrying his soldiers. Harold Godwinson's army marched from London to meet them in only five days. At the Battle of Stamford Bridge Harald Hardrada and Tostig Godwinson were killed. Only 24 ships travel back to Norway.

(2) The Battle of Hastings

Meanwhile, William was waiting in Normandy with 700 ships and his army. When he landed in England, Harold Godwinson marched his army south to meet them. After two weeks, they arrived exhausted.

Harold's army was defeated, and Harold was killed, according to legend, when he was shot with an arrow through his eye.

William was crowned king on December 25th.



Key Vocabulary

ancestors: A person who was born before you.

Bayeux Tapestry: An emroidered cloth which tells the story of the Normal invasion of England.

doomsday book: A survey of much of England.

latin: The language of ancient Rome.

migrated: To move from one part of the world to another.

nobles: A lord or lady. Somebody who rules an area.

rebellion: Armed resistance against control or authority.

Viking: Sea travelling people from Scandinavia.

The Bayeux Tapestry

The **Bayeux Tapestry** is thought to have been made in England in the 1070s. It is displayed in Normandy (France) and it is 49.5cm wide and 70 metres long! It shows 72 events.



Rebellion

William faced several **rebellions** during his early years as king. William dealt with **rebellions** harshly and violently. During one **rebellion**, his soldiers burnt down villages and destroyed crops. He later cut off the rebel's hands and cut out their eyes.

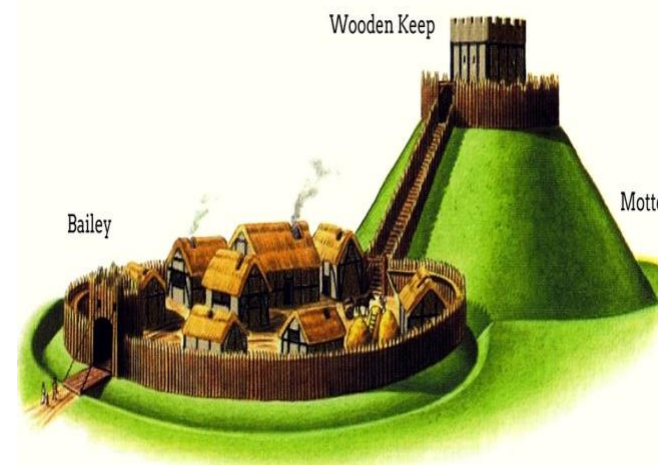
The Feudal System

This was a way that land and power could be shared and loyalty ensured.

Castles

To control **rebellions** William began building castles over England. These housed Norman knights and **nobles** who helped to control local areas. These symbolised Norman wealth and power. They also intimidated the Anglo-Saxons.

It is thought that the Normans built as many as 1000 wooden motte and bailey castles across England. Many of these were quickly rebuilt as stone castles as wooden castles could be easily burnt down or the wood would rot.



Homework

(1) Find some images of the Bayeux Tapestry online. Draw your own version of one of the scenes.

(2) Build a castle from an old cardboard box.

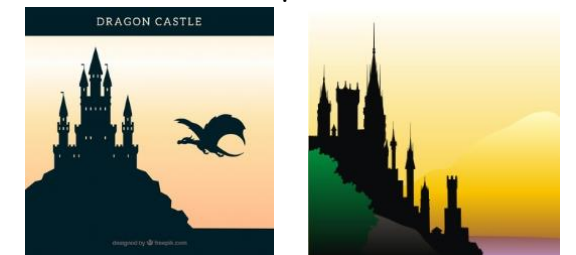


(3) Make a Norman's knights shield from cardboard.



(4) Write a letter as one of the claimants to the throne explaining why you should be the next king of England.

(5) Create a silhouette picture of a castle.



(6) Create a fact file about William or one of other claimants to the throne.

(7) Draw a portrait of Edward the Confessor or William the Conqueror.

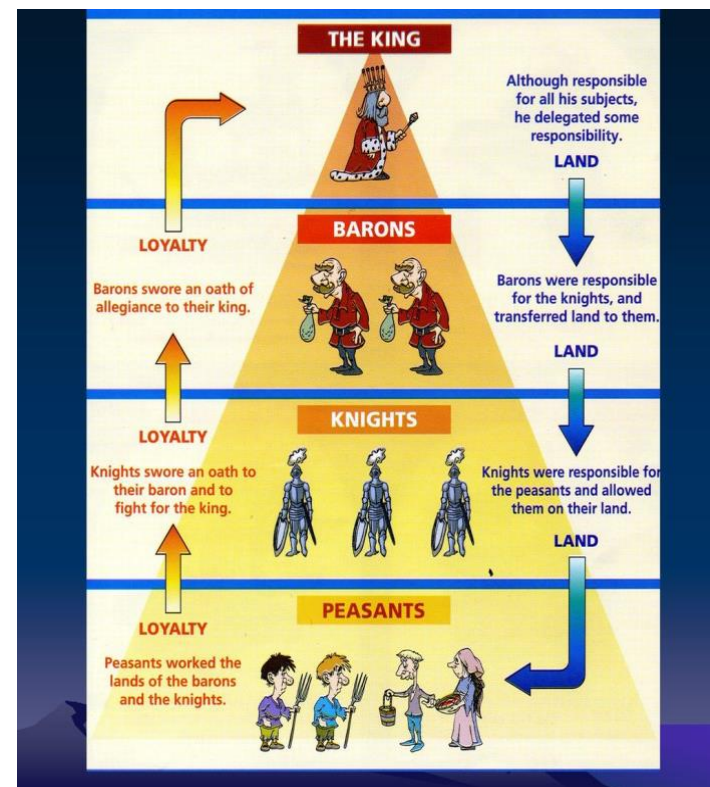


Doomsday Book

Faced with invasions from abroad, King William wants to know how much tax he can raise and how big an army he could raise, so he sets out to record every person and what they own in the country.

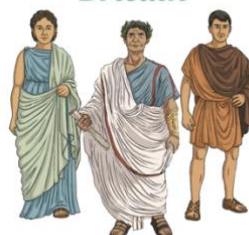
Commissioners were sent out across the country to find this information.

The information recorded by written in Latin in books by monks (known as scribes).



Periods of British History

Romans in Britain



AD43 - AD410

Anglo-Saxons



AD449 - AD1066

Vikings



AD793 - AD1066

Normans



AD1066 - AD1154

Plantagenets



AD1154 - AD1485

Tudors



AD1485 - AD1603

