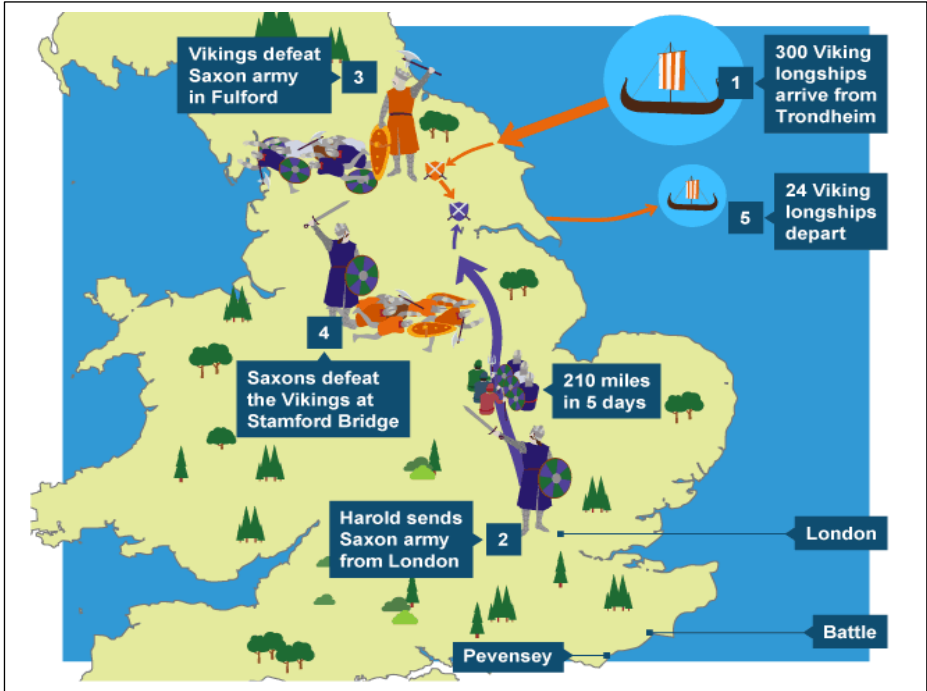


Key content	What you need to know
<p><b>Key terms</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Heir: The person who is next in line to become king or queen</li> <li>❖ Conquest: To capture or take something over</li> <li>❖ Oath: A special promise which should never be broken</li> <li>❖ Norman: People from Normandy, France, who invaded Britain in 1066 and were led by William of Normandy</li> <li>❖ <b>Change:</b> to make the future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone e.g. to change the course of history.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Norman Conquest of England:</b></p> <p><b>Who were the main claimants to the throne in 1066?</b></p> <div data-bbox="134 981 395 1243" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="134 1344 395 1664" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="140 1720 391 1998" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>At the beginning of 1066, Edward the Confessor ruled England. He was 61 years old and was dying. King Edward had no children, so succession was difficult. There was no direct heir to the throne. King Edward died on January 5th in the first week of the new year. As King Edward had no children, it was uncertain who would rule next. Edward died without making it clear who should become the next king. This caused the trouble in 1066...</p> <p><b>-Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex</b>, a powerful and rich English nobleman. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Edward named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed. The next day, the royal council, known as the Witan, met and declared Godwinson king. An English king was proclaimed by the Witan - this gives Harold Godwinson the only claim to the throne by right.</p> <p><b>-William, Duke of Normandy.</b> The Norman chroniclers reported that Edward had promised his distant relative, William, the throne in 1051. Claims that Edward promised the throne were probably made up by the rival sides after the event. The Bayeux Tapestry, which was made after the Conquest, shows Godwinson swearing an oath of support to William in a visit to Normandy in 1064. William had the support of the Pope.</p> <p><b>-Harald Hardrada, King of Norway</b>, a Viking warrior. Hardrada based his claim on the fact that his ancestor, King Cnut, had once ruled England (1016–1035). He was helped by Godwinson's brother, Tostig.</p>

**Routes to the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings**

**Round 1: What happened at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?**



**Round 2: What happened at the Battle of Hastings?**





By the evening of 13 October, the English and Norman armies were encamped within sight of each other at the town now known as Battle.

Duke William of Normandy had had plenty of time to prepare his forces since landing at Pevensey over two weeks earlier.

Harold, by contrast, had just won a hard-fought battle at Stamford Bridge, near York, where he had defeated another claimant to the English throne, Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, on 25 September.

The Battle Of Hastings started on the 14 October at approximately 9.30 am. William's archers opened fire but Harold's archers were able to keep a tight shield-wall. William therefore sent his knights and foot soldiers to fight the English, however the hill was steep which made it difficult to charge and tired William's men quickly.

The two sides battled for over two hours. Then a rumour circulated that William had died. William hadn't died but it gave him an idea and he was able to trick Harold's men off of the hill. Towards the end of the day Harold was killed. William had won the battle.



### Why is the Battle of Hastings important?

The Battle of Hastings was very important for the history of England as it **changed** who was in charge.

The Anglo-Saxons had ruled the land for over 600 years since the Roman times. Now, the Normans had taken over, which meant big **changes**

The Normans took over the land, so people who worked in the fields now had new bosses. The language also changed, mixing Anglo-Saxon English with Norman French. That mixture would eventually become the English we know today.

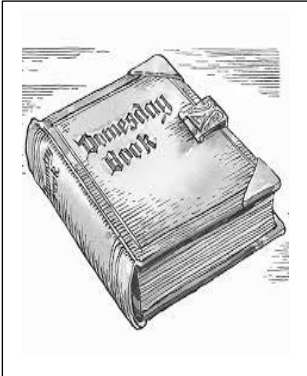
The new rulers also gave England better links to France and the rest of Europe, and you could see their influence in buildings like churches and castles.

The Battle of Hastings also gave us one of the most famous tapestries in the world.

Not long after the battle took place, the story of what happened was recorded in what is a bit like a stitched comic strip, called the Bayeux Tapestry. The tapestry tells the story of a moment in time which changed the history of England.



## The Domesday Book



### The Domesday Book

The Domesday Survey was ordered by William the Conqueror in 1085. He wanted to find out about the country and how much it was worth.

Domesday is Britain's earliest public record.

Domesday is by far the most complete record of pre-industrial society to survive anywhere in the world and provides a unique window on the medieval world.

By the time of the Domesday Book (1086) 'Loitone' probably had a population of 750-800. This is smaller than the size of our school. This may seem tiny to us but by the standards of the time Luton was a respectable size. Most villages only had populations of 100 or 150. Later in the Middle Ages the population of Luton probably rose to around 1,500.

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## The Feudal System



### The Feudal System

The feudal system was introduced to England following the invasion and conquest of the country by William the Conqueror. It was a system that helped William to govern the country by sharing out his land. The king would lend out land in return for loyalty:

- King: Ruled and protected the country.
- Barons: Given high rank by the king who had land and power.
- Knights: Fought for the king and country.
- Peasants: Did all the work, like farming.

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