



Year 3
The Normans



Who were the Normans?

The Normans were the next group of people to rule England after the Anglo-Saxons. They built some of our most wellknown castles, such as Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

The Normans came from northern France, and invaded England in 1066 after King Edward the Confessor died without leaving an heir to the throne. They eventually defeated the Anglo-Saxons at the Battle of Hastings in October 1066, when King Harold II was killed.

National Curriculum:

The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods.

Timeline

5th January 1066: Death of Edward the Confessor

14th October 1066: Battle of Hastings, William I (The Conqueror) becomes King.

c.1086: Completion of Domesday Book.

1087-1100: William II's reign.

1100-1135: Henry I's reign. 1st December

1135: Death of Henry I of England. He plans for his daughter Matilda to become the first Queen of England.

1135-1154: 'The Anarchy' of King Stephen 25th October

1154: Death of King Stephen of England



Enforcing Law:

The HUE AND CRY: Everyone had a duty to raise the alarm if they saw a crime taking place and everyone who heard the alarm had to help to catch the suspect.

Watchmen: Most towns had a watchman who tried to make sure that people kept to the CURFEW. They were there to prevent crime and catch criminals.

Constables: Some places had constables to keep an eye on things, but these men only had the job for a year. They had the power to arrest people, break up fights and prevent fires. They held the key to the Stocks.



14 A man in the stocks.



Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
Motte	Earth mound in which the keep was built on.
Bailey	Outer area that surrounded the motte. This was where houses, stables and so on were built.
Keep	Secure building which housed the Norman earls or those important people that needed shelter!
Barons	Member of the lowest order of the British nobility (Lord)
Rebellion	Fighting against something you disagree with.
Exchequer	Refusing to eat in order to raise awareness of an issue

Key Knowledge:

The Normans came to power in England following a three-way contest for the throne.



Norman kings controlled their lands through 'feudalism' – exchanging land with nobles for promises of military support.

King William made a survey of his kingdom called the Domesday Book. It was made to expand his power and raise tax – and it was the most complete survey of Britain until the Victorian period.



After the death of King Henry I, many nobles began building their own castles outside of the king's control.



Castles

- The Normans built castles as bases for offensive patrols into the surrounding area.
- From castles, the Normans could attack.
- Norman castles were large, imposing buildings that were built to intimidate, bully and administrate the local area. They commanded the landscape in every direction.
- The location was incredibly important. They had to be high enough to see attackers coming, defend important routes such as the old Roman roads or river crossings, have easy access to resources such as wood, food and water, and also have natural advantages for defence.
- Castles were often located near a bend in the river or on the coast as the water could provide a natural moat.