



ENGLISH HERITAGE

THE **KidsRule!** GUIDE TO...

THE NEW  
MAGAZINE  
FOR YOUNG  
MEMBERS!

# The NORMAN CONQUEST

## CASTLE COMPETITION

Make your own mini  
Norman fortress to win  
a goody bag worth  
**£100!**

## Knight challenge

See if you could  
make it as a  
hero or heroine  
on horseback!

## LOOK INSIDE...

Take a peek  
within the  
walls of  
Richmond  
Castle

## DRESS- UP TIME

HAVE YOUR  
OWN BATTLE  
OF HASTINGS  
WITH OUR  
1066 KIT!

# 1066 AND ALL THAT

How William the Conqueror won the  
battle to become the king of England

**INSIDE**

• MEDIEVAL MUNCHIES • LOLS!  
• MEGA POSTER! • WOW FACTS!

IT'S NOT  
JOUST A  
MAGAZINE!





# THE STORMING NORMANS

They came, they fought, they conquered – and they were rather keen on building castles too!

**The Normans were descended from Vikings who settled in Normandy in France.** In 1066 a few thousand Normans sailed over to England and changed the course of British history.

When the English king, Edward the Confessor, died without an heir, three men claimed the throne as theirs. Two of them, Harold of the Anglo-Saxons and Harald of the Norwegians, fought a battle in northern England, while the Normans, under Duke William, landed in the south. Harold and the Anglo-Saxons won the first battle but, after a long march to meet William's army, they were defeated by the Normans at the famous Battle of Hastings (see page 6), which made William the new king of England.

## KINGS OF THE CASTLES

Over the next few decades this small army of Normans took control of the whole country by building lots of motte-and-bailey castles (page 13). These were built of wood and earth but eventually became the huge stone buildings that still stand all over the country today (page 11). From their castles the Normans ruled

England, building churches (page 12), changing the laws, language and everyday life of people in England. Ordinary

**I'M A VERY IMPORTANT PARSON!**



**CLICK HERE**  
to see a **Harold vs William** video!

people now had to live and work under William's knights and barons (page 4) who owned all the land, demanded food and taxes from them and also spoke French instead of English. In fact, we still speak many Norman words in everyday English today (page 15).

After centuries of battling with invaders from Scandinavia, England was now linked with Europe, and it was the Norman influence that helped to turn England into one of the richest, most powerful kingdoms.



**Battle cry**  
Find out about the Battle of Hastings and Battle Abbey on page 6

## Norman Conquest timeline

The key dates following the Battle of Hastings



**JAN 1066**

Edward the Confessor dies. Harold Godwinson is named king

**SEP 1066**

Harald Hardrada claims the throne but is defeated by King Harold at Stamford Bridge



**OCT 1066**

The Battle of Hastings. William's Normans beat Harold's Anglo-Saxons

**DEC 1066**

William is crowned king of England on Christmas Day, which was his best present that year



# WIN

## A COOL GOODY BAG!

Make a mini Norman castle and send us a photo for your chance to win!

We've got a goody bag worth £100 to give away to the reader who makes the best mini motte-and-bailey castle (see page 13 for inspiration). This can be out of cake, clay, papier mâché – anything you want! Go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids) to find out how to enter

LOL!

What was the knight's favourite game?  
Knights and crosses!

# CONTENTS

4

## A day at Rochester Castle

Meet a young kitchen boy

6

## Let's go to Battle Abbey

Visit the scene of the Battle of Hastings

8

## Norman settlement poster

The next part of your mega timeline!

10

## Norman knight quiz

See if you could be hero on horseback!

