

Y7 Revision:

The Celts

BC c500 - 43 AD

- Came from central Europe to find farm land.
- They lost most of their power after the Romans invaded
- Farmed and introduced the iron plough
- The Welsh, Irish and Scottish languages come from the Celts
- Halloween and May Day festivals were Celtic

The Romans

43 AD - 410 AD

- Based in Italy
- **Conquered** many countries across Europe and North Africa.
- The Roman army took over Britain and killed anyone who fought back
- Came to Britain for its metals such as lead, tin and copper.
- They had a huge impact on Britain.

Anglo-Saxons

410 AD - 1066 AD

- Came to England when the Romans left
- The Angles, Saxons and Jutes came from Germany and Denmark when there were floods
- Many came to make farms.
- Some Anglo-Saxons forced the Britons from their land by force.
- English language is created from Anglo-Saxon

The Vikings

789 AD - 1066 AD

- At first, the Vikings made violent raids to steal goods from England.
- From around 900 they began to settle in Britain.
- After many years of fighting the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings agreed to split the country.
- The country was united under Edward the Confessor in 1042.
- Shipbuilding

How developed was Britain before 1066?

Power and Religion

- Introduced '**geld**', a land tax which made England's rulers wealthy.
- **Written laws** with courts appointed by the king.
- King had power. Supported by a council of advisors called, The Witan.

Writing and Storytelling

- Wrote songs and stories.
- Poems such as **Beowulf**
- Wrote books with expertly decorated pages
- Monks wrote about religion, politics, history, kings, gossip and the weather.

Town and village

- Established towns and ports to trade (buy and sell) goods from all over Europe (wool and cloth).
- A strong economy with control of money
- Stone buildings and churches

Craft

- Highly skilled craftsmen.
- Coins
- Made games, musical instruments, pots and swords.



Key words

B.C. – Before Christ

A.D. – Anno Domini

Invade – To enter and take over by force

Trade - To buy and sell goods for a profit



On the **5th January 1066, King Edward the Confessor died**. He had no heir and so 3 men all claimed the English throne; Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada and William, Duke of Normandy. Harold Godwinson won this fight at first and was crowned the King of England. However, he knew that the other 2 men would not back down.

The Battle of Hastings (October 14th 1066):

Both Harold Godwinson and William had strong armies. Harold's however was tired from the long march and many of Harold's best fighters had been killed at Stamford Bridge. William's were well rested and he had more men, but they were not as experienced in battle.

William and Harold met on Senlac Hill, a few miles away from Hastings. Harold's army was at the top of the hill and William's was at the bottom. Harold had the stronger position because he could see his enemy better from above and he didn't have to fight uphill.

The battle began and William was not doing very well. His archers were ineffective and he couldn't break through the English shield wall. However, at a pivotal moment in the battle, William's men thought the William had been killed and started to retreat. William removed his helmet to show his men he was alive but some of the English had broken from the shield wall and started to chase the retreating French soldiers. William ordered his men to turn and attack those few Englishmen. It worked. William tried this tactic again and again and the English kept falling for it. Eventually Harold had lost too many men and William was able to break the shield wall.

Harold was killed with an arrow through his eye. William became King William I, also known as William the Conqueror.



Key Words

Heir – A son or daughter who will take the crown following the death of a king or queen

Conquer – To take over a country by force

Norman - French. Invaded England in 1066 led by William the Conqueror

Lord - A man given wealth and power in the Feudal System

Knight - A man given an area of land in the Feudal System in return for a promise to fight

Peasant - Farmers who did not own their land and had no wealth or power



Reasons **William won** :

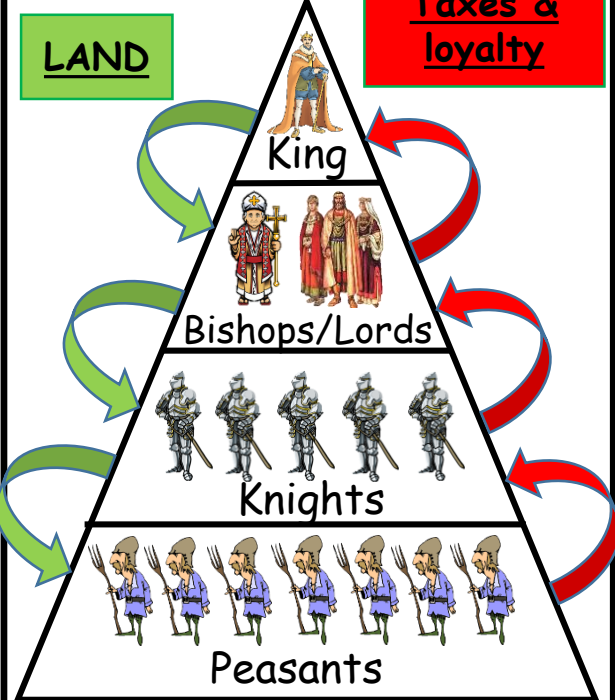
- William's men were well rested
- William largely stayed out of the battle so he could organise his army.
- He had mounted Knights on horseback which are very dangerous in battle.
- He was a clever fighter and managed to repeatedly trick the English.

And **Harold lost**:

- Harold's men were very tired.
- He had lost many of his best fighters at Stamford Bridge.
- He was in the middle of the fighting and so struggled to organise his men.
- His army fell for the trick played by the French and he couldn't stop them.



