



How did the Norman Conquest change Britain?



Summary:  Edward the Confessor, the king of England died in 1066 with no heirs, leaving a disputed succession. There were four contenders to the throne: Harold Godwinson, William, Duke of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar Aetheling. Eventually, the Witan decided that Harold Godwinson should be king.

In October, Harald Hardrada and Harold Godwinson fought the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Harold Godwinson won this fight but had to walk 200 miles south to defend against the invading William of Normandy. On the 14th October 1066, William of Normandy defeated Harold Godwinson, conquered England and became king. These events were recorded in the Bayeux Tapestry.

William needed to control England. He built around 700 castles, crushed rebellions, created the Domesday book and introduced the Feudal system. The Norman Conquest changed England forever.

- Key Takeaways:** 
- The King of England in 1065 was Edward the Confessor. He was Anglo-Saxon and had no heir.
 - The throne was contended for by Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman rulers.
 - William of Normandy conquered England after winning the Battle of Hastings in 1066.
 - William kept control by building castles, stopping rebellions and reforming land ownership.
 - The king and church had considerable influence over people's lives during Norman times.

Key Concepts:



Cause and
Consequence



Change and
Continuity



Historical
Significance



Similarity and
Difference

Vocabulary:  **Bias-** having an unfair view of a person or a group, either by being skewed positively or negatively toward it.

Castle- a large building with defensive features.

Disputed- argued over.

Feudalism- a system where people were given land and protection by people with higher rank and worked and fought for them in return.

Interpretation- one historian's view of the past based on the evidence they have chosen to use.

Rebellion- an act of armed resistance to an established leader.

Validity- to what extent a source can be trusted or believed.

Schema Strands:



Beliefs and
Attitudes



Exploration
& Settlement



Innovation &
Legacy