

Anglo-Saxons and the Norman Conquest Knowledge Organiser

KLT 1: Anglo-Saxon England

- Anglo-Saxon England was not one country—but 5 kingdoms that spent a lot of time at war with each other.



King Offa

- King Offa was the ruler of one of Anglo-Saxon's kingdoms: Mercia.
- Tamworth was the capital of Mercia during parts of Anglo-Saxon England.
- Sometimes, King Offa is referred to as the "first king of the English" as he united some of the kingdoms at times.
- Offa is famous for building "Offa's Dyke", which created the border between England and Wales.

KLT 1: Claimants to the throne in 1066

Harold Godwinson - Saxon who had already been ruling much of the South already

Harald Hardrada - Viking ruler who had lots of battle experience

William of Normandy - Claims to have been promised the throne, ruled over large empire

Edgar the Aethling - related to previous king but only a young boy



KLT 1: Battle of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge

After Harold Godwinson was chosen to be king, he faced invasion from other claimants who were unhappy.

Hardrada invaded from the north. He was first met by Harold's allies Tostig Godwinson and Edwin of Morcar. This went disastrously for Harold as they were easily defeated and even joined Hardrada. Harold and his army rushed to meet them to stop the invasion. The Vikings were defeated but soon after the battle, Harold heard news that William was invading from the south

KLT 1: Battle of Hastings

Tired and unprepared, Harold's men rushed to the south to meet William. The battle took place on Senlac Hill in Hastings.

William's men were better prepared, with cavalry and long-range archers. Harold's men performed their famous shield wall on top of the hill and made it hard for William to break through.

A fake retreat tactic was used by the Normans and the shield wall broke—soon after Harold was killed. William became king.

How did William increase the power of the monarchy?

- Domesday book

William ordered a survey of the entire land of England. He wrote down every village and town, and how big the houses were and how much people earned. He used this information to begin taxing people.

- Harrying of the North

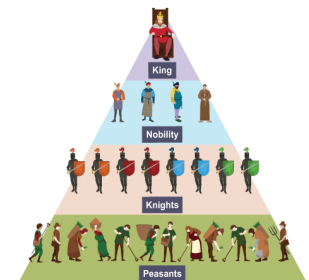
People all over England didn't like William as their new king. There were many rebellions. William was extremely brutal with his response. The most famous was the "Harrying of the north" in which entire villages were executed and their land burned so that no one could live there for decades.

- Castles

It was under William that castles were first properly built in England. Wooden motte and bailey castles were quickly built to protect the new Normans who came to live in England. They were then replaced by stone keep castles over time.

- Feudal System

This made it so the king owned all land in England and everyone underneath were obliged to honour that.



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| Key word | Definition |
|---------------|--|
| Kingdom | A region, state or province controlled by a Monarch. |
| Mercia | A kingdom within Anglo-Saxon England. For a period, a man called Offa was King of Mercia. Tamworth was the capital of Mercia. |
| Government | The people who normally ran the country below the King. In the Anglo-Saxon period 410 AD to 1066 AD the government was called the Privy Council. |
| Claimant | A person who believes they have a right to own or have something. For example, 4 people had a "claim" to become the king of England in 1066. |
| Parliament | The group of (usually) elected politicians or MPs (Members of Parliament) who make the laws for their country. |
| Anglo-Saxon | Period in British history whereby England was inhabited by people known as the Angles and the Saxons. These people originated from Europe and moved to Britain. They lived there from around the year 410. This period ended with the Norman Conquest in 1066. |
| Norman | A Norman is a person who originates from an area in the north of France called Normandy. |
| Conquest | When a person or country takes over another country or area through violence and warfare. |
| Hierarchy | When the Anglo-Saxon society was arranged in a pyramid formation with the largest strata being the peasants (villeins) at the base of the pyramid. Anglo-Saxon society was fixed and organic. |
| Feudal System | A slavery system created by William The Conqueror which denied peasants the chance to make any progress. William offered nobles and knights the benefits of owning land and wealth in order to keep them loyal to him. |
| Heir | The next in line to the throne of England connected to their first born. |
| Domesday Book | A large book ordered to be created by William I after his conquest of England. In it, he recorded every town and village in England to work out how much money people had and how much money he could tax them. |
| Revolt | Revolt means rebellion and uprising against any Monarch/Head of State. |
| Monarchy | Collective term for any Royal Family and King/Queen which rule and govern the particular country. |
| Peasants | Following William's creation of the Feudal System, peasants were at the bottom of the hierarchy and not allowed to own land, earn a wage and freely move around England. |
| Barons | A group of people in the Feudal System that are below the king. They are in control of the different regions around England and collect tax for the king as well as maintain law and order. |
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