

# The Normans -Year 7



Name:

Class Teacher:

# How much did the Norman Conquest change England?

## KS3 – Year 7 – Cycle 1

### Key Skills

Source skills: (comparing interpretations, assessing usefulness, understanding historical sources)

Considering multiple perspectives.

Analysing change over a specific period of time.

Explaining causes, the course and consequence of historical events.

Key Learning Question	Notes	Self assess- ment	Revised
What was England like before the Normans arrived?			
How did the Normans conquer England?			
How did William control his new kingdom?			
How much did society change under the Normans?			
How much did the Normans change religion in England?			
How much did the Normans change the legal system in England?			
How do I revise for an assessment? (Study skills).			

### Key words/ phrases

Feudal System	Peasantry
Contender	Tapestry
Nobility	Monarchy
Battle	Doomsdays Book
Religion	Census
Barons	Control
Taxation	Change
Continuity	Rule of law
Revolt	Agriculture

# Year 7 Medieval history knowledge organiser

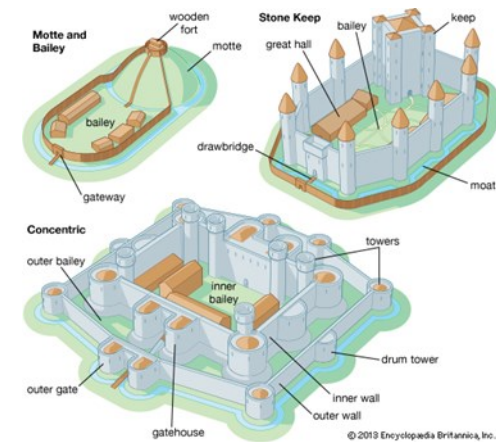
Chronology	The order events happen in.
Anglo-Saxons	People that lived in England before the Normans arrived.
Normans	The people from Normandy who arrived after William won the battle of Hastings.
Bayeux Tapestry	An embroidery telling the story of the Battle of Hastings.
Harrying	To completely destroy something.
Feudal System	The structure of society in Medieval England.
Motte and Bailey Castle	The type of Castle William used to show his dominance over the Anglo Saxons
Medieval	The period between 1066-1500

## Castles

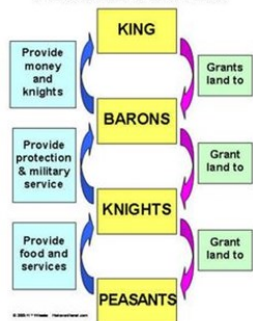
William also kept control by building castles throughout England. Over time 3 types of castles developed throughout Britain.

**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 majority 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.



## FEUDAL SYSTEM



The Feudal system was a way of William forcing the Anglo-Saxons to give him their taxes in promises of loyalty and protection for land.

William was at the top of the system as he holds the land and the money which he gives to the barons in a promise of soldiers for loyalty.

The Knights get land in return for military service and the peasants farm their land in return for a place to stay and some land they can grow their food on too.

# Year 7 Medieval history knowledge organiser

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

### 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.

### Harald Hardrada

Viking King of Norway  
Vikings had ruled Britain before. 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.

### William of Normandy

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

### 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.

### Why did William win the battle of Hastings?

#### 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.

#### Luck

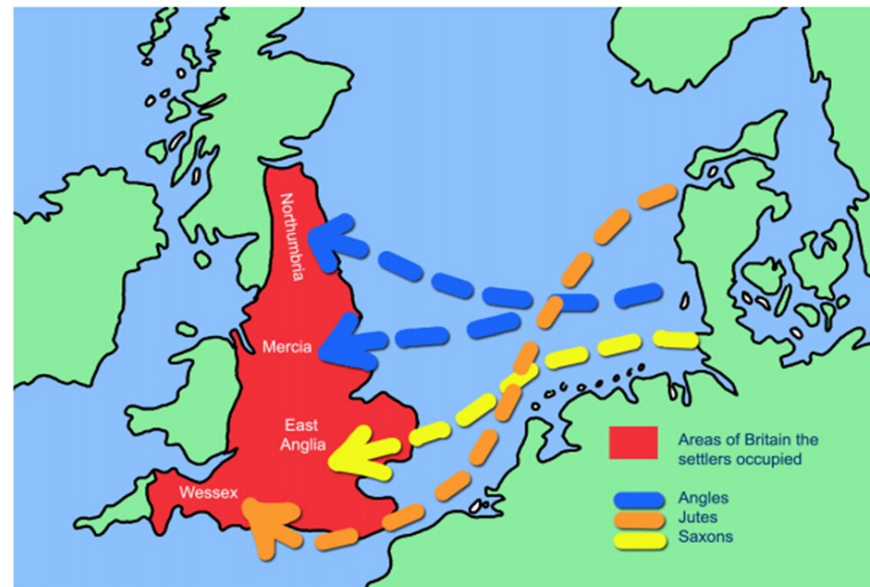
The weather changed when William was trying to land. Harold had to fight the Vikings first this gave William the advantage. The Saxons left the shield wall to chase the Normans down the hill. At a key moment in the battle Harold was killed.

