

## Year 7) Term 1B: 1066 and the Battle of Hastings

Learning objective: To understand chronology, sources and factors through the history of 1066 and the lead-up to the Battle of Hastings.

### Assessment Skill focus:

**Factors** = different reasons for the outcome of an event.



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### **What do I need to know about the life of different people in 1066?**

- What life like in Anglo-Saxon Britain.
- What life was like for the Vikings of Norway.
- What the differences between two societies was like.



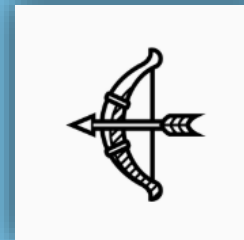
### **What do I need to know about the contenders to the throne?**

- Who Edward the Confessor was, and why he was a poor king.
- Who Harold Godwinson and Edgar the Atheling were.
- Who Harald Hardrada and William the Conqueror were.



### **What do I need to know about the Battle of Hastings in 1066?**

- What led up to the event, like the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
- Who was in the best position at the start of the Battle and why.
- Who had the best soldiers and tactics.
- How and why William of Normandy won.



### KEYWORDS:

Chronology = events put in the order that they happened.  
Sources = evidence from the past.

Interpretations = a persons opinion on a historical event.

### Key events/people:

The Anglo-Saxons  
The Vikings  
The Normans  
Edward the Confessor  
Harold Godwinson  
Harald Hardrada  
William of Normandy

5 January 1066 AD



Edward the Confessor dies leaving the throne empty.

25 September 1066 AD



The Battle of Stamford Bridge and the defeat of the Vikings

14 October 1066 AD



The Battle of Hastings begins – and ends – with the death of Harold Godwinson and the victory of William of Normandy

### What first-order concepts do I need to learn below?

*Hint: remember! A first-order concept is a word historians use to describe facts related to events.*

#### ➤ Facts on life in 1066:

- At the start of the year 1066, a king called Edward the Confessor was in charge of England.
- England under Edward was much the same as it was at the time the Staffordshire Hoard was buried – mud huts littered the landscape, settlements existed, but new forces were rising across the oceans.
- One of these forces were the Vikings. They were brutal raiders who used long boats to travel from coast-to-coast, stealing, murdering and pillaging anything they could. They were deadly warriors.

#### ➤ Facts on the different contenders to the throne:

- The Vikings were led by a fierce warrior called Harald Hardrada – a giant of a man.
- In 1066, Edward the Confessor died. He had no children, but promised the throne to many people...
- Harald Hardrada believed he should be king of England as his ancestor (King Cnut) had ruled parts of England before Edward the Confessor.
- Before Edward the Confessor died, he also promised the king to two men – William of Normandy (France), and Harold Godwinson (one of his lieutenants who ruled parts of England). The stage was set!

#### ➤ Facts on the Battle of Hastings:

- The first group to invade were the Vikings. They invaded Stamford Bridge (an area in the North of England). They were soon defeated by the Anglo-Saxons led by Harold Godwinson.
- When the Vikings were defeated, Harold heard a message that the Normans had landed in the south of England and were preparing to invade the capital.
- Harold then marched his forces 300 miles south to face off against the Normans. His troops were tired and many were still injured. The Normans used good tactics – particularly the false-retreat – to lure out Harold's forces. When his guardsmen were all-but-killed, the Norman archers fired on Godwinson.
- Harold Godwinson lay dead. William of Normandy was now the King of England, and took over.

### What second-order concepts do I need to learn below?

*Hint: remember! A 'second-order concept' is a phrase historians use to describe the history skills that are used in history – like putting events in chronological order, or analysing sources!*

- Chronology is putting events in order – such as the Battle of Stamford Bridge coming before Hastings.
- The different factors leading to William's victory, such as luck, leadership and Harold's mistakes.

### Look to the past:

Below is a primary source:  
It is part of the Bayeux Tapestry – a large piece of cloth created by the Normans after their victory in 1066. It shows Harold Godwinson with an arrow through his eye. Why would the Normans depict their moment of victory like this?

