

Y7 History

The Norman Conquest

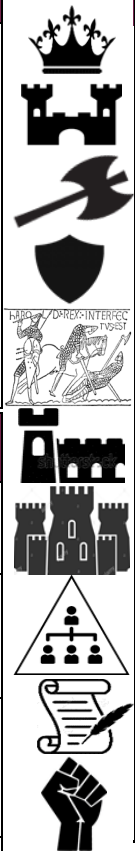


Summary

When Edward the Confessor died with no heir in 1066, 3 contenders fought to be the next King of England. Harold Godwinson defeated Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. However, Godwinson was then defeated at the Battle of Hastings by William, Duke of Normandy. After his victory, William the Conqueror became the King and set about strengthening his power over England. He built motte and bailey & stone keep castles, introduced the feudal system, created the Domesday Book, and crushed a rebellion with the Harrying of the North.

Key Figures

Edward the Confessor	was the King of England who died in January 1066, leaving no heir to the throne.
Harold Godwinson	was Edward's English brother-in-law and claimed he should be the next king. He won at the Battle of Stamford
Harald Hardrada	was the King of Norway, defeated at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
Tostig Godwinson	Harold's brother who fought against him at the Battle of Stamford Bridge
Odo	William's half brother, a bishop who commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry



Key Vocabulary

Heir	The person who is next in line to become the king or queen
Conqueror	A person who takes over a place or people, often by invasion
Housecarl	A well trained warrior who fought for Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings using a battle-axe
Shield Wall	A long line of shields used for defence in battle
Bayeux Tapestry	A series of pictures nearly 70m long showing the events leading up to William's victory in 1066
Motte and Bailey	The first castles with a keep on a hill (the motte) surrounded by a fence or wall. Often built from wood.
Concentric Castle	A castle built with several rounded walls of decreasing heights. There were many defensive features
Feudal system	Each group of people owed loyalty to the group above starting with villeins, knights and barons and ended at the top with the king
Domesday Book	A written record of how much England was worth, used by William to control taxes or land
Revolt	Another word for rebellion or uprising, meaning a violent protest

Challenge— What was the most important reason William won the Battle of Hastings? Explain why.

Look at the timeline. When do you think William's control of England became really secure? Why do you think that?

Other Resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsjnb9q/revision/1>

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