# Week 1—What was life like in England before the Normans arrived?

## Learning Objectives

- Identify features of Anglo-Saxon England
- Explain how people were ruled in Anglo-Saxon England
- Evaluate Anglo-Saxon life

## What do we know?



The Romans invaded Britain in AD43. After that, for 400 years southern Britain was part of the Roman Empire. As Roman rule ended in the 5<sup>th</sup> century (400-499AD) other people began to travel in ships across the North Sea and settle in Britain. Historians call them Anglo-Saxons. The new settlers were a mixture of people from what we now call Germany, Denmark and Holland.

### Law and Order information

- The Anglo-Saxon system of government was quite complicated and was mostly run by local tax collectors to maintain law and order.
- Them sometimes included grisly methods of trials by burning for example to determine guilt.
- From about the middle of the 10th century there was an oath taken by all men locally (don't forget it was difficult to move from place to place due to no real transport) that they agreed to take responsibility for their actions and the safety of the community.
- If you broke the oath you could be regarded as disloyal or untrustworthy.  
Your family could be punished  
You and your family could be forced to move  
Relatives or victims could claim compensation.

### Structure of society information

Most people in Anglo-Saxon England fit into one of the following categories:

**Royal Family**— The royal family of Wessex was universally recognised as having the right the rule. Succession to the throne was decided by the **Witan** who were the legal council of England.

**Nobility**—The King had 'Earls' who were his local governors of aera. He also had **Thegns** who were the local armies to stop attacks.

**Freeman**—Men who owned land and did not pay rent were known and free men. They mostly made their money by buying and selling crops and trading crafts

**Serfs**— The people who held no land and worked on land owned by others, maybe for a shed or hut to live and sleep in, in exchange for their labour.

### Religion and culture information

The major religion in England was Christianity in the eleventh century. At this time it was **Catholic** branch of Christianity rather than Church of England or Protestantism as we know today.

The Monasteries were the main place of worship and where monks lived who could read and write.

Most villages had a church where like today the marriages would take place, baptisms of children and prayers for the ill. The church building itself was central to people's lives.

The church collected 10% of people's earnings. This was used to pay the priest, help maintain the building but also to help those most in need, the poor.

**Key Learning Question:**

**What was life like before the Normans arrived?**

Use this box to write a summary of what life was like for the average Anglo-Saxon in England at the time.

Try to use words such as:

Oath  
Religion  
Nobility  
Freeman  
Thegn  
Priest  
Witan  
Serfs  
Church  
Catholic

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# Week 1 part II– Who should be king of England?



In 1066 is potentially one of, if not the most famous years in English history.

Edward the Confessor (left) died in January and he did leave a **heir** (a son to pass on the kingdom to).

What happened next was one of the most bloody and gruesome years that historians have written about.

On the next page you'll see the 'contenders' for the throne of England and you will make a decision on who you feel should be king of England.





### Edgar the Aethling

He was the closest blood relative to Edward the Confessor. He was a Saxon prince and nephew of Edward.

However, he was only 14 years old when Edward died and he was becoming increasingly sick as he got older.



### Harold Godwinson

He was part of the English nobility. Born in England and current Earl of Wessex.

He had one a number of important battles for Edward, this made him a respected soldier and it was also said that he was there when Edward died when he announced that Harold should take over after he died.



### William Duke of Normandy

He was a distant cousin of Edward the Confessor and he also claimed that Edward had promised him the throne.

He stated that Harold had sworn an oath on ancient **relics** (religious symbols) and that if he did not become king then Edward had betrayed God.



### Harald Hardrada

He was king of Norway and a descendant of the kings of England.

England was ruled by Norwegian kings right up until Edward the Confessor reclaimed the land for the Anglo-Saxons.

He wanted the English land as he felt it belonged to his people and his name alone was enough to strike fear in the hearts of all men.

Knowledge check questions.