11

## Look inside...

Discover life within Richmond Castle

12

## Castle Acre guide

Explore this Norman castle and priory

13

## Spotter's guide

Motte-and-bailey castles explained

14

## What's for dinner?

A festive feast at Sherborne Old Castle

15

## Norman know-how

More fun, games and quizzes

16

## Dress-up time

King Harold and William selfie kit

This magazine is published on behalf of English Heritage by Immediate Media Co. [www.immediate.co.uk](http://www.immediate.co.uk)

### For English Heritage

Luke Whitcomb, Johanna Lovesey, Tersia Boorer, Tony Dike, Rebecca Thompson

### For Immediate Media Co

Group editor Matt Havercroft Art editor Sam Freeman  
Group production editor Oliver Hurley Senior account manager Laura Connelly Director Julie Williams  
Editorial director Dan Linstead Design director Will Slater

### Contributors

Jeremy Ashbee, Michael Carter, Adam Rees

### Illustration and photographs

Wesley Robins, Michael Gambriel



ENGLISH  
HERITAGE

PSSST! SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT ME ON PAGE 8!

200340



1068

Following a few rebellions, King William begins building castles to enforce his power



1069

William marches north and ends the final pockets of resistance against him

1077

Work begins on the Bayeux Tapestry, which tells the tale of the Norman Conquest

1086

William has a survey taken about the people who live in England, called the Domesday Book



1087

William dies and is succeeded by his son William II, having changed British history



# A day in the life...

Meet Henry, a kitchen servant at Rochester Castle in 1154



Everyone else in the castle gets up at sunrise but Henry and the other kitchen servants have to wake even earlier to get breakfast ready.



Henry helps serve the lord constable, Reginald, and his family a breakfast of bread, meat, fish and ale, which is a lot safer to drink than water.

Henry needs to light the fire under the oven. A lot of bread needs to be baked so the fire is big and extremely hot.



It's a big day in the kitchen as there's a feast tonight for the lord's birthday. His wife, the lady of the castle, goes to the kitchen to check on preparations.



Henry leaves the castle to meet his friend Oliver, a squire, who is training to be a knight. The other squires are practising with weapons.



Oliver has just been on a hunt and has some rabbits the falcon caught for the feast.

Henry makes one more stop at the castle's brewhouse to pick up some ale for the feast. The brewer seems a little bit sleepy.



Back in the kitchen Henry and his friend Joan are making custard and swan-shaped sotiltees (sugar sculptures) for the table.



The feast is a big occasion. The lady of the house puts Henry to work in the great hall, sweeping the floors and starting the fire.



The feast begins and Henry and Jean carry plates of roast meat and jugs of ale and wine for the guests.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the most important guest at the feast. Henry is extremely nervous about meeting him.



After a long day Henry is exhausted. He has to be up in a few hours to do it all again.







# LET BATTLE COMMENCE!

## MARCHING TO VICTORY?

After marching south after defeating Harald Hardrada's army at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire, Harold's Saxon army lined up on a hill around eight miles from Hastings to meet William's Norman army. Harold's men were tired but were led by Harold's fierce troops, who held spears and axes behind a wall of shields.

## A HILL TO CLIMB

On the ground below, William's Norman army lined up. He had the same number of men but, crucially, he had archers, who could kill from a distance, and his swift, well-trained cavalry on horseback. If he wanted the throne of England he was going to have to take the hill.

## HOLDING STEADY

William's men attacked up the slope all day, with exhausted knights coming back down the hill to have a break. Though they were being weakened, Harold's Saxons held firm and, as night approached, they hoped to hold on for victory.

## TRICKY TACTICS

With masterful tactics, William ordered his men to retreat and lots of the Saxons left the hill, running after the Normans. But it was a trick! The retreating Normans turned around to kill their pursuers, leaving just a few Saxons left.



# E

**LOL!**

What did  
Harold say  
when he was  
hit by an arrow?  
**I'm all  
aquiver!**

## INTERVIEW WITH KING HAROLD AND WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

We sent young Member Will to the Battle of Hastings battlefield to meet the rivals!

**Where did you land your boats?**

**William:** We arrived in Pevensey Bay. We constructed fortifications there until we moved near Hastings and could build a more secure base.

**Why do you want to keep the English crown so much?**

**Harold:** This Norman invader wants to change the way we live and change the way our church is run.

**William, why do you think you're going to win?**

**William:** We have the most modern army. I will press first with infantry, shower their shield wall with archery and sweep down with cavalry.

**Harold, how do you think you're going to fight off William's men?**

**Harold:** Simple. We have taken the high ground, we have denied him the road to London. He cannot go past us because the whole land is covered in forest. We will simply hold our ground here at the top of the hill with strong, brave men.

