

Anglo Saxon and Norman England 1b knowledge organiser: Key question: What was the succession crisis and how did it lead to the Norman invasion?

Lesson 6: Harold's embassy to Normandy

Key words for this lesson:

Embassy: A mission/ visit to another country on behalf of the king.

Hostages: People taken as prisoners in war. Hostages were killed or maimed if agreements were broken.

Oath: Solemn promise

Core knowledge: Harold Godwinson was taken prisoner when on an embassy to Normandy. William Duke of Normandy demanded that Harold be freed. Harold then helped William on two military campaigns. William gave Harold gifts of weapons and armour. The Normans claim that Harold went on this embassy to tell William that Edward was naming him as his heir and Harold swore an oath if loyalty to William.



Lesson 7: The rising against Earl Tostig

Key words for this lesson:

Assassinate: Murder an important person for political reasons:

Uprising: A rebellion or revolt

Resentment: Bitterness, feeling you have been treated unfairly.

Exiled: Forced to leave the country

Core knowledge: Tostig Godwinson became Earl of Northumbria in 1055. Northumbria used the Danelaw, which meant they had their own laws, customs and even some differences in language. This would have made it difficult for a southerner like Tostig to know their ways. Tostig had a friendship with the Scottish king. He therefore did not defend Northumbria from Scottish attacks. He also taxed them heavily, assassinated rivals in Northumbria and tried to force southern laws on Northumbria when Northumbria just wanted the Danelaw. They rose up against Tostig. Edward said wanted the uprising to be but down but the earls ignored him. Harold exiled Tostig as he felt that Tostig had caused the rebellion by pushing them too far.



Lesson 8: The claimants to the throne

Key words for this lesson:

Succession: The process of deciding who should next sit on the throne.

Heir: Next in line to the throne

Treaty: An agreement between two sides

Core knowledge: When Edward died, he had a nephew called Edgar. The Witan believed he was too young to deal with the threats of a foreign invasion. There were three men who wanted to be king when Edward died. Harold Godwinson was in England when the king died and his sister was married to Edward. Harold Hardrada was King of Norway and had been persuaded by Tostig to challenge to be the next king. William Duke of Normandy claimed that Edward the Confessor had promised he could be the next king of England.

Who Should be King?



Lesson 9: Harold's coronation and reign

Key words for this lesson:

Coronation: Ceremony when the king is crowned.

Reign: Period of ruling

Consecration: Blessing

Core knowledge: The Witan wanted to act quickly after Edward's death. This was to ensure England was equipped to prepare for future invasions. They therefore named Harold as king, confident he would be a strong ruler who could defend the country from invasion. Harold met with people from Northumbria to secure their support in the north and prepared an army in the south.



Lesson 10: The Battles of Gate Fulford and Stamford Bridge

Key words for this lesson:

Beacon signals: Fires lit in a chain to signal that an invasion had happened

Shield wall: A defensive formation where the shields overlapped

Disbanded: Broken up

Core knowledge: Harald Hardrada landed in the north of England with 200-300 warships with around 10,000 Vikings. Morcar and Edwin, Earls of Northumbria and Mercia went to fight Hardrada at Fulford Gate to protect York. Edwin and Morcar only had about 6,000 troops. They got stuck in marshland and large numbers of Anglo-Saxons were killed. Harold Godwinson had to march and army north to fight Hardrada in just 5 days, catching them by surprise. Hardrada and Godwinson's army met at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Hardrada's army, weakened by the storm before, and the fighting against Edwin and Morcar, were defeated. Harold Godwinson had won but now needed to head to the south of England to face William.