1. How was England ruled in 1066?

2. Who died in January and what did this mean for England?

3. Who were the Witan?

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<u>Edgar the Atheling</u>	<u>Harald Hardrada</u>	<u>Harold Godwinson</u>	<u>William of Normandy</u>
<u>Reasons he should be king:</u>	<u>Reasons he should be king:</u>	<u>Reasons he should be king:</u>	<u>Reasons he should be king:</u>
<u>Reasons he shouldn't be king:</u>	<u>Reasons he shouldn't be king:</u>	<u>Reasons he shouldn't be king:</u>	<u>Reasons he shouldn't be king:</u>

# Week II– How did William conquer England?

Firstly, Harold Godwinson was the only one of the three currently in England so he declared himself to be King. However, he knew he would face challenges from the other contenders.

The first came from the North, as Harald Hardrada moved his army from Norway – eventually landing in York.

William was still gathering his army in Normandy (France) but he would not be long...



## The Battle of Stamford Bridge

The first to try and seize the crown and invade England was Harald Hardrada of Norway. He was helped by Harold's brother Tostig, who was exiled from England.

Harald Hardrada and Tostig landed with a massive army of over 8,000 Norwegians in the North of England. They took York and declared Harald Hardrada King of England.

On hearing of the Viking (Norse) invasion, Harold Godwinson quickly gathered what men he could and marched 187 miles north to face him. They marched 37 - 45 miles a day, going as fast as they could and carrying their heavy kit with them.

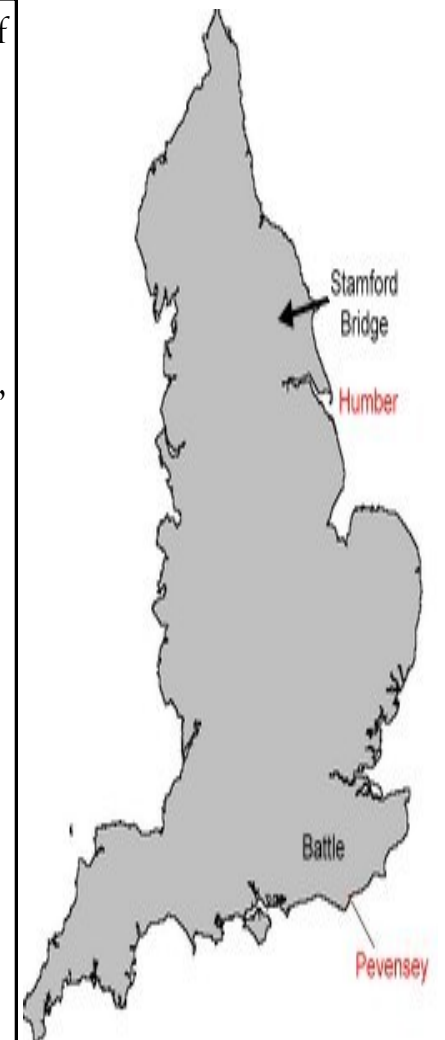
The two armies met at Stamford Bridge, just outside York, on 25 September 1066. It was a bloody battle and one in which Harold's army (the Saxons) broke through the Viking invaders front line to go on and win the battle.

The Battle of Stamford Bridge was one of the most impressive victories any Saxon King ever won. The Vikings didn't know what hit them. Harold's men killed Harald Hardrada and Tostig.

It was such a fierce battle that only twenty four of the three hundred ships, that came to England carrying the 8,000 soldiers, returned to Norway.


King Harold's celebrations of victory were cut short as news came of the impending Norman invasion and no-one was left along the south coast of England to stop them!

The Saxon army raced back south to face the Norman invaders. Harold and his men must have been shattered, but you would never have known it from the battle that followed (now known as the Battle of Hastings).



### Storyboard of the Battle:

Use the information on the previous page to create a storyboard of the Battle. If you have access to the Internet the BBC teach video on the battle is an excellent learning tool.

A large empty rectangular box for drawing the first panel of the storyboard.


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A large empty rectangular box for drawing the second panel of the storyboard.

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A large empty rectangular box for drawing the third panel of the storyboard.

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A large empty rectangular box for drawing the fourth panel of the storyboard.

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# Week II part II– The Battle of Hastings

## Back to the map!

As the Battle of Stamford Bridge came to an end, Harold received word that William of Normandy had set sail from Normandy (shown as Caen on the map) to claim the English throne.

Harold had no choice but to march his army all the way to the south coast – there was no time to waste!

It was about 250 miles and Harold's army got there within a week so by the time they arrived you can imagine that marching all that way would have left the soldiers in need of a rest!





## The Bayeux Tapestry



The tapestry is 70 meters long and just under 50 centimeters wide. It was made from linen and used eight different colours. The tapestry itself contains about 50 different scenes. One researcher studying the tapestry counted 626 human figures, 202 horses, 55 dogs, and 505 other animals.

