



Y5 – The Normans

Key vocabulary

Claimant	Someone believing they should be King
Coronation	The act or ceremony of crowning a king or queen
Motte	Earth mound in which the Keep was built.
Bailey	Outer area that surrounded the motte. This was where houses, stables and so on where built
Keep	A secure building which housed the Norman Earls or those important people that needed shelter
Barons	A person at the lower end of the nobility who held land from the king
Social hierarchy	A system with layers of classes/groups
Feudal System	Hierarchy of society, with the King at the top

The Claimants to the throne of England

When Edward the confessor died in 1066 there was no clear heir to the throne of England. Instead there were three different claimants.

William Duke of Normandy	Harald III of Norway	Harold Godwinson
Related to Edward through his mother's side. He was a distant cousin of Edwards. He alleged that while living in Normandy for many years Edward had promised the throne to William and it had been sworn on holy relics.	King of Norway. Powerful and successful Viking. He was related to King Cnut. His claim was that, as Edward had no sons, a relative of the previous King should be chosen. It was said that Harald's father had been promised the throne by Cnut's son Harthacnut.	A prominent nobleman in England and the Earl of Wessex, as well as King Edward's half brother. His claim to the throne rested on the fact that on his deathbed King Edward had commended both his widow and his Kingdom to Harold's "protection".

Who were the Normans?

The Normans were people descended from Vikings who in the 10th Century founded the duchy of Normandy in Northwest France.

The Normans adapted to their new land by converting to Christianity, adopting the local dialect as their own and integrating with French culture.

The Normans were famous for their love of fighting as well as their military and political cunning.

Norman Dukes had to acknowledge that French Kings were superior, but they could raise their own armies, carry out their own justice and demand their own taxes

William inherited Normandy at the age of 7 in 1035. Once William's Father died (Duke Robert I), William's life was at risk as many older Earls wanted to replace him.

William had to learn to fight at an early age, and proved himself to be a shrewd politician. He earned himself the title of 'Conqueror' due to his successful campaigns. He was a force to be reckoned with.

Battles

Battle of Stamford Bridge

Harold Godwinson's Army marched to North to defeat the Viking Army of Harald III. Harald III and his troops were caught out by Harold's attack. They had not expected Harold to reach Stamford Bridge so quickly. The Viking troops were split, consequently not allowing them to defend themselves properly.

Battle of Hastings

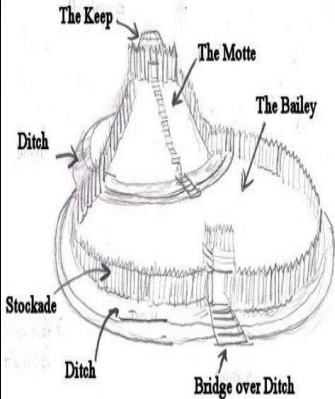
William was keen to deal with Harold. He provoked Harold by making his way up the coast towards London, attacking and burning villages as he went. Harold force marched his army from the North to confront William's invasion. William defeated Harold, who was killed in the battle.

Norman Castles

The purpose of castles

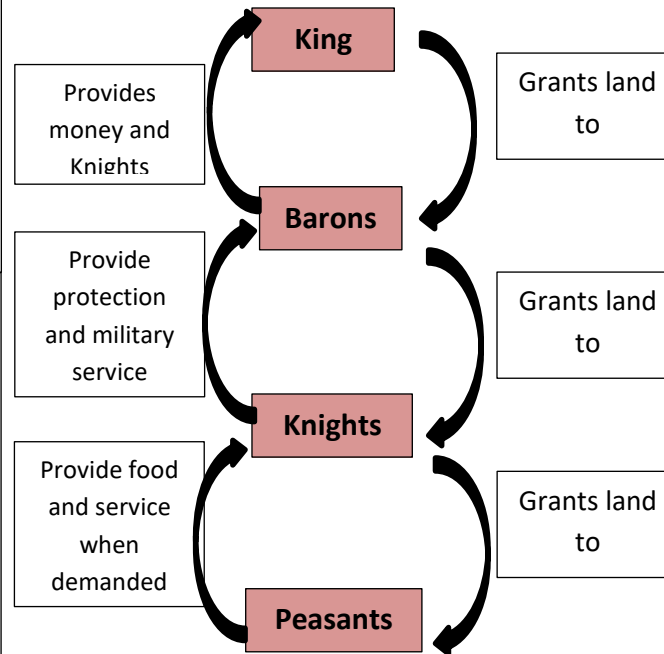
The Normans built castles as bases for offensive patrols into the surrounding area. From castles the Normans were able to attack. Norman castles were large imposing buildings that were built to intimidate, bully and administrate the local area.

Motte and Bailey Castle



These Castles were quick and easy to build. The first Motte and Bailey castles were made out of wood. They were built until 1070 when the stone castle was developed

Feudal System



Domesday Book

In 1085 William faced invasion from Danish Vikings and the Count of Flanders. He called together a war council in Gloucester. He needed to enforce a tax to pay for his army. However the invasion never happened. Soon after, William ordered an inventory to be drawn up in order for him to collect tax.

- All major landowners had to send in lists of their manors and tenants, which were compared to existing tax records. Commissioners were then sent out to assess this to ensure everything was correct.
- Domesday allowed William to ensure that he got as much money as possible from taxes.
- Domesday means 'the day of judgement'
- The Domesday book is important as it tells us a lot about life in England. It sheds light on population and wealth that people did or didn't have. It estimates the value of land under Edward the Confessor and King William and also how this changed over the years.

1035

William inherits Normandy aged 7.

January 1066

Edward the Confessor dies

25th September 1066

Battle of Stamford Bridge

1085

Surveying for the Domesday book begins.

The Normans

1043

Edward the Confessor crowned King of

20th September 1066

Battle of Fulford Gate

14th October 1066

Battle of Hastings