

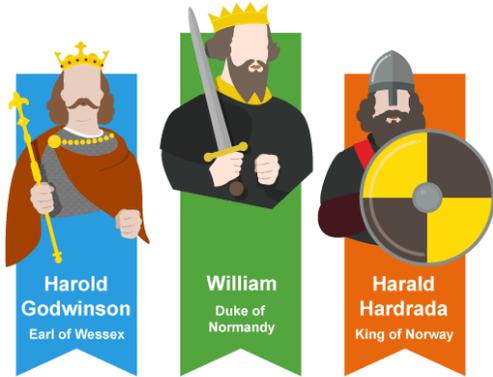


Coleman Primary School

Year 4 Spring 1 Knowledge Organiser

History—Normans

The Norman Conquest



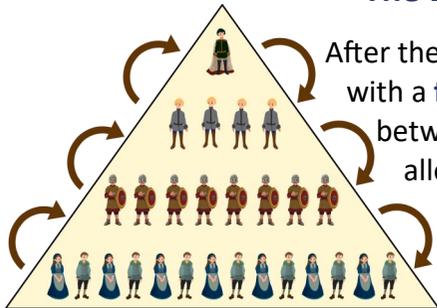
When Edward the Confessor, the last **Anglo-Saxon** King, died, he did not have an **heir** as he had no children. Three men wanted to be the next King of England:

- Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex
- William, Duke of Normandy
- Harald Hardrada, King of Norway

The **Witan** chose a new King but there were two battles, the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings before it was over.

Who do you think became King?

The Domesday Book



After the Norman **Conquest**, England was organised with a **feudal system**. The King's land was shared between nobles, who shared it with **knights**, who allowed peasants to live on the land and work. Each group gave money or work to the people above them.

The King wanted to know how many people lived on the land and how much money they had, so that he could get tax from them. He carried out a survey of all the people, land and wealth in England. It was called the **Domesday Book**.



You will learn...

- about the Norman Conquest
- why castles were built
- about the Domesday Book

Key Vocabulary: Normans

Anglo-Saxons: people who lived in England before the Norman Conquest

Normans: people from the Normandy region in France, led by William

conquest: taking an area using force

Domesday Book: a record of the people, land and wealth in England

motte: a large man-made mound, on which a keep was built

bailey: a flat area around the motte where store rooms and animals were kept

keep: a tower at the centre of a castle. Motte and Bailey castles had wooden keeps

feudal system: a way of organising society showing who was in charge

Witan: a council of nobles who helped the king to rule in Anglo-Saxon times

knight: someone who was trained to fight for his lord

castle: a building to provide safety and protection and show importance

heir: next in line to the throne

Castles

The **Normans** built many **castles** in England to show how important they were and for protection.



Motte and Bailey Castles

The first **castles** they built were made of wood, with a wooden **keep** on top of a **motte** with a large **bailey** around it.



Stone Castles

Later, the **Normans** built **castles** made of stone, with a stone **keep** and stone walls for protection.

History Skills Progression

In Year Three you learnt to...

- place the time studied on a timeline
- identify reason for and results of people's actions
- identify different ways the past is represented

In Year Four you will...

- place events from period studied on a timeline
- identify key features and events
- look at the evidence available