

## Year 7 HT3 – The Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest took place in 1066 when William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invaded and defeated King Harold of England at the Battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest was a significant event that happened in 1066. It was when a group of people from Normandy, which is in modern-day France, invaded England. Led by their leader, William the Conqueror, the Normans defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings and became the rulers of England. This event brought many changes to England, including a new language (French) and a different way of governing. The Normans built impressive castles and introduced new laws and customs. They also had a big impact on the English language, as words from French became part of the English vocabulary. The Norman Conquest marked a turning point in English history and had a lasting influence on the country's culture and society.

This event marked the beginning of Norman rule in England and had significant implications for the country's political and cultural development in the centuries that followed.

Concurrent historical events in the UK:

1. The reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066): King Edward ruled England prior to the Norman Conquest and was known for his religious devotion and building of Westminster Abbey.
2. The Battle of Stamford Bridge (1066): This battle took place just three weeks before the Battle of Hastings and saw King Harold defeat the Norwegian king Harald Hardrada.
3. The Harrying of the North (1069-1070): This was a campaign led by William the Conqueror to suppress rebellion in the north of England and involved a brutal suppression of the local population.
4. The Domesday Book (1086): Completed in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest, this survey of land ownership in England was commissioned by William the Conqueror and provided a detailed record of the country's feudal structure.

Key historical events around the world:

1. The Battle of Manzikert (1071): This battle marked the beginning of the decline of the Byzantine Empire and paved the way for Turkish expansion into Anatolia.
2. The First Crusade (1096-1099): Launched by Pope Urban II in response to Muslim expansion in the Holy Land, this was the first of a series of religious wars fought over control of Jerusalem.
3. The Battle of Hastings (1066): This was not only a key event in British history, but also had implications for European politics, as it marked the beginning of a strong Norman presence in northern France.
4. The Song Dynasty (960-1279): This period of Chinese history saw significant technological advancements, including the development of movable type printing and gunpowder.

### Further reading:

Fiction:

Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess" by Richard Platt - A fictional diary of a young page in a castle during the Norman Conquest

Non fiction:

1066: The Year of the Conquest" by David Howarth - A well-written historical account of the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings and its aftermath.