The tapestry shows the Norman conquest of England in 1066. It was commissioned by the winners of the invasion (the Normans) and attempts to justify William of Normandy's invasion. The tapestry starts by showing Duke Harold Godwinson, the brother-in-law to the English king, Edward the Confessor.

The tapestry then shows William preparing to invade England and then setting sail for England. The final scenes of the tapestry show the Battle of Hastings.

One of the scenes shows the death of Harold (who, at this point, was the king of England). The tapestry shows Godwinson getting an arrow through his eye.

There is some debate as to whether the figure depicted in the tapestry is Godwinson but Godwinson definitely died during the Battle of Hastings.

## Interpretations

### Interpretation A

“As before, several thousand English were brave enough to rush forward to chase those they thought were running away. Then the Normans suddenly turned their horses, stopped the English in their tracks, crushed them completely and massacred them down to the last man. These tactics gave William victory.”

*Taken from the History of William the Conqueror [c1073] by William of Poitiers. Poitiers was first trained as a soldier and then became a priest in William’s household.*

### Interpretation B

“The Norman Conquest was ultimately able to happen because of circumstances outside of William’s control. The good weather that carried the Norman army over the channel and the timing of Hardrada’s invasion all played into William’s hands. He was facing a tired enemy at just the right time.”

*Written by a modern historian in 2016.*

### How do we use sources or interpretations in History?

*Interpretations are how Historians make judgement on events that have happened in the past. You should read them but use the following to help you:*

*Who wrote the source? (Could it be biased)*

*When was it written? (at the time)*

1) How does interpretation A differ from interpretation B? (focus on the text rather than who has written it, use quotes from the source too)

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## How did William Control England?



William began to show his dominance over the Anglo-Saxon people by building castles all over the country such as the one shown opposite.

The Normans would live in the 'keep' at the top on the higher ground, and the Anglo-Saxons would live down below in the 'barracks' and amongst the animals. Write down five adjectives below to describe how that would make you feel as an Anglo-Saxon:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

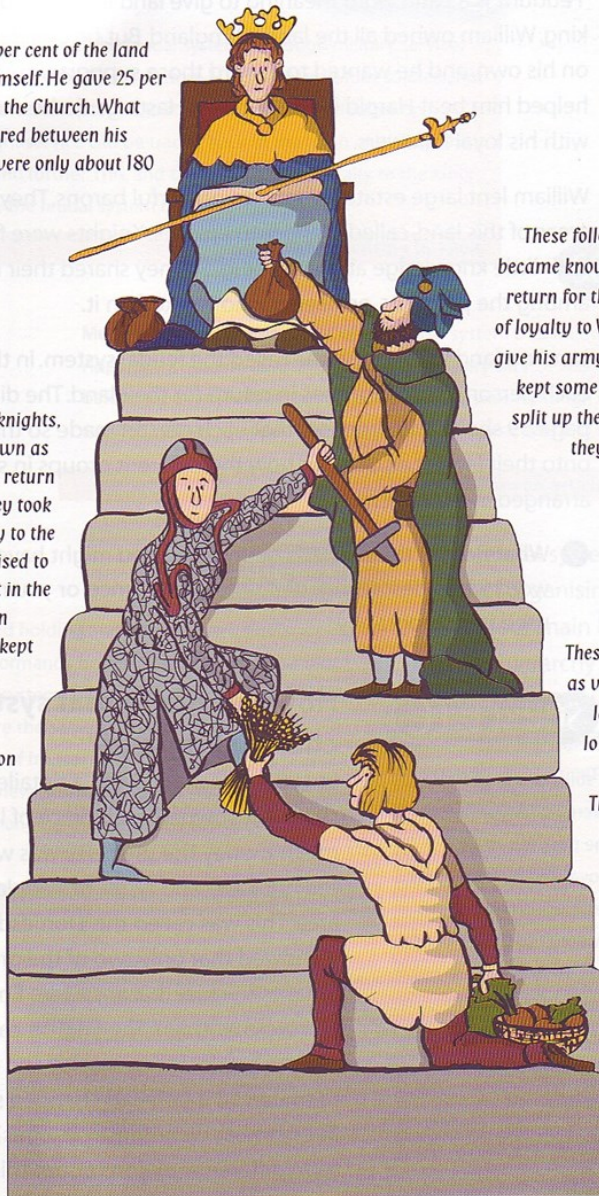
## The feudal system after 1066

### The king

William kept 20 per cent of the land in England for himself. He gave 25 per cent of the rest to the Church. What was left was shared between his followers. There were only about 180 of them.

