

Raiders or Traders?

Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans



Vocabulary

ancestors	A relative who lived a long time ago.
Anglo-Saxons	A member of the Germanic peoples conquering England in the fifth century AD and forming the ruling class until the Norman conquest.
battle	A fight between two armies in a war.
Bayeux Tapestry	An embroidered cloth which tells the story of the Norman invasion of England.
castle	A large, strong building where a noble lived with his family and servants.
conquer	To get or overcome by force.
Doomsday book	A record of a survey of English lands and landholdings made by order of William the Conqueror about 1086.
Feudalism	A political and economic system during the Middle Ages. Royal or noble families owned the land and allowed people to live on and farm the land in return for a share of the crops and their service in war.
migrated	To move from one part of the world to another.
nobles	A man of high rank or title.
Normans	The Normans were a group of Vikings who settled in northern France in the 900s. They were skilled fighters and leaders who went on to conquer and colonise much of Europe.
rebellion	Armed resistance against control or authority.
siege	A military operation where an army surrounded and blockaded a castle, town, or fortress to capture it.
Viking	Sea travelling people from Scandinavia.



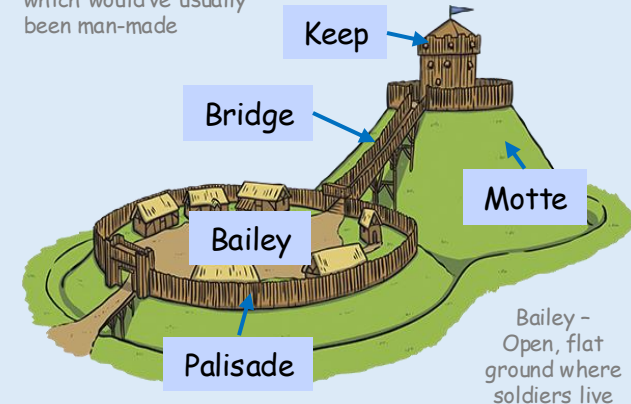
The **Bayeux Tapestry** is an embroidered cloth nearly 70 metres long that tells the story of the **Norman Conquest of England in 1066**, including the **Battle of Hastings**. As a primary source, it provides a detailed visual record of events from a Norman perspective.

Castles

To control **rebellions** during this time, William began building castles over England. These housed Norman knights and **nobles** who helped to control local areas. These symbolised Norman wealth and power. They also intimidated the Anglo-Saxons.

It is thought that the Normans built as many as 1000 wooden **motte and bailey castles** across England. Many of these were quickly rebuilt as stone castles as wooden castles could be easily burnt down or the wood would rot.

Motte - a steep hill which would've usually been man-made



Bailey - Open, flat ground where soldiers live

Dear Parents,

Our first Humanities topic is a History unit about **The Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans**. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by learning some of the key words and the facts on this sheet.

There are some homework activities on the back of this sheet. Your child can complete these at any time. Your child's teacher would love to see what they have created.

Thank you for your support,
Kind regards,
Year 4 Teachers

The Anglo-Saxon rule (449-1066)

After the Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons **migrated** to Britain from north-western Europe (area we now call Germany). There were seven main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex). Due to the threat of Viking invasions, the kingdoms united as the Kingdom of England in the year 927.

January 5th 1066: Edward the Confessor Dies

Normally when a king or queen dies, their son or daughter takes over their throne and becomes the new king or queen. Edward though had no children. This led to four people claiming that they should become the next king of England.

Claim 1: Edgar Atheling

Edgar was the last Anglo-Saxon prince alive after his father was killed in 1057. He was however just 15 years old in 1066 and was considered to be too young to rule.

Claim 2: Harold Godwinson

Harold was King Edward's brother-in-law and he was one of the most powerful men in England. When the king became ill, Harold was trusted to run the kingdom with brother-in-law, important nobles. It is believed that King Edward promised his throne to Harold shortly before he died. Harold was crowned king when Edward died.

Claim 3: Harald Hardrada

Harald was a famous Viking warrior and skilled commander. Harald's ancestors were once kings of England and he believed he should therefore rule England. Harald Hardrada's claim was supported by Harold Godwinson's brother Tostig.

Claim 4: William

William was a cousin of King Edward. William claimed that King Edward had promised him the throne of England when he visited England in 1051. In 1064, Harold Godwinson (Claim 2) visited William in Normandy. William claims that Harold also promised that William will be the next king of England when King Edward died.

1. The Battle of Stamford Bridge

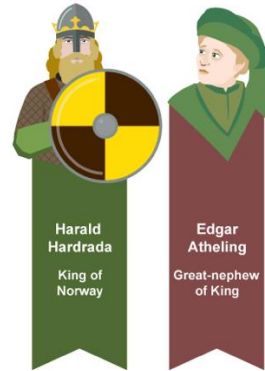
After Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England, Harald Hardrada lands in Yorkshire with 300 ships carrying his soldiers. Harold Godwinson's army marched from London to meet them in only five days. At the Battle of Stamford Bridge Harald Hardrada and Tostig Godwinson were killed. Only 24 ships travel back to Norway.

2. The Battle of Hastings

Meanwhile, William was waiting in Normandy with 700 ships and his army. When he landed in England, Harold Godwinson marched his army south to meet them. After two weeks, they arrived exhausted.

Harold's army was defeated, and Harold was killed, according to legend, when he was shot with an arrow through his eye.

William was crowned king on December 25th.



Homework Ideas:

- Find some images of the Bayeux Tapestry online. Draw your own version of one of the scenes.
- Create a model / draw a diagram of a motte and bailey castle.
- Make a Norman's knights shield.
- Write a letter as one of the claimants to the throne explaining why you should be the next king of England.
- Create a silhouette picture of a castle.
- Create a fact file about William or one of other claimants to the throne.
- Draw a portrait of Edward the Confessor or William the Conqueror.

Periods of British History

