

Year 3 and 4 Normans and Castles Knowledge Organiser

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

Britain before 1066

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

Edward the Confessor: 1042-1066

- Edward became king of England in 1042

- 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.



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

Harald Hardrada

Harald was the king of Norway. A previous king of Norway made an agreement with a previous king of England that if either of them died childless, the other would inherit the throne of the country.

Harold Godwinson

Harold was a powerful and rich aristocrat. Edward the Confessor chose Harold as his successor.

William of Normandy

William's grandfather was Edward the Confessor's uncle.

Who were the Normans?

The Normans were the next group of people to rule England after the Anglo-Saxons. They built some of our most well-known castles, such as Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

The Normans came from northern France, and invaded England in 1066 after King Edward the Confessor died without leaving an heir to the throne. They eventually defeated the Anglo-Saxons at the Battle of Hastings in October 1066, when King Harold II was killed.

In September 1066, Harald Hardrada invaded England. King Harold's forces met him and Harald Hardrada was killed at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Harold Godwinson was crowned at Winchester Abbey.

William, Duke of Normandy started an invasion of England.



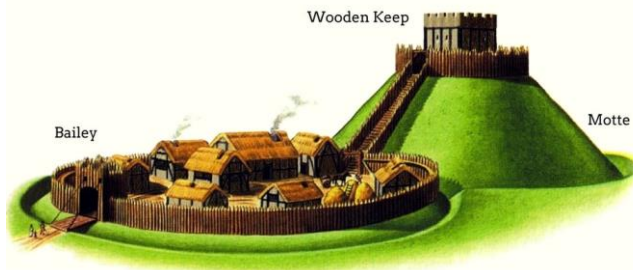
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Motte and Bailey	The first type of castle made by William. It was made out of wood and had a higher Motte part and a lower Bailey part
Stone Keep castle	Similar to Motte and Bailey but made of stronger materials such as stone

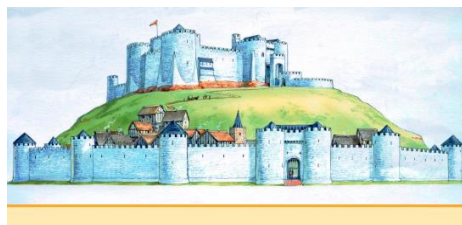
Castles

William also kept control by building castles throughout England.

Motte and Bailey - The first castles built to help fight against rebellions. They were built quickly and made out of wood, meaning that they were not very strong, and could be easily destroyed. The Bailey was on flat land, where most of the people lived. The Motte was the higher land of the castle, where the fort was.



Stone Keep - This castle was now made out of stone and had towers as a form of defence. The main part of the castle was the Keep, a large square tower, used as the main defence.



The Domesday Book

In 1086, William sent out surveyors to every part of England, with orders to list:

- how much land was there
- who had owned it in 1066, and who owned it now
- what was the place like, and who lived there
- how much it was worth in 1066 and how much now



William did this to allow him to effectively tax the land and earn money. William also needed to have an idea of what could be seized from landowners who did not show him loyalty.

Top Ten facts

- 1.The Normans invaded England in 1066 because they wanted to have Norman king in England after the Anglo-Saxon king died.
- 2.The first Norman king was William the Conqueror, who won the Battle of Hastings in 1066 against the Anglo-Saxons.
- 3.While the Normans planned their invasion, the Vikings were also interested in taking over England - they were led by Viking King Harald Hardrada.
- 4.William the Conqueror published the Domesday Book, which tells us a lot about the people who lived in England in the 11th century.
- 5.The Bayeux Tapestry tells a story in pictures about the Norman invasion of Britain and the Battle of Hastings.
- 6.The Bayeux Tapestry also tells us things about Norman life, such as what clothes, armour and even boats looked like.
- 7.The Normans built wooden houses covered in a mixture of mud, dung and straw, which kept them warm in the winter.
- 8.The Normans came from northern France, in a region called Normandy.
- 9.The Normans also built stone castles - some of these are still standing today
- 10.England in Norman times was ruled by the feudal system