### The knights

These men were knights, who became known as under-tenants. In return for their land, they took an oath of loyalty to the baron and promised to serve as a knight in the army (fighting on horseback). They kept some land for themselves and shared the rest between the Saxon peasants, who lived on their manor.



### The barons

These followers were barons. They became known as tenants-in-chief. In return for their land they took oaths of loyalty to William and promised to give his army money or soldiers. They kept some land for themselves and split up the rest into manors, which they gave to their followers.

### The villeins

These Saxons became known as villeins. In return for their land, they had to obey the lord of the manor and give him part of their crops. They also worked without pay on the lord's land. Villeins were not free men – they could not leave the lord's land without his permission. They even needed permission for their sons and daughters to get married!

## The Feudal System

The Feudal system was how society in Angl-Saxon England was run.

The biggest proportion of people were Villiens or peasants who did not own land and worked the land of the nobility or wealthy landowners.

Read the next in the system and write down how you think William of Normandy (now William the Conqueror) would have used this to control Anglo-Saxon England.

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## The Harrying of the North



The Harrying of the North was one of the most bloodthirsty campaigns that William did on his own people. In the north of England, there were several rebellions to William's victory in 1066. By 1069 William made his way north to put an end to the disturbances once and for all....

Use the primary and secondary sources below to answer the questions on the next page to discover what happened.....

-There was such hunger that men ate human flesh, and the flesh of horses and dogs and cats. Others sold themselves into slavery. There was no one to bury the rotting human corpses as all had been cut down by sword or famine. There was no village inhabited between York and Durham.

Written by Simeon of Durham in the 1100s

-The King stopped at nothing to hunt his enemies. He cut down many people and destroyed homes and land. Nowhere else had he shown such cruelty. He made no attempt to control his fury and he punished the innocent along with the guilty. He ordered crops, herds, tools and food to be burned to ashes. More than 100,000 people died from starvation. I have often praised William but I can say nothing good about this brutal slaughter.

Written by Oderic Vitalis, a monk.

=I fell on the English of the northern shires like a fearsome lion. I ordered large herds of cattle to be butchered where they were found. By doing so alas, I became the murderer of many thousands of people, both young and old of that fine race of people.

Oderic Vitalis, quoting the words of William.

A—just 3 years after the invasion of 1066, English rebels had killed around 1000 Normans – about one-fifth of the invasion force.

B- In January 1069 English rebels surrounded the city of Durham and killed Earl Robert of Commines along with about 600 Normans.

C- The English and Vikings attacked York castle, made off with its treasure and killed several hundred Normans.

D– In September 1069 a Viking army arrived in a fleet of 240 ships and marched to York to support the English rebels.

E- After he took over, William gave much of northern England to his friend the Norman Earl Robert of Commines.

F-The rebellion spread to York, where the English attacked the Norman soldiers there.

## Questions

1. When did the events take place?
2. Where did it happen?
3. What happened? Include as much detail as possible.
4. Why did it happen?

