

1066

Imaginative learning project for year 3/4



We're travelling back to 1066, probably the most famous date in English history. These are troubled times and there is danger afoot. A much loved king is dead and a French Duke has staked a claim for our kingdom. Discover a changing England, shaped by shires, protected by castles and ruled by foreign knights. Use the famous Bayeux Tapestry to explore the significant events of 1066. What happened when, and how did William of Normandy come to be called the Conqueror? Design a castle with defences strong enough to hold back the enemy. What about a space for fine dining and revelry? Try and build a happy (but safe) home. You're the architect. Are you ready for the Norman invasion? Then don your armour and watch your back.

History. Key Facts:

- In 1066, Edward the Confessor was the Anglo-Saxon king of England. After his death, his brother-in-law Harold Godwinson was crowned King Harold II, although several others also claimed the right to the throne.
- King Harold II's brother, Tostig, had gone to Norway to help the Viking king, Harald Hardrada, to take the throne of England. King Harold II's army fought against Harald Hardrada in a battle at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire on 25th September 1066.
- After a long battle, King Harold II defeated Harald Hardrada. He marched his army to the south of England where William of Normandy and his troops had landed at Pevensey Bay.
- King Harold II told his men to get ready for battle on Seniac Hill, Hastings on 14th October 1066. Both sides fought a hard battle. By the early evening, the battle was over. King Harold II and his brothers had been killed.
- William was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066 and became known as William the Conqueror. The time of the Anglo-Saxons had ended and the Norman period began. King William took over the Saxon lands, introduced the French language and built many castles.

Key Vocabulary

- ⇒ **Bayeux Tapestry:** An embroidered cloth that shows the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England
- ⇒ **Castle:** A large, strong building built to defend the people inside from attack
- ⇒ **Conqueror:** Someone who has successfully taken over a country or its people
- ⇒ **Domesday Book:** A written record, ordered by William the Conqueror, showing who owned the land in England and parts of Wales
- ⇒ **Motte:** A raised mound or area on which a wooden or stone keep is built
- ⇒ **Norman:** Belonging or relating to the Normans, who were people from northern France
- ⇒ **Witan:** The council of important and wise English nobleman summoned to advise the king

Homework Projects

- ◆ Create a digital presentation with interesting facts about 1066 to share with other classes
- ◆ At least 2 of the Bayeux Tapestry panels went missing. These might have shown King William's Coronation. Draw that these panels could have looked like, in the same style and colours as the original tapestry
- ◆ Write a diary entry, as if you are King Harold in the days leading up to the Battle of Hastings. How are you feeling? What are your hopes and concerns?
- ◆ Find out about the types of shields used at the Battle of Hastings. Create a design for a shield. Will you use a kite or a round shape? Which colours and patterns will you use?
- ◆ Using the Bayeux Tapestry as inspiration, design a new tapestry to show a story of your choosing. Remember to divide your story into panel sections