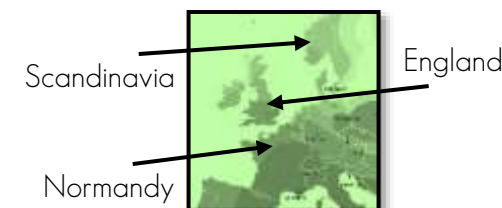




# THE NORMANS



## Timeline

JANUARY 1066	SEPTEMBER 1066	OCTOBER 1066	DECEMBER 1066	1085	1099	1204
Edward the Confessor dies and Harold II becomes king	Battle of Stamford Bridge between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings	King Harold killed in Battle of Hastings making William of Normandy king	William the Conqueror crowned at Westminster Abbey as King William I	King William I orders the Domesday Book to be compiled	Norman led Crusades into Jerusalem	French King Phillip II invades and conquers Normandy so most Normans stay in England and become English

## Key Vocabulary

baron	very rich but allowed to be in control of their own land
census	an official count or survey, especially of a population
chain mail	flexible armour consisting of small metal rings linked together
church	The King took control of all church land and appointing bishops
Forest Law	Protected animals (primarily Deer) from being hunted by anyone except the king, unless he gave them permission. Also protected the Woodland and habitat in which they lived.
forfeiture	the removal of land from someone
invasion	invading a country or region with an armed force
Magna Carta	Means 'Great Charter' and said that everyone was subject to the law, even the king, along with rights of individuals. Signed by King John in 1215.
motte and bailey	means mound and enclosure and these castles were made of wood and earth where the mound was a vantage point and the bailey an area at the foot of the motte for living areas
villains	given land by knights; no rights and very poor
Windsor Castle	Now the Queen's home but originally a motte and bailey castle. However, due to how vulnerable they were to attack, this, like many others, were rebuilt using stone.
Witan	Edward the Confessor's advisers who wanted Harold to be king

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Normans taught the English the game of conkers. People still play it today. Even adults take it quite seriously and have a world championship every year!

## General Knowledge

### Who Were the Normans?

The Normans that invaded England in 1066 came from Normandy in Northern France. They were originally Vikings from Scandinavia who terrorized European coastlines with raids and plundering. French King, Charles the Simple, had given some land in the North of France to a Viking chief named Rollo. He hoped by giving the Vikings their own land in France they would stop attacking other French regions. The land became known as Northmannia, the land of the Northmen. It was later shortened to Normandy. The Vikings intermarried with the French and by the year 1000, they were no longer Viking pagans, but French-speaking Christians.

### The Domesday Book

When William I became king, he wanted a record of how many people lived in England and what they owned. From this, he worked out the tax he was owed. It was completed in 1086 and written in Medieval Latin. No survey of this scale was repeated in Britain again until 1873.

### The Bayeux Tapestry

Currently displayed in Normandy in France. This 70m long woollen yarn has 72 pictures of different events during the Norman invasion, and it was made in eight strips that were joined together. Some of the last panel is missing so we don't know how long it would have been when it was made in the 11th century. It begins with scenes about Anglo-Saxon King Edward the Confessor, and ends with the death of King Harold in the Battle of Hastings.

### Knights and Soldiers

The invasion was so successful, largely because the Norman Knights were highly skilled. They rode on horseback and held a strong spear (lance) under their arms. Horses were expensive so the English did not use them in battle. Knights trained from a young age, started as pages, to squires and then to a Knight. Given land by barons in return for military service.

## Famous Figures

### Three Possible Kings

The throne was not inherited but was given to someone powerful when Edward died. There were three possible kings hoping to be crowned.

Harold Godwinson - promised throne by English leaders  
Harald Hardrada - thought his family had been promised the throne by a previous King.  
William, Duke of Normandy - said that Edward has promised him the throne before he died.

Harold Godwinson defeated Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and heard news that William, Duke of Normandy, had invaded Southern England. Harold marched south and the two armies met near Hastings on 14th October 1066. Initially, Harold's armies held strong but William told his army to feign defeat and pretend to run away from the scene. The English soldiers chased them, leaving their hill top positions and leaving themselves vulnerable. William was victorious and was crowned King of England.

### William, Duke of Normandy (c.1028-1087)

Usually known as William the Conqueror, he was the first Norman King of England after his invasion from Normandy in 1066. He introduced a feudal system where all land was owned by the ruling king and given in exchange for work. 1/4 of land was owned by the king as personal property, some was given to the church and the rest was leased out under strict controls. Barons, knights and villeins made up the rest of the system.