Challenge - Place the sources A-F in chronological order

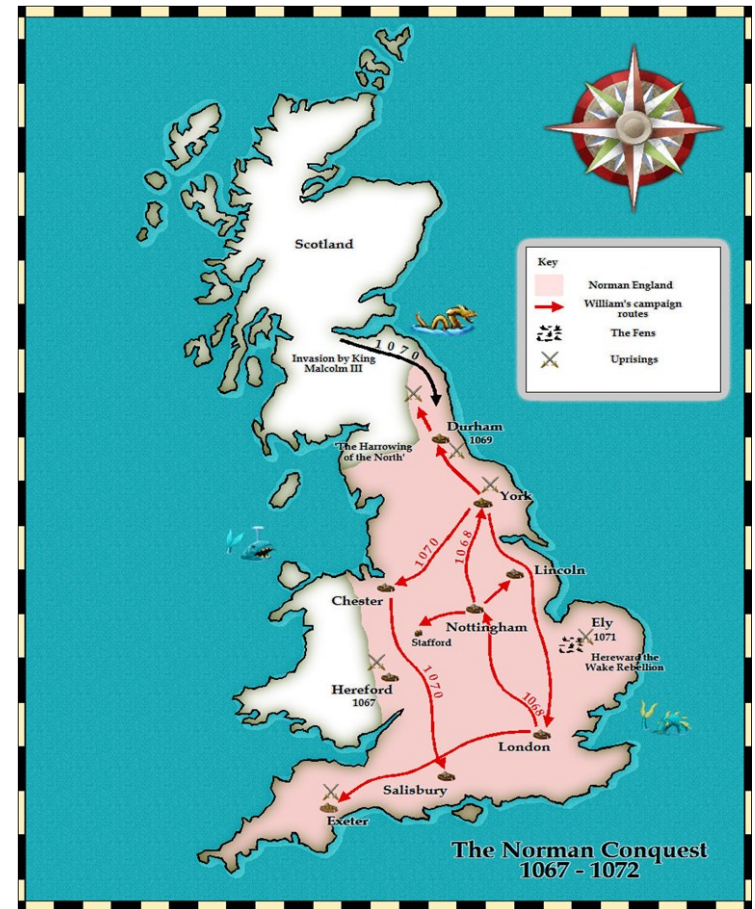


### Growing Settlements

The Normans encouraged local towns to grow as they thought this would increase **trade**. The towns in the south of England grew due to their closeness to Normandy. Towns such as Bury St. Edmunds became a market town and between 1066 and 1100 21 new towns were created around the country.

Challenge!

Write a 20 words summary about why the Normans wanted to grow English towns.

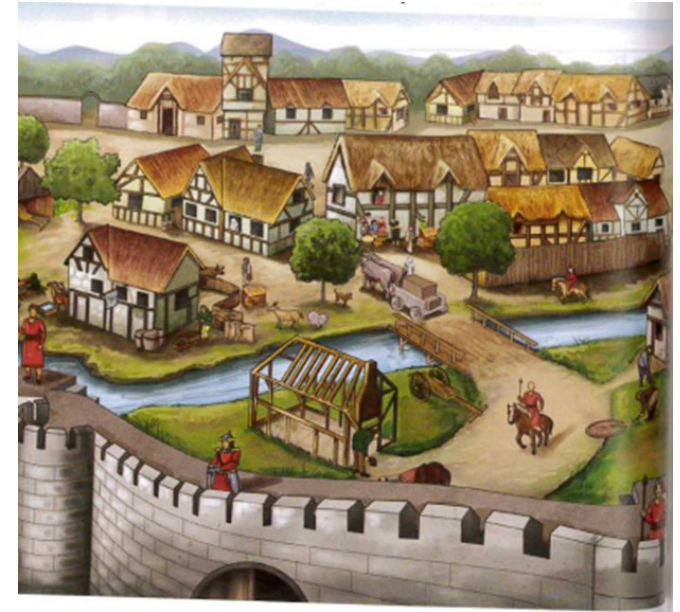


Land gained by the Normans between  
1067-1072

### How much did towns grow?

A survey done in 1086 found that London was England's largest town at 10,000 inhabitants. Many towns developed Cathedrals and became religious centres for their local area e.g. Canterbury in Kent and Lincoln further north.

A good way to see the size of a town was how many **Burgesses** lived there. A burgess was a town dweller and could buy and sell houses, Lincoln had 970 Burgesses which showed it was a growing town in England.



**An artist's impression of a Norman town**

Challenge!

Create 3 quiz questions on how towns grew in England. E.g. What is a Burgess?





## How did Trade affect the growth of towns?

### The salt trade

Salt was a very important product as it was used for cooking and to preserve food. The town of Droitwich, for example, grew rapidly due to the production and sale of salt. The Domesday Book shows that there were 13 salt houses in Droitwich and that three salt workers paid their tax to the king in the form of salt.

### Guilds

Burgesses might be craftspeople, such as weavers, goldsmiths or leatherworkers, or conduct trade as bakers, butchers, fishmongers and merchants. Each of these groups joined together to form specialist associations called **guilds**. The guilds began to grow and often had considerable power.

### Metalwork

The production of iron and lead was very important in Norman England for building houses and making weapons. Towns that specialised in metalworking were often situated near woodland, because wood was used in the furnaces needed to melt and shape the metal. One of these towns was Gloucester, which sourced wood from the Forest of Dean.

### The wool trade

Wool was in great demand in England and neighbouring countries for making clothes. It was produced in the countryside, but was brought along major rivers to markets in towns such as York and Lincoln. Wool was often exported abroad to towns such as Flanders in Belgium, so some English coastal towns grew as centres of international trade, including Boston, London, Sandwich and Southampton. This trade in wool created links for trading fine cloth and wine too, so towns such as Bristol grew as a result of the trade in wine from Gascony, France.