### WATCH THE VIDEO

[Click here](#) to see our interview with Harold and William!



## RETREAT AND SURRENDER

With one final push the Normans overran the brave Saxon forces on the hill. King Harold was killed, either by a horseman or by an arrow through the eye. Leaderless, the last of Harold's men surrendered. William had won.

## PAYING RESPECT

Six years after the battle, William founded an abbey on the battlefield. It was to give thanks for his victory and to honour those lost that day. The church's altar was built on the spot where Harold's body was found after the battle, meaning the church had to be built in an awkward place on top of the hill.





ENGLISH HERITAGE



**ENGLAND  
THROUGH  
THE AGES**

COLLECT  
ALL 12  
POSTERS!

The king has given this land to a lord, who has built a castle to control the area. He rents the land to knights who defend the village. Peasants are granted pockets of land in return for work or goods.





### Over to you!

- What work are the peasants and children doing?
- What job would you enjoy most?
- Can you see a relic of Saxon rule?
- Where is the lord's castle?

### Collect them all!

This is the fourth of **12 posters** you can collect to make a mega timeline of English history. You can get the first three at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids)





# Quiz time...

IT'S KNIGHT TIME!



# COULD YOU MAKE IT AS A NORMAN KNIGHT

You've been a squire learning how to be a knight for several years. Today is your final exam. Will you get knighted? Good luck!

## 1 How do you take on your enemy in battle?

- ☐ A) On horseback with your lance
- ☐ B) Stay back with the archers and shoot
- ☐ C) Challenge your opponent to a boxing match
- ☐ D) Dismount and use your sword

## 2 The battle is going well but William orders your cavalry to retreat. Do you...

- ☐ A) Run away as fast as you can to the nearest pub
- ☐ B) Ignore William, carry on fighting against the Saxons
- ☐ C) Call William a plonker and demand he lets you take charge
- ☐ D) Retreat halfway down the hill and wait for the next command

## 3 Jousting is a crucial skill for tournaments and battle. Who do you practise against?

- ☐ A) Your defenceless squire
- ☐ B) A mannequin holding a shield
- ☐ C) Another knight in full armour
- ☐ D) A chicken riding a pig

## 4 What do you do with the knight you've defeated?

- ☐ A) Strip him of his armour
- ☐ B) Accept his surrender
- ☐ C) Finish him off for good
- ☐ D) Get him to give you a piggyback home

## 5 What's the best way to attack an enemy's castle?

- ☐ A) Scale the walls with ladders
- ☐ B) Batter the gates and walls with rams and catapults
- ☐ C) Tunnel under the walls
- ☐ D) Surround the castle and wait for the defenders to starve



## GOOD KNIGHT CHALLENGES

Put your knightly skills to the test to see if you are truly up to the task

### 1 Do the maths

The Saxons are 889m away. Your horse will be too tired if it gallops more than 232m. How far will you have to trot before you can ride full speed at the Saxons?

### 2 Sword swinging

Grab a pillow from your bed and make sure you have lots and lots of room. Swing the pillow as if it was a sword, using all your strength. How long before you're panting for breath?

### 3 Design a shield

Norman knights used oval-shaped shields and decorated them with animals, crosses and other patterns. Can you design your own?

### 4 Carry the load

You have a sword, shield, lance, mace, knife, helmet, chain mail, boots and saddle. How do you transport it around and get changed into it before battle? Can you do it on your own?

Answers: 1 A) Score the enemy with a cavalry charge. 2 D) Turn back and ride down the enemy when they follow. 3 B) It's safest to train against a dummy. 4 B) Knights treated enemies with honour. 5 D) It's boring and ride down the enemy when they follow.





# Look inside... Richmond Castle

Discover what life was like within this Norman castle's walls

**1 Walking the walls**  
High stone walls topped with crenellations meant that Richmond Castle had formidable defences. This was an important landmark feature, and it is likely nobles would stroll along it too.

