

History  
Year 7  
Autumn term

# The Norman Conquest: How did it change England?



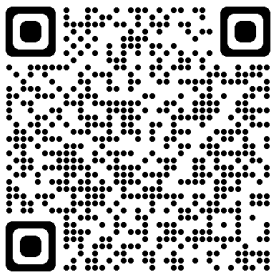
Key word	Definition
Archbishop	A senior Christian church leader
Authority	The power to give orders
Earl	A Norman lord
Feudal system	A system where land is rented in return for loyalty, soldiers or food
Harrying	To burn or destroy
Heir	The person who will become the next monarch
Monarch	The king/queen of a country
Monastery	A place where Christian monks and nuns live, work and pray
Motte and Bailey	The first type of castle the Normans built, on a hill and made from wood
Peasant	A poor person who lived and worked in the countryside

There are moments when history is unsubtle; when change arrives in a violent rush- as decisive, bloody and traumatic as a **truckload of trouble** wiping out everything that gives a culture its bearings- custom, language, law, loyalty. 1066 was one of those moments.

*Simon Schama*



What will I learn?	
	Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers living in wooden houses. They were <b>Christians</b> and had a rich culture of <b>art</b> and <b>literature</b> , and a strong <b>legal system</b> . However, <b>slavery</b> was legal and England faced regular invasions from the Vikings.
	The English king Edward the Confessor and his wife Edith had <b>no children</b> . Edith's brother Harold Godwinson and Edward's great nephew William of Normandy both claimed they had been promised the throne, plus Viking king Harald Hardrada also laid his claim as the grandson of the previous English king Cnut.
	Harald Hardrada invaded England and landed in York. He was joined by Harold Godwinson's brother Tostig. Harold Godwinson raced up to Yorkshire from London in 4 days and took the invaders by surprise at <b>Stamford Bridge</b> . Harold Godwinson won the battle, with Harald Hardrada being killed in the fighting.
	William landed on the south coast of England while Harold Godwinson was in Yorkshire. He took control of the top of Senlac hill near <b>Hastings</b> , giving his archers the advantage over Harold's tired foot soldiers. His tactic of faking a retreat and his superior knights meant that William won the battle, with Harold Godwinson being killed in the fighting.
	The Normans began building wooden motte and bailey castles across England to <b>defend</b> themselves from Anglo-Saxon attack, and as a way for William to reward his supporters. However, over time the castles were rebuilt in stone to show <b>power and prestige</b> , and to allow Normans to live in more luxury.
	William brutally repressed Anglo-Saxon rebellion during the <b>Harrying of the North</b> . He used the <b>Feudal System</b> to reward followers and enforce loyalty. He also commissioned the <b>Domesday Book</b> to survey the country and assess how much England was worth for taxes.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the Norman Conquest

