

# Year 7 Medieval history knowledge organiser

Medieval	The period between 1066-1500
Chronology	Putting events in the order that they happened
Century	100 years
Anglo-Saxons	People that lived in England before the Norman Conquest
Normans	People from the Normandy region of France, led by King William
Bayeux Tapestry	An embroidery telling the story of the Norman Conquest
Conquest	Taking an area by using force
Fyrd	Local farmers that fight for Harold Godwinson's army
Housecarls	Paid, experienced soldiers that fought for Harold's army
Cavalry	William's soldiers that fought on horses
Harrying	To completely destroy
Pope	Head of the Catholic Church

## Britain before 1066

**Anglo-Saxons:** People who lived in Britain from the 5th century. They included people from Germanic tribes who migrated to the island from Europe.

**Heir:** a person who is legally allowed to take the rank and property of someone who has died.

**Witan:** Kings Council, made up of powerful Bishops and Earls, helped the king run the country

### **Edward the Confessor: 1042-1066**

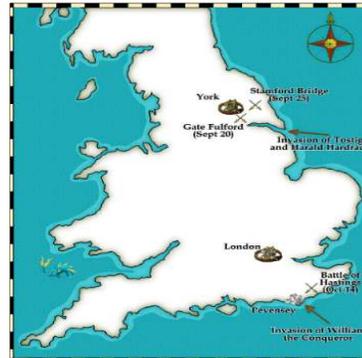
- Edward became king of England in 1042 after his half-brother died. Before this he had been living in Normandy.

- Edward married but had no children. It was not clear who Edward wanted to be king after him. **For a king to die without an heir was a disaster!**

- He was made a saint and 'the confessor' means someone that is saint-like but not a martyr.

## Key Events leading up to and during the Battle

- 4<sup>th</sup> January 1066 Edward the Confessor dies with no heir
- 6<sup>th</sup> January 1066 Harold Godwinson crowned King
- July 1066 Harold prepares his army on the south coast for a Norman invasion
- September 1066 Harald Hardrada and Vikings invade England in the North
- 20<sup>th</sup> September Battle of Fulford Gate – Vikings defeat Morcar and an English army
- 21<sup>st</sup> September Harold marches North
- 25<sup>th</sup> September Battle of Stamford Bridge – Harold defeats Harald Hardrada– English victory.
- 27<sup>th</sup> September William sets sail for England
- 28<sup>th</sup> September William lands at pevensey Bay, England
- 29<sup>th</sup> September William occupies Hastings
- 6<sup>th</sup> October Harold arrives back in London
- 14<sup>th</sup> October Battle of Hastings – Norman victory. Harold Godwinson is killed.
- 25<sup>th</sup> December 1066 William the Conqueror is crowned King of England



## Potential heirs to the English throne in 1066: Who should become king?

### Harald Hardrada

Viking King of Norway  
Hardrada's family had ruled Britain before, so he felt the crown belonged to him. Most feared warrior in Europe - Hardrada means 'hard ruler' and his nickname was 'the Ruthless'. Harald was supported by Tostig, Harold Godwinson's brother who wanted revenge

### Harold Godwinson

Anglo-Saxon. Earl of Wessex, one of the most powerful men in England  
Harold's sister was married to King Edward. Harold was a brave and respected soldier with a tough streak.  
The Witan, wanted Harold to be the next king.

### William of Normandy

Duke of Normandy, France.  
William came from a fighting family. He was a brave soldier. He was Edward's cousin. Edward had lived in Normandy from 1016-1042. Edward had supposedly promised that William should become King of England

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## Armies at the Battle of Hastings

William's army	Harold's army
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• His soldiers were well trained and well equipped. They wore chain mail armour which gave them much protection.</li><li>• His army was made up of 3 types of soldiers: infantry, archers and cavalry. His cavalry rode specially bred horses which could carry the weight of these horse soldiers and still ride at speed.</li><li>• They were the elite of William's army.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harold's army was made up of professional soldiers and conscripts, peasant farmers who were forced to join the army and fight.</li><li>• Harold's best professional soldiers were the Saxon Housecarls. They were the king's elite bodyguard. They fought with large axes and round shields.</li></ul>

## Key events in the battle:

- The wind changed allowing William to cross the English Channel while Harold's troops were far away in the north.
- The Battle of Stamford Bridge and the march south made Harold's troops very tired. Some of Harold's best troops had died at Stamford Bridge.
- Harold arrived in Hastings and positioned his army at the top of Senlac Hill.
- William's troops struggled to fight Harold's army on top of the hill.
- William's army pretended to retreat and some of Harold's troops chased them down the hill.
- William's men turned around and killed them.
- Harold was killed by an arrow to the eye, leaving William the winner.

## Why did William win the battle of Hastings?

### Harold's bad luck

- Harold had fought at Stamford Bridge and was not expecting William to launch his invasion this late in the year.
- Harold's conscripted soldiers had to return home for the harvest just before the battle.

### Preparations

- William had well trained and professional soldiers. Large parts of Harold's army was untrained and made up of farmers. Many of Harold's men had left the army to collect the harvest in. Harold was not prepared for the battle.
- William's army was fresh and well rested. He had lots of supplies. Harold's was tired and reduced in size following the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

### William's good luck

- The weather changed when William was trying to cross the Channel
- Harold had to fight the Vikings first this gave William the advantage.
- The Saxons left the shield wall to chase the Normans down the hill.
- At a key moment in the battle Harold was killed.

### Leadership

- William was very brave and led his men very well.
- William showed his face during the battle to keep his soldiers from running away.

