

Year 7 – Medieval History: 1066 - Autumn 1

Week 1:
Key terms and definitions

decade	A period of 10 years. For example, the years 1960-1969 are called the 1960s, nicknamed the 'Swinging Sixties'.
century	A period of 100 years. For example, you were born in the 21 st century (which can be written C21st).
chronology	The study of dates and dating. From the Greek word 'chronos' meaning time.
BC	Before Christ. More commonly referred to now as BCE- 'before the common era'.
AD	Anno Domini. Refers to the period after the birth of Jesus (for Christians). More commonly referred to as CE- 'common era'.
Challenge:	Can you write a definition for 'anachronism'?

Week 2:
1066: The Three Claimants

Edward the Confessor	Was King of England until his death in January 1066. He had no heir to the throne. Three men thought they should be the next king.
William of Normandy	Duke of Normandy. Friends with Edward. Edward had lived in Normandy growing up. Claims that Edward had promised him the English throne when he died.
Harald Hardrada	King of Norway. No links to King Edward but there was a history of Vikings ruling England e.g. Canute, 1016-1035. Most feared warrior in Europe. Had the support of Tostig, Harold Godwinson's brother.
Harold Godwinson	Earl of Wessex. One of the most powerful men in England. Harold's sister was married to King Edward. The Witan (council) wanted Harold to be the next king. Claims that Edward promised him the throne.
Challenge:	Can you add 1 more fact about each man?

Week 3:
Events leading to the Battle of Hastings

May	Harold guards the south coast of England.
July-August	William prepares to invade. His ships are ready by the middle of August.
Sept 8	Harold sends his army home to gather in the harvest.
Sept 18	Harold hears that Hardrada has landed in the north of England.
Sept 20	Hardrada defeats Harold at the Battle of Fulford.
Sept 25	Harold defeats Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
Sept 27-29	William sets sail for England, landing the following day on Pevensey beach. William's men start to prepare for battle.
Oct 2	Harold's army march south covering 50 miles a day.
Oct 13	Harold reaches Hastings during the night.
Oct 14	The Normans and Saxons fight the Battle of Hastings.
Challenge:	Who was best prepared for the Battle of Hastings?

Week 4:
Normans vs. Saxons: Who was best prepared for battle?

Saxons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harold led around 7500 men. 500 housecarls (trained professional soldiers). 7000 fyrd (soldiers who were usually farmers but fought when needed). Favoured weapon was a battle-axe. Some housecarls rode horses but most were on foot. Only the housecarls wore chainmail/armor.
Normans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William's army was around 7500 men. He also brought 4000 blacksmiths, carpenters, medics and cooks. All soldiers were fully trained. Infantry all carried a sword and a spear. Cavalry soldiers fought on horses. Archers were the only section of William's army that didn't wear armor.
Challenge:	Which army was best equipped for battle?

Week 5:
Why did the Normans win the Battle of Hastings?

Harold and his men had just fought a battle in the north and marched south.	The wind changed in Normandy at the perfect time for William to set sail for England.
Harold fought with foot soldiers and the fyrd, making it difficult for them to move quickly.	William used the trick of retreating to bring the English soldiers down the hill.
The English chased the Normans down the hill, coming away from their shield wall.	The Normans had skilled cavalry. (Knights on horseback.)
Challenge: Categorise these reasons and add three more of your own.	

Week 6:
Source interpretation: How did King Harold die?

historical source	A piece of evidence about the past. It could be a photo, a letter, a history book or even a tapestry!
provenance	Where the source comes from e.g. who it is by and when they wrote it.
purpose	Why did someone write/draw/make this source?
reliability	Can you trust this source to tell you the truth about how King Harold died? Why/why not?
usefulness	How useful is the source for finding out about how King Harold died? Does it help you to learn about this topic?
Challenge:	Why might you trust a source written by a Norman about how Harold died?

