

Knowledge Organiser – 4 – Norman Conquest – High Medieval Period



Harold Godwinson  
crowned  
6<sup>th</sup> Jan 1066



Battle of Hastings  
14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1066



The White Tower, a stone  
keep castle, built in London  
Early 1080s



Harrying of the  
North  
1069-70

Death of Edward the  
Confessor  
5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1066

Battle of Stamford  
Bridge  
25<sup>th</sup> Sept 1066



William I  
Crowned  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1066



Domesday Book  
1086



Key people, ideas and developments

1	Edward the Confessor	Anglo-Saxon king from 1042-1066. His name comes from the fact that he was very religious so he went to confession a lot. He was quite a popular king
2	Contenders to the throne	Three people wanted to be the next king: Harold Godwinson was an important Englishman; Harald Hardrada was a Viking King; William of Normandy was in charge of Normandy, in France.
3	Harold Godwinson crowned	After Edward's death, Harold Godwinson was crowned King because a group of the most powerful men in England called the Witan decided he should be king.
4	Battle of Stamford Bridge	Harald Hardrada invaded northern England. Harold Godwinson took an army to meet him. They fought a battle at Stamford Bridge, near York. Godwinson won; Hardrada was killed.
5	Battle of Hastings	After winning, Godwinson had to march straight to the south coast to meet William's army (walking 210 miles in 5 days), which had invaded from France. They met near Hastings. William won this battle; Godwinson was killed. William was crowned William I of England. The Normans had successfully invaded.
6	Feudal system	A system of power, where the king owned all of the land and allowed others to use it in return for them showing loyalty to the king. The next most important people were barons, then knights, then peasants. This system ensured people supported the king.
7	Domesday book	William ordered a survey of all the land ownership in England. This helped him to show he was in charge and charge taxes
8	Castles	The Normans started building castles straight away to secure their power. The first of these were made of wood, but later ones were made of stone. Strong walls kept enemies out.
9	Harrying of the North	People in northern England didn't like William. They started a rebellion. William reacted very harshly, killing many people, even those who had not rebelled.

Key terms

10	contender	A person who is competing with others to achieve something.
11	Anglo-Saxon	A group of people who ruled England between the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> centuries.
12	confession	To confess means to admit you did something bad. In the Catholic Church, confession is when you tell your sins to a priest so you can be forgiven.
13	invade	When a person tries to get power in a different country by going in with their army using violence.
14	monarch	A person who is in charge of their country because they were born into that position. A king (male) or queen (female).
15	baron	A rich and important person in Medieval England. They had a lot of land and had to be loyal to the king.
16	knight	A person with quite a bit of money and land whose job is to defend the baron and monarch above them.
17	peasant	The lowest people in Medieval England; also the largest group of people. They were very poor.
18	tax	When people have to pay money to the government or king.
19	rebellion	Going against the person in power, often with violence.

