

Learning Organiser: Why were castles so important to the Normans?

Key objective

Understand why the Normans built so many castles after conquering Britain in 1066.

Important things I will know and understand

Who William Duke of Normandy and the Normans were.

Why William invaded England in 1066.

Why the Bayeux Tapestry is such an important historical artefact.

The features of Motte and Bailey castles.

How Norman castles changed after William gained control of England.

The purpose of Norman stone castles.

Why Hereward the Wake presented a threat to Norman rule in England.

How society was organised in medieval times – knights, nobles, commoners and serfs.

Why a small number of Normans were able to subdue and rule England for three hundred years.

Why Norman castles today are such a popular tourist and visitor attraction.

Important events I will know the significance of



Battle of Hastings 1066

Important subject vocabulary I will learn

Invasion	enter a place using armed force
Conquer	overcome and take control of a place by military force
Military	the armed forces of a country
Normans	people from northern France who ruled England 1066-1399
Medieval	a period in English history known as the Middle Ages AD 500 – 1500
Feudal system	an arrangement where people worked and fought for nobles in return for protection and land to farm
Noble	a class of people of very high rank and title
Knight	a noble who served his king and fought in battle to protect the country
Intimidate	to create feelings of fear and a loss of courage in others
Deterrent	to stop someone from doing something by creating doubt or fear
Serf	someone of the lowest class such as a servant or farm labourer
Commoner	people who are not serfs but don't belong to the nobility either
Chronicle	record things in a book in the order that they happened

Important people I will study



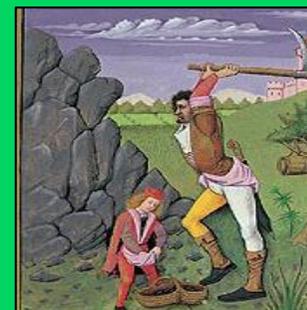
William Duke of Normandy



Harold Godwinson - King Harold II

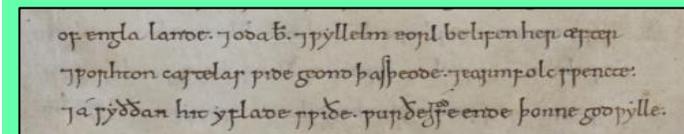


Hereward the Wake



Medieval serfs

Important artefacts I will analyse



Anglo Saxon Chronicle 1137



Bayeux Tapestry
1077

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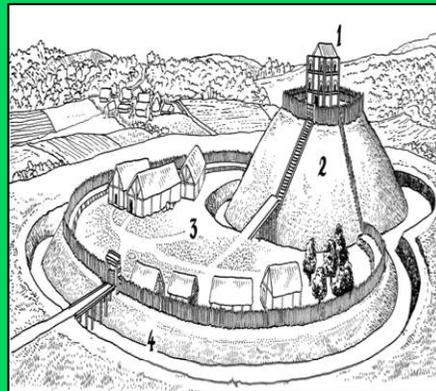
Important historical concepts I will understand

Change	the process by which something or someone becomes different.
Continuity	aspects of life which remain constant and change little over time.
Causation	the connections between events where one thing happens because of another.
Significance	identifying events, sources, people, places or ideas which are most important.
Perspective	seeing events from different viewpoints.
Sources	evidence that is used to gather information and reach judgements.
Chronology	arranging historical events in their correct time order.
Empathy	placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.
Civilisation	an advanced society with its own government, laws and written language.
Conflict	a struggle or clash between opposing forces, interests or ideas.
Conquest	gain control of a place or people by military force.
Ruler	a person who has the power to govern or control a place or territory.
Settlement	a place where a community of people live.
War	armed conflict between different countries or people within a country (civil war).
Castle	a large building designed as a fortress or stronghold against attack.

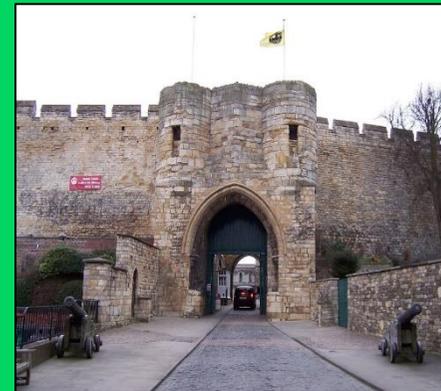
Important subject skills I will apply

Describing	giving an account of something.
Select	choosing the information most suitable and relevant.
Reason/speculate	thinking and forming ideas about something without necessarily firm evidence to back it up.
Synthesising	bringing together a range of ideas and facts from different sources to develop an explanation.
Explaining	showing understanding of how or why something is the way it is.
Empathising	placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.

Important buildings I will know about



Motte and Bailey Castles



Lincoln Castle



The White Tower, Tower of London



Conwy Castle

Timeline of the Norman Conquest of England 1066

January 4th - Edward the Confessor, King of England dies.

January 6th - Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England.

September 28th - Norman fleet led by Duke William of Normandy lands in England.

October 14th - King Harold II is defeated by William at the Battle of Hastings.

December 9th - Remaining English leaders surrender to William at London.

December 25th - Duke William is crowned King William I of England and lives until 1087.