

1066

William the Conqueror's decisive victory at the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066, swept aside Anglo-Saxon rule, bringing about a new social order, language and political system that had a lasting impact on Britain



Bayeux Tapestry section showing death of Harold



Jan 5, 1066
King Edward the Confessor (right) dies without heir, sparking English succession crisis



July: William readies invasion fleet. Harold's English army gathers in south

Sep: Viking invasion led by Hardrada defeats northern English army and occupies York



Jan **Feb** **Mar** **Apr** **May** **Jun** **Jul** **Aug** **Sep** **Oct** **Nov** **Dec**

Jan 6: Harold of Wessex – Edward's brother-in-law – crowned **King Harold II**. Throne also claimed by Edward's distant cousin, **William, Duke of Normandy** (right), and Norwegian king **Harald Hardrada**

April: Appearance of "bright star" (now known as Halley's Comet) in skies over Europe seen as omen



Sep 25
Harold's army defeats Vikings at Stamford Bridge after rapid march north. Hardrada (left) killed

Oct 1: Harold learns of Norman invasion and begins marching his army south, setting up defensive position on Senlac Hill near Hastings on Oct 13

Oct 14, Battle of Hastings: Two sides evenly matched. Fighting lasts all day – English line finally broken by Norman tactic of feigned retreats, luring Harold's men into charging then cutting them down with cavalry. Harold killed by arrow in his eye, according to legend

Dec 25: William crowned King of England in London



Castles: Normans built about 1,000 by reign of **Henry I** (1100-1135) to defend their new realm. Churches also built in great numbers



Power: English aristocracy replaced by 200 Norman barons who received vast tracts of land, as recorded in the **Domesday Book** survey of 1086



Language: Around 10,000 new words of French and Latin origin adopted into English during Norman occupation. Three-quarters of them still used today