

Year 7: The Normans.

<p>1. Key words:</p> <p>Heir: the person legally entitled to property or a title after someone’s death.</p> <p>Succession: the process of inheriting a title or property.</p> <p>Monarch: a head of state, specifically a King, Queen or Emperor.</p> <p>Legitimate: that a ruler or government has the right to rule.</p> <p>Witan: the national council of the Anglo-Saxon Kings. Made up of Earls and other nobles, the Witan gave the king advice.</p> <p>Feudal System: the system of social organisation used by the Normans. In return for land and loyalty, members of the Feudal System would fight for the king.</p> <p>Barons: The most important members of Norman society after the king. They owned vast quantities of land and were powerful and rich.</p> <p>Knights: a soldier on horseback who promised military service to a nobleman in return for land.</p> <p>Freemen: a higher rank of peasant who owned some land so didn’t pay rent to a Lord.</p> <p>Villeins: also known as Cottars or Serfs, these were peasants who were tied to their Lord’s land. They couldn’t move from the land without permission, paid rent to their Lord and also had to work on the Lord’s land without payment. Most peasants in England were villeins.</p> <p>Motte and Bailey Castles: the first castles in England. Established by the Normans and built from wood, these castles helped the Normans to gain control of England.</p> <p>Stone Keep Castles: the second type of Norman castle, these were built in areas once the Normans gained control. They had very thick stone walls and were better for defence than wooden castles.</p> <p>Domesday Book: an enormous survey by William into the land and assets of England made in 1086. This helped him to calculate tax rates.</p> <p>Bayeux Tapestry: an embroidered cloth, almost 70 metres long, that shows the events leading up to the Norman Conquest, including the Battle of Hastings. It is thought to have been made for Odo, William’s half -brother, and was woven in England sometime in the 1070s.</p>	<p>2. Key People:</p> <p>William of Normandy: the first Norman king of England, c.1028 – 1087. After dealing harshly with a number of rebellions in England after the Battle of Hastings, William was in complete control and from 1075 spent most of his time in France. He was buried in Caen but his funeral was interrupted when his body exploded because it was too big for the tomb made for it!</p> <p>Edward the Confessor: Anglo-Saxon king of England who died in 1066 with no heir. This led to an epic battle for the throne of England by William of Normandy, Harold Godwinson and Harald Hardrada, who all thought they had a legitimate claim to rule England.</p> <p>Harold Godwinson: the Anglo-Saxon king of England, killed at the Battle of Hastings. Harold was one of England’s richest men from a powerful family. Famously, he was supposed to have been killed by an arrow in his eye at Hastings but this has been disputed.</p> <p>Harald Hardrada: Viking King of Norway who claimed the English throne because the Danish kings had previously ruled huge parts of England. He fought Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and was killed early on in that battle – he fought with no armour and with both hands around his sword.</p> <p>Earl Tostig: brother of Harold Godwinson and Earl of Northumbria. He was very unpopular and was exiled by Harold. After this, he supported the Viking Harald Hardrada against his brother Harold. He fought alongside the Vikings at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and was killed by Harold’s army there.</p> <p>Archbishop Lanfranc: Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, the most important member of the Church in England. William’s close friend and trusted advisor, he was appointed by William to make sure the Church in England supported the new Norman king.</p> <p>Edgar Aethling: Anglo-Saxon nephew of Edward the Confessor and his legitimate heir. However, Edgar was only 15 when Edward died so was seen as not old enough to become king of England. After William of Normandy became king in 1066, Edgar fought against Norman interests for the rest of his life. He is believed to have died c.1125 but no one knows where he is buried.</p>
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3. Timeline of Norman England.

