

Knowledge Organiser: Anglo Saxon England and the Norman Invasion

Key dates: 1043 Edward the Confessor crowned.	Jan 1066 - Death of Edward the Confessor	20 September 1066 - Battle of Fulford	25 September 1066 - Battle of Stamford Bridge	14 October 1066 - Battle of Hastings
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Key Words	Definitions	What do I need to know? (Linked to PLC statements)	
Chronology	the study of dates, events and periods in time order	L1 - Chronology and eras	How historians map the past using timelines in chronological order, and how they use this to study the changes between different eras and time periods.
Witan	A group of powerful 'wise men' who advised and supported the King in return for loyalty and help	L2 - Anglo-Saxon England	After the Romans left, Britain was settled by different groups such as the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, England was attractive as it had great farming potential with good land and also lots of natural resources such as silver and iron and even things like salt, wheat and wool. England had a hierarchy with kings, nobles, freemen and slaves. They lived in small villages and were skilled craftsmen and farmers.
Archaeologist	A detective of the past who digs up ancient things to learn about how people lived long ago	L3 - Sutton Hoo	The Sutton Hoo burial tells us the Anglo-Saxons had a hierarchical system which valued leaders with rich burials. They had a strong belief in the afterlife and at times changed between Christian and Pagan beliefs. They used intricate and beautiful metalwork and had connections with different cultures through their trade and treasure.
Pagan	Non-Christians who worshipped nature and different religious figures	L4 - What is a monarch?	Being a monarch was attractive as the king would gain power, influence, wealth and fame as well as the respect of the people. Kings were expected to be strong leaders and warriors to protect the country, to work with the Church and to marry and have an heir - preferably a son to carry on the family legacy.
Monarchy	A form of government with a king or queen (a monarch) in charge	L5 - Claimants to the throne in 1066	Edward the Confessor had no heir when he died, and there were three main claimants who thought they should be King. These were Harold Godwinson of England who was Edward's brother-in-law and an important nobleman, Harald Hardrada from Norway who was known for his strength and battles, and William Duke of Normandy from France who claimed Edward had named him heir and that Harold Godwinson had sworn an oath to support him. There is a lack of evidence about what is true and what isn't!
Heir	The next in line to the throne	L3 - Battle of Hastings	The Normans and Saxons met at Senlac Hill. In the early stages, the Saxons held firm with their shield wall of fyrd and housecarls, but the Normans used a feigned retreat which made them break the wall and capitalize with their knights on horseback. Harold was killed and William was victorious.
Claimant	A person making a claim to the throne	L4 - Reasons why William won at Hastings	There were several different reasons why William won. The Saxons had just fought the Vikings at Stamford Bridge so were tired, William's army was highly trained, the feigned retreat was a successful trick and the Norman's believed they had God on their side which gave them encouragement.
Fyrd	Anglo-Saxon soldiers who joined the army at times of trouble. They were usually farmers and were poorly trained.	<div> <div>Disciplinary focus: Causation</div> <div> <p>When considering WHY the Normans defeated the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings, there are several FACTORS that we can sort into themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saxon weaknesses Luck Tactics Preparation <p>We can also say that some factors were important than others - some even worked together (link) to lead William to victory. Try to make your decision about which factor you think was most important.</p> </div> </div>	
Housecarls	Full-time, well-trained Anglo-Saxon warriors		
Cavalry/ Knights	Soldiers who fought on horseback (Norman)		
Feigned retreat	Pretending to run away so that enemy is tricked into following - used by Normans.		
Shield wall	Overlapping shields in protection for battle - used by Saxons.		
Domesday Book	A survey of England and its lands made by order of William the Conqueror.		