### Challenge!

Rank each of these in order of importance

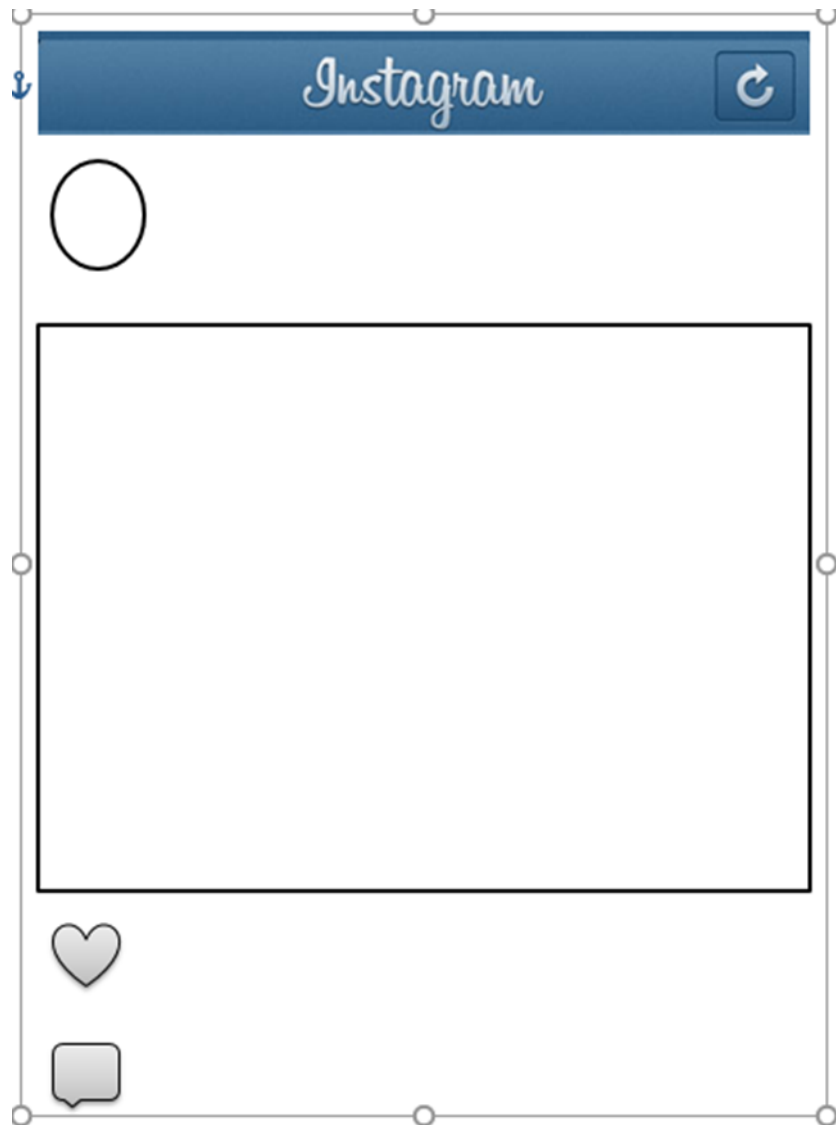
Eg.

Wool  
Metalwork  
Guilds  
Markets  
Salt

### Markets and fairs

Markets and fairs could only be held if a **franchise** (authorisation for a group of townspeople to carry out business activity) was given in the form of a **grant** from the king or his government. After the Norman Conquest 2800 grants were given. The first grant was given by King William to the Bishop of Winchester to hold a 'free fair' at St Giles Hill.

Whilst markets gave traders a place to buy and sell their products, fairs marked religious events and were an occasion for celebration. However, fairs were also important economically. They were sponsored by the Church, which made money from them. Traders bought and sold products there, and there were also entertainers such as stilt walkers, musicians and singers.



Create an Instagram post on how the Normans grew towns:

You could have a picture of the new cathedral being built or

- The new markets in your town
- A burgess buying or selling a property

Make sure your caption explains what is going on in your picture

## What were the roles of the Church in Norman England?

**Religion:** The main role of the Church was to ensure that people demonstrated their belief in God by going to church, that they lived a good life and went to heaven.

**Health:** People in the twelfth century did not understand the causes of diseases and thought they were a punishment from God. As a result, priests tried to cure the sick by praying for them or recommending they pay a penance in the form of money, pain or prayer.