The Feudal System

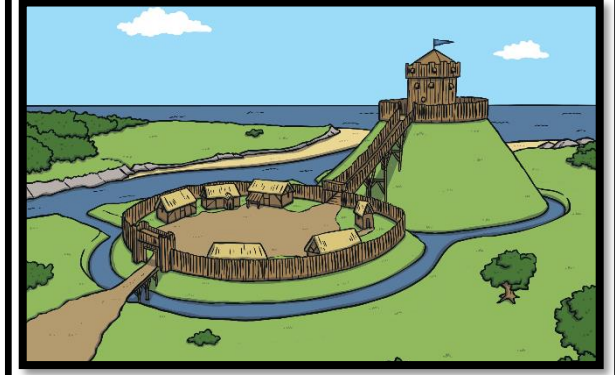


The Feudal System was designed to keep the King strong. He loaned out his land and in return he would receive things back for it.

- **Bishops/Lords** – they would swear loyalty to the King, give him money and give him an army if needed.
- **Knights** – they would receive a large amount of land to be lord of, however, they had to promise to fight for the King if he needed them to.
- **Peasants** – They receive a small amount of land to farm and in return they had to work on their lords land for free.

Castles

Motte and Bailey Castles were built by William to keep him and his people safe. They were **quick to build** and made of mud and wood. However, they were also **weak against attack**.



There were key parts of a castle:
Keep (Castle) **Moat** (River or ditch around the castle) **Bailey** (defended area inside the walls) **Motte** (Hill that the Keep is on top of) **Palisade** (Walls around the whole castle) **Drawbridge** (A bridge that can be lifted if attacked).

Eventually the castles were made out of stone but this took so long that hardly any were finished when William died.

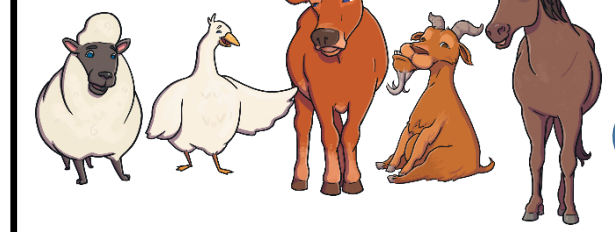


The Domesday Book

In **1086**, William was worried that England was going to be attacked by Vikings again. He needed to raise money to pay for an army. He had a **survey** carried out across the whole of England to find out how much all of his **people were worth**, and therefore, how much he could tax from them.



The people were asked how much land they had, what job, how many children, their pay, their animals, what crops they grow and many other things. Everything had a value.



All of the information was **written in the Domesday Book**. This is the very first census of England. We now do them every few years. It turned out, **William was a rich man!**

Thought Bubble 1: I had to borrow a lot of money to invade, I need to pay it back

Thought Bubble 2: I need to find a way to thank my loyal French Knights

Thought Bubble 3: How will I defend England if we are invaded?

Thought Bubble 4: What if the people try to rise up against me?

Thought Bubble 5: England is a big country, how will I control it on my own?

Year 7 Medieval England knowledge organiser

How significant was religion in the Middle Ages?

The Catholic Church:

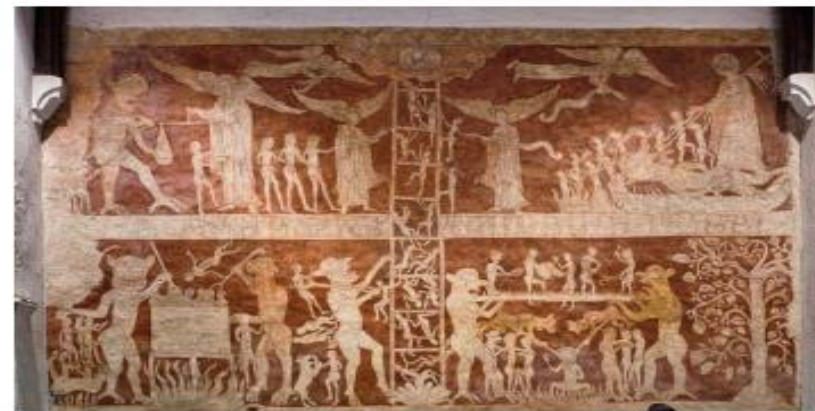
- Christianity existed in England before the Norman invasion in 1066. However, the Normans cemented the power of the Catholic Church in England.
- By 1100, most countries in Europe followed **Roman Catholicism**(they were Catholic).
- Other major religions during this period were Muslims (Islam) and Jews (Judaism).
- The Catholic Church worked across countries and it had a very clear **hierarchy**, starting with the Pope and ending with priests in villages and towns.
- There were also Catholic **monks** and **nuns**. These were people who **lived apart** from other people and who **dedicated their lives to God and Catholicism**.
- The Pope was seen as **God's representative on earth**. As a result he **could not be questioned**.
- The Catholic Church was extremely rich. It owned a huge amount of land and received money through the tithe.

Heaven, Hell and Purgatory:

- Life after death was very important to people during the Middle Ages.
- Christians believed that if you followed the Church's rules and led a good life, you would go to **heaven**.
- If you didn't follow the Church's rules or lead a good life, Christians believed that you would go to **purgatory or hell**.
- Most people during the Middle Ages could not read or understand Church services (they were in Latin).
- Doom Paintings** were used to help people to understand and to show them what would happen if they didn't follow the church's rules.



Key terms	
Catholicism	The Christian Church which is followed by Catholics.
Hierarchy	A system in which people are ranked according to their importance.
Tithe:	A 10% tax which people had to pay to the Church. It could be paid in money, seeds or equipment.
Purgatory:	A place which Catholic believe in. This is between heaven and hell and is where people 'burn off' their sins before they can enter heaven.
Doom Painting:	A painting in Medieval churches which showed the joys of heaven and the horrors of hell.
Archbishop of Canterbury	The Head of the Church in England, appointed by the Pope in Rome.
The Pope	The Head of the Catholic Church on Earth.



An example of a medieval doom painting, showing the joys of heaven at the top and the horrors of hell at the bottom.