**2 A great feast**  
This large open hall is where the lord feasted with his family and guests. The most important people sat at a table at one end of the room. Heating was provided by a fire in the centre.

**3 Luxury living**  
This room provided private sleeping accommodation for the lord. His comfortable bed had mattresses, pillows and blankets, and a roaring fire ensured the room was cozy.

**4 Mind that fire!**  
A large kitchen was needed to prepare the massive quantities of food consumed in the castle's hall. It was located away from other buildings to reduce the risk of fire.

**5 Down below**  
Cellars provided ample and secure storage for the provisions consumed in the hall. Wine in vats was imported from France and beer would have been brewed at the castle.

**6 How the other half lived**  
The castle was also home to servants and craftsmen. They lived in simple wooden-framed buildings. But at Christmas, everyone enjoyed food, drink and the warmth of a fire.

Discover more about Richmond Castle at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/richmond](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/richmond)

**Can you spot it?**

Soldier standing guard



Monk on his way to prayers



A domestic servant on duty





# VILLAGE PEOPLE

Discover more about life at Castle Acre, a well-preserved Norman village in Norfolk that dates from the 11th century

## NORFOLK VILLAGE

Castle Acre is a remote village in Norfolk. It's special because it's a rare surviving example of a Norman settlement. You can still see the castle, church and priory, as well as the gateways into the village.

## BIG CASTLE

A Norman knight called William de Warenne built the castle soon after he fought for William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. It's one of the most impressive earthwork enclosure castles in the country.

## SPECIAL PRIORY

The priory dates from 1090 and was founded by William de Warenne's son. For nearly 450 years, it was home to an order of monks called Cluniac monks. It was also a stopping point for royalty and nobility.

## EARLY START

Up to 36 monks lived here, along with a lot of servants. The monks had a strict routine that included worshipping in church eight times a day. The first service started at two o'clock in the morning!

To learn more or to plan a visit to Castle Acre, go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk/castleacrepriory](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/castleacrepriory)

## Spot the difference

Find the five differences between these two photos of Castle Acre Priory



ANSWERS 1 Sky in bottom-left. 2 Slab at bottom-left. 3 Window at top-right. 4 Missing two small arches on left-hand tower. 5 Top of roof on building on left





# NORMAN CASTLES

The Normans left lots of castles across England but do you know what makes them different from other castles? Here are some of the clues to look out for...

After winning the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror started building lots of castles throughout England to defend his troops as they advanced across the country. To begin with, they built motte-and-bailey castles using earth and timber. It is believed that the Normans built as many as 1,000 castles like this in England. Later, once William had firmly established his rule, the Normans built huge stone keep castles. Many of these can still be seen across England. Here are things to look out for to know if a castle is Norman or not...

**THEN**



Many castles have been changed over time or are ruins, so you might not be able to spot everything!

## 1 The motte

The earth mound the castle was built on. It has steep sides to make it difficult for enemies to attack.

## 2 Moat and drawbridge

A moat would have surrounded both the motte and bailey to protect them, with a single drawbridge used to enter. This could be lifted up if the castle was under attack.

## 3 The keep

Most Norman castles had a big stone keep, which provided the main accommodation and a lookout tower, topped by a wall that archers could shoot arrows from.

## 4 The bailey

This is the area at the bottom of the motte, where workers would have lived in Norman times.

**NOW**

## Arched doorways

Curved doorways were very fashionable in Norman times!

## Small windows

Norman windows tended to have round arches and were small – they let smoke out, but let a little light in, and rarely had glass.

## Winding staircases

Some people say these were designed to make attackers climb clockwise and fight with their left (and often weaker) hand.



# What's for dinner?

A festive Norman feast is taking place at Sherborne Old Castle. But can you guess what's on the Christmas lunch menu?

Feasts were important events for the Normans and they were used to celebrate special occasions such as Christmas or the completion of the harvest. The food given to people and where they were seated depended on their status. Let's join the Norman bishop Roger of Salisbury as he hosts a Christmas feast...

**LOL!**

What sort of fish did Norman knights eat?  
**Swordfish!**



## Fish and seafood

People would eat tench (a type of carp) and eels, which would often be used to make a broth. Nobles sometimes ate whales and seals.

