

The Succession Crisis and Norman Conquest

Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Definition
Succession	The process by which one person takes over a position of power, often following the death of the previous holder.
Monarchy	A form of government where a single person, the monarch, rules for life or until abdication.
Claimant	A person who asserts a right or title to something, especially in context of a throne.
Heir	A person entitled to inherit a title, property, or throne after the death or abdication of the current holder.
Feudalism	A social system in medieval Europe where land was held by lords in exchange for service from vassals.
Battle of Hastings	A significant battle fought in 1066 that led to the Norman Conquest of England.
Bayeux Tapestry	A piece of embroidery that tells the story of the Norman Conquest and the events leading up to it.
Anglo-Saxon	The culture, people, and period in England before the Norman Conquest, from around the 5th century to 1066.
William the Conqueror	The Duke of Normandy who became King of England after his victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.
Harold Godwinson	The last Anglo-Saxon King of England, who was defeated by William at the Battle of Hastings.
Edward the Confessor	The King of England prior to the succession crisis, whose death sparked the competition for the throne.
Normans	People from Normandy in France who invaded England in 1066, leading to the establishment of Norman rule.

Detailed Timeline of Important Events

Year	Event
1066	Death of Edward the Confessor, leading to succession crisis.
1066	Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England.
1066	William of Normandy invades England.
1066	Battle of Hastings takes place on October 14.
1066	Harold Godwinson is killed, and William becomes king.
1066	William is crowned King of England on Christmas Day in Westminster Abbey.
1067	Revolts begin against William's rule in England.
1068	The construction of the Tower of London begins as a demonstration of Norman power.
1086	The Domesday Book is compiled to assess lands and resources in England.

Useful and Reliable Websites

- [BBC History: Norman Conquest](#)
- [Historic England - The Norman Conquest](#)
- [The British Library: The Norman Conquest](#)
- [National Archives: The Domesday Book](#)

Interesting Facts

1. The term "Norman" comes from "Norsemen," referring to the Scandinavian settlers who settled in what is now Normandy, France.
2. The Bayeux Tapestry is nearly 70 metres long and is a crucial primary source for understanding the Norman Conquest.
3. The Battle of Hastings is one of the most famous battles in English history, and its outcome significantly changed England's culture and language.
4. After the Conquest, many English words were borrowed from Norman French, influencing the development of the English language.
5. The Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, included a survey of much of England and was so detailed it was likened to a 'great accounting of the land'.

Endpoints: What Students Should Know by the End of This Topic

By the end of this topic, students should:

1. Understand the main causes of the Succession Crisis following Edward the Confessor's death.
2. Be able to describe the key figures involved in the conflict for the English throne, including Harold Godwinson and William the Conqueror.
3. Recognise the significance of the Battle of Hastings and its impact on English history.
4. Explain how William the Conqueror consolidated his power in England after the victory.
5. Understand the importance of the Bayeux Tapestry as a historical source relating to the Norman Conquest.
6. Discuss the effects of the Norman Conquest on English society, language, and governance.
7. Be familiar with major events, dates, and primary sources related to the Norman Conquest.

Assessment Question

What was the most significant consequence of the Norman Conquest and its conflicts?