

Year 7 Medieval History Knowledge Organiser Part 1

Rationale: In this unit you will consider the reasons why the Normans won the Battle of Hastings. We think this is a big, significant question because William of Normandy was the last person to invade England and conquer it. You will go on to explore the consequences of the Norman conquest, things like castle-building, the feudal system and rebellions.

Key concepts	
1. Cause	A reason why something happens.
2. Consequence	A result of something happening (can be good or bad).
3. Evidence	Clues which tell us about the past.
4. Similarity	Something that is the same or similar to something else
5. Difference	Something that is different to something else
Key events	
6. Succession crisis, 1066	When King Edward died, there was no clear heir to the throne. This is called a succession crisis.
7. Battle of Stamford Bridge, 1066	Battle for the English throne at Stamford Bridge, Yorkshire, between King Harold and the King of Norway, Harald Hardrada.
8. Battle of Hastings, 1066	Battle for the England throne just outside of Hastings between King Harold and William, Duke of Normandy. Harold was defeated and William was crowned king of England.
9. Harrying of the North, 1069-70	Following a rebellion in the north of England, William I destroyed all of the crops, livestock and homes in the area.
Key people	
10. Edward 'the Confessor'	King of England from 1042-1066. He had no children, so when he died there was no clear heir to the throne.
11. Harold Godwinson	The Earl of Wessex - he was a rich and powerful English earl who became King of England in 1066 when Edward the Confessor died.
12. Edgar 'Aetheling'	King Edward's great-nephew, who was given the title 'Aetheling', meaning 'of royal blood'.
13. Harald Hardrada	The Viking King of Norway, who believed that an old pact between the kings of Norway and England gave him the right to the English throne.
14. William of Normandy	King Edward's second-cousin, who fought King Harold for the English throne in 1066. He was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066.

Key vocabulary	
15. Heir	The person who is next in line for the throne.
16. Succession	When a new king replaces the old king.
17. Witan	A council made up of the most important people in England. They chose the next king when the old one died.
18. Housecarls	Professional and highly trained Anglo-Saxon soldiers
19. Fyrd	An army made up of peasants who were called up to fight when England was in danger.
20. Archers	Soldiers who fight with bows and arrows.
21. Infantry	Soldiers who fight on foot.
22. Knights	Highly-trained soldiers, who fought in armour and on horseback.
23. Cavalry	Soldiers who fight on horseback.
24. Shield wall	A tactic used by the Anglo-Saxons. They held their shields in front of them, forming a defensive 'wall'.
25. Feigned retreat	A tactic used by the Normans. They pretended to flee so the Anglo-Saxons would run after them, breaking their shield-wall.
26. Motte and bailey castles	A large mound of earth, topped with a large wooden tower, surrounded by large courtyard.
27. Harrying	To repeatedly attack an area
28. Livestock	Farm animals such as cows and sheep which are to be used as food.
29. Famine	An extreme shortage of food which causes starvation and death.
30. Feudal system	A system in which land was exchanged for service.
31. Tenants-in-chief	Important barons and bishops who held land directly from the king.
32. Barons	Rich and important men who advised the king, they formed the nobility
33. Under-tenant	Usually knights who held land from a tenant-in-chief. Also, lords of the manor.
34. Peasant	They farmed the land they rented from their lord.
35. Homage	The act of showing loyalty to the king.
36. Town charter	Allowed the people of a town to run a town themselves.
37. Guild	Organisations that represented tradesmen in towns. There was a different guild for each trade.