

BATTLE OF HASTINGS

What makes a successful leader?

Key terms

Monarch, heir, stable, invasion, shield wall, fyrd, housecarls, Norman, Saxon, feigned, tactics, mistakes.
Own key terms to add:

Key People/dates

Norman Conquest -1066
Battle of Stamford Bridge - 25th Sep
Battle of Hastings - 14th Oct
Edward the Confessor
Harold Godwinson
William of Normandy
Harald Hardrada
Tostig Godwinson
Edgar Aetherling

England in 1066

- Edward the Confessor died without an obvious heir to the throne prompting a fight to be king.
- England was a rich country that had good land for farming and as an island, was easy to defend.
- People in England's towns and villages often celebrated and lived happy mostly happy safe lives.
- England was stable, safe and lawful.

Why would somebody want to invade England in 1066?

Claimants to the Throne

- There were four main claims to the throne, Harold Godwinson, William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar Aetherling.
- Each of these claims was based on a number of reasons.
- Some of the claimants stated they had been promised the crown or had blood links to the past kings of England.
- As Edgar was only young and did not have an army, his claim was not taken as seriously as he couldn't fight for the crown.

Which of the claimants had the best and worst claims to the crown of England?

Which qualities were most important in being a medieval king?

Battle of Stamford Bridge

- This battle was fought between Harold and Harald after Harald sailed to England to take the crown.
- Harald was surprised by Harold and his Saxons leaving his Vikings without some armour and weapons.
- The Saxons outnumbered the Viking army and had the upper hand for most of the battle.
- Harald and Tostig were both killed and Harold Godwinson's army won, but they would have to march immediately to battle William in the south.

What traits did Harold show that made him a successful leader?

Battle of Hastings

- Harold arrived first to the battlefield and took the high ground, setting up a shield wall to block William's attacks.
- William and Harold's armies had different types of soldiers who had different training and weapons. This helped decide the course of the battle.
- William used feigned retreat to lure Harold's soldiers out of position giving him the chance to counter attack.
- The battle lasted all day and the events are recorded in the Saxon chronicles and the Bayeux tapestry.

What was the main reason that the battle happened the way it did?