

## Year 7 history - Autumn term topic 2 - the Norman Conquest

<u>What was the Norman Conquest?</u>		<u>Key words</u>	
<p>In October 1066 William, Duke of Normandy, invaded England and defeated the English King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. He became the first Norman King of England and was known as William the Conqueror.</p>		<b>conquest</b>	When a country is taken over by military force
<b>Oct 1066</b>	William defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. He introduced the feudal system to reward his Norman followers	<b>Norman</b>	Someone from Normandy in northern France
<b>1069</b>	Harrying of the North: William's army viciously puts down rebellions in the north of England. Thousands killed.	<b>rebellion</b>	Resisting authority and the people in control - usually violent.
<b>1070</b>	A tax called a tithe was introduced.	<b>Baron</b>	Rich powerful landowner
<b>1071</b>	A rebellion led by Hereward the Wake is defeated.	<b>peasant</b>	Ordinary person who farms the land
<b>1072</b>	Forest law passed making huge areas into royal forests.	<b>Domesday Book</b>	A book recording the names of all the villages in England and who owned the land
<b>1086</b>	Domesday survey - results were written in the Domesday Book	<b>Feudal system</b>	Land was given to the barons in return for them promising to be loyal and provide the King with soldiers.
<b>1087</b>	William died after being injured in battle	<b>interpretation</b>	A particular view of history

<u>Interpretations of history</u>	<u>Impact of the Norman Conquest on the people</u>	<u>Impact on law and government</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● William introduced a number of changes to government, law and architecture during his 21 years as King.</li> <li>● The historian Simon Schama described the Norman Conquest as '<i>a truckload of trouble that wiped out everything that gives a culture its bearings - custom, language, law, loyalty.</i>' This is his interpretation of the Norman Conquest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under the feudal system nearly all land went to the Normans. Out of 1000 landowner, only 13 were English. This meant peasants had new Norman speaking Lords to answer to.</li> <li>● Because of increased taxes many peasants who had been freemen became villeins. Only 14% of peasants were freemen in 1086.</li> <li>● Slavery was abolished</li> <li>● New Norman names and words were introduced into the language e.g. William, beef</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● William appointed his own Norman Bishops and Archbishops. Only 1 English Bishop remained</li> <li>● New monasteries and churches were built in the Norman style</li> <li>● New laws were introduced such as trial by combat. These laws were written in Latin</li> <li>● The system of government remained the same but William's advisors were Norman instead of English</li> <li>● A lot of new taxes were introduced and the Domesday survey meant they were collected more efficiently.</li> </ul>

### Key people

**Edward the Confessor** - English King 1042 -66.

**William** - Duke of Normandy - he claimed Edward promised he would be King.

**Harold Godwinson** - Earl of Wessex and King of England from January - Oct 1066.

**Harald Hardrada** - King of Norway - his grandfather had been King of England.

### Key words:

**Norman** - from Normandy in France.

**Anglo-Saxon** - people who ruled England from around 500 AD to 1066.

**Lord, Baron, Earl** - rich powerful land owner.

**Peasant** - ordinary person who farms the land.

**Feudal system** - way of controlling England by giving land to people in return for services.

### England AFTER the Battle of Hastings

**Culture** - **Christian** country; **Norman language** used in government and laws; new **stone castles** and **churches** built.

**Power** - The King ruled through the **feudal system**; Lords promised to be loyal and provide an army in return for land; most land was given to **Norman Barons**.

**People** - most ordinary people were **peasant farmers** who lived in small **villages** controlled by a **Norman Lord**; the Lord of the Manor protected them and they farmed his land; strict laws **punished hunting** in the Royal forests

