

# THE NORMANS

## Timeline

Anglo-Saxons 410-1066	The Normans 1066-1154	The Plantagenets 1154-1485	The Tudors 1485-1603	The Stuarts 1603-1714
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## Key Vocabulary

<b>Norsemen</b>	People who lived in Scandinavian countries during medieval times.
<b>Normandy</b>	A region in the north of France.
<b>Anglo-Saxons</b>	A group of people who settled in England in the early medieval times.
<b>Norman Conquest</b>	When the Normans invaded and gained control of England.
<b>invade</b>	To send in an army to take over land.
<b>Edward the Confessor</b>	The last rightful King of the Anglo-Saxons.
<b>census</b>	A survey of people living in an area.
<b>tax</b>	Money that must be paid to the government.

The Normans were a group of people, who descended from Norseman that had settled in **Normandy**, France. The Normans were skilled warriors and after taking over **Normandy**, they decided to take over more land. In 1066, after the death of the **Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Confessor**, they decided to **invade** England. This was called the **Norman Conquest**.

## Battle of Hastings

The most important battle of the **Norman Conquest** was the Battle of Hastings. King Harold II became King of the **Anglo-Saxons** after **Edward the Confessor's** death. During the battle, Harold II was killed by the Normans. This led to William the Conqueror, who was the Duke of **Normandy**, becoming the first Norman King of England. The Normans made their way to London and he was crowned at Westminster Abbey.



## Bayeux Tapestry

Most of the information that we have of the **Norman Conquest** comes from the Bayeux Tapestry. This is a 70-metre long piece of fabric which is embroidered with key events of the time. It was created in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and begins with the death of **Edward the Confessor** and ends with the Battle of Hastings.



## Clothing

Norman clothing was originally simple and practical. It was usually made from wool or linen that would have been dyed using plants. After the **Norman Conquest**, they began to use embroidery to decorate clothes as the Anglo-Saxons did. It was fashionable for women to wear wimples, which were large pieces of cloth that they used to cover their head and neck.

## Motte-And-Bailey Castles

During the Normans' reign, they built many castles known as motte-and-bailey castles. These were made of two parts:





- the motte – a mound of earth with a flat top, where a keep would be (this was where the king or lord would stay)
- the bailey – where the working people would live

They were made from wood or stone and would be surrounded by a wall and sometimes a moat to stop enemies from **invading**.

Windsor Castle and the Tower of London are two famous motte-and-bailey castles that were originally built by the Normans.



## Norman Monarchs

 William I (the Conqueror)	The first of the Norman kings. (1066-1087)
 William II (Rufus)	William's son. He was called Rufus (meaning reddish) due to his complexion. He was killed by a stray arrow in the New Forest.
 Henry I (Beauclerc)	Henry I was given the name Beauclerc meaning 'good scholar' as he was known for his intelligence. After his death, his daughter Matilda was not made Queen as many thought a woman could not rule the country.
 Stephen	Stephen became King as he was the grandson of William I. He was an unpopular king and was forced to give the crown to Matilda's son, Henry II. Henry II was the first king of the Plantagenets and this marked the end of the Norman period.

## The Domesday Book

In 1085, William I ordered a **census** of all the people in England and what they owned. This allowed him to find out how much **tax** people owed and who they should pay it to. The book was over 413 pages long and written by one person.