## Meat

Lavish feasts would include meat such as roasted wild boar (served with an apple in its mouth), roasted peacock or roast venison (deer).

## Jellies and custards

These were dyed a variety of bright colours, using sandalwood for red, saffron for yellow and boiled animal blood for black!

## Bread

In Norman times, instead of using plates, people ate their food off stale bread, which was known as a 'trencher'.

## Potage

This was a really thick soup made up of meat and vegetables that had been boiled together. It was eaten by everyone, even peasants.

## Cheese

Cheese was one of the Normans' favourite types of food. In fact, Wensleydale cheese dates from Norman times.

**Make a tasty Norman treat!**

The Normans loved to eat sweet food, including a type of sweetmeat that was like a date loaf. Go to our website at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids) to find out how you can make it yourself!



# NORMAN KNOW-HOW

More Norman-themed fun, games and silliness

**LOL!**  
Who did the Normans marry?  
**Norwomans**

## NORMAN OR 'NO WAY MAN!'?

As the Normans won the Battle of Hastings, they became the ruling class in England for centuries and drastically changed the language. See if you can spot the eight everyday words that were introduced by the Normans and the two imposters – try putting on a French accent as you do it to see if that helps!

**SOLDIER** **POULTRY**

**FAVOURITE** **SWEAT**

**MILITARY** **KENNEL**

**PROPERTY**

**NOBLE**

**DIRT**

**CUSTARD**

**PHEW, THIS IS TOUGH!**



## Nosy Normans!

Once the Normans had invaded England they conducted a huge survey to see who lived where and what they owned. This survey was called the Domesday Book and included all sorts of useful information to help the Normans rule. Which four of these questions do you think they asked?

- What is the manor called?
- Who owns it?
- What's your favourite song?
- How many people live there?
- How much woodland is there?



## TRUE OR FALSE?

Now you know a bit more about the Normans, see if you can guess whether the following statements are fact or fiction

1. William the Conqueror invented the game of conkers
2. The Normans got their name from the Vikings
3. They covered their houses in grass so they could play football on the roof
4. The Normans won at Hastings because the Anglo-Saxons were too drunk
5. The Normans were better builders than the Anglo-Saxons

## MAKE YOUR OWN BAYEUX TAPESTRY

The Bayeux Tapestry was the comic of its day, telling the story of how William defeated his enemy Harold. Now it's your turn! You can make your own Bayeux Tapestry based on anything you like. Your summer holiday? Your favourite bit of history? How about a story you've made up on your own? Whatever



you do, decide on three or four important scenes. Write a sentence describing each as a guide and write them across the top of a sheet of paper. Then on the rest of the paper draw the scenes as they unfolded to tell your story. For real authenticity try and make the people look like those pictured in the Bayeux Tapestry.

**ANSWERS:** Norman or No Way Man? Sweat is an Anglo-Saxon word and the word dirt was introduced by the Vikings. True or False? 1. False – Conkers was first recorded in the 1800s. 2. True – Norman means 'north men', alluding to the raiders from Norway. 3. False – However, they did use grass to keep their houses a good temperature. 4. False – It was common for soldiers to drink before battle though! 5. True – Many Norman buildings still stand. Not many Anglo-Saxon ones do.



# INSTANT DRESS-UP KIT

Dress up as King  
Harold or William  
the Conqueror  
with our selfie kit

## STEP 1

Go to  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/kids)  
and download the printable props

## STEP 2

Print out the prop templates and  
glue each of the pages on to card

## STEP 3

Cut them out to create your props

## STEP 4

Attach string or elastic on to  
the masks. Choose from  
King Harold or William the Conqueror

## STEP 5

Strike a pose and ask a  
grown-up to share a photo of  
you in your 1066 kit! Use  
#EHmembership and tag  
@EnglishHeritage



Say 'hello'  
to King  
Harold!

### LET BATTLE BEGIN!

Turn back to  
page 6 to learn  
about the events  
of the Battle of  
Hastings

### COOL EXTRAS!

We've got a  
sword and a  
William the  
Conqueror  
mask and beard