Use the Hexagons to write down the roles of each of the institutions in the sections

20 words per institutions

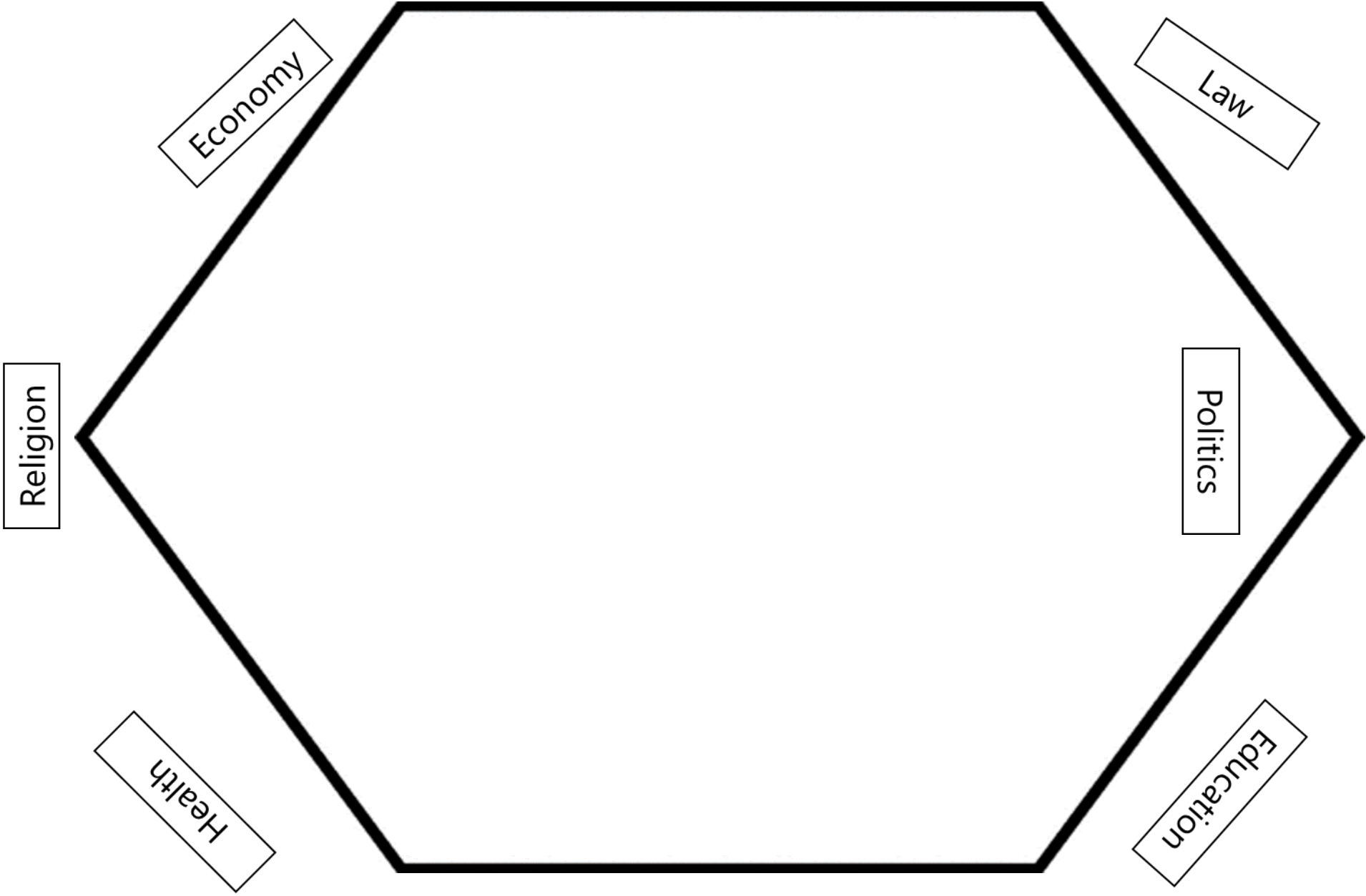
**Economics:** The Church was a major landowner. Peasants had to work on Church lands for free, which took them away from working on their own lands. They believed God would know if they did not work on Church land and would punish them.

The Church also collected tithes (a 10 per cent tax people had to pay to the Church). The tithe was a tax on all that a farm produced in a year and could be paid in money, seeds or equipment. It was stored in huge tithe barns.

**Law:** The Church heard court cases for crimes carried out on Church lands; for example, theft, or marrying a relative, which was considered a serious offence as the Church had forbidden it. The Church then handed down justice in the king's name.

**Politics:** Leading members of the Church advised the king on important national matters as members of the Witan. Archbishops, bishops, abbots, and occasionally abbesses (female leaders of convents) and priests were members of the Witan. The archbishops of Canterbury, York and Winchester (important religious centres) were senior members.

**Education:** The Church was the only institution that produced books. The printing press was not invented until the sixteenth century, so texts were copied and illustrations were painted by hand by monks in order to make new books. In addition to religious texts, monks copied other important works including medical texts for doctors. In this way the Church could control which books were published.





Topic summary

In the first box, write down some of the important key words from this topic

In the second box, write down what you think the most important event you've learned is. Explain why

In the third box, write down write down the most memorable event and why



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