



Overall Enquiry: How did William of Normandy gain control of England?

1. What was England like before 1066?	2. How did England come to have a French king?	3. How did William I keep control of England?	4. Meanwhile, elsewhere: The Norman Empire
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Key Words

	Term	Definition
1	A.D.	'Anno Domini' (Latin for 'in the year of our lord') used to show dates after 'O'.
2	Angles	A tribe originating from northern Germany.
3	Archers	Soldiers with crossbows.
4	B.C.	'Before Christ' used to show dates before 'O'.
5	Baron	An important landowner and vassal to the King (a tenant)
6	Bayeux Tapestry	An embroidery (sewed pattern) showing the events leading up to, during and after the Norman Conquest of 1066.
7	Besiege	The act of carrying out a siege
8	Cavalry	Soldiers on horseback, used by the Normans.
9	Century	One hundred years.
10	Chronology	The arrangement of events/dates in the order in which they happened.
11	Circa	Approximate (used for dates)
12	Commission	A formal arrangement in which work is completed for someone.
13	Domesday Book	A survey commissioned in 1085 by William I to collect information on who owned the land and what the land was worth.
14	Earl	A member of the nobility, given land to rule in the name of the King.
15	Exile	The state of being banished (sent away permanently) from one's country.
16	Feudal System	The social system whereby land was exchanged for service and loyalty.
17	Fealty	A vassal's sworn loyalty to a lord (eg. a knight's loyalty to a baron).
18	Feigned retreat	Norman battle tactic of pretending to run away to lure the enemy out of its formation
19	Fyrd	Ordinary men (usually farmers) who would fight when called upon.
20	Garrisons	Troops stationed in a castle or town to defend it.
21	Government	The system by which a community or country is directed or controlled.
22	Harry	To persistently carry out attacks on an enemy or an enemy's territory.
23	Heir	A person entitled to inherit something.
24	Hierarchy	A system in which people / things are arranged in order of their importance
25	Housecarls	Trained and equipped earls, paid for their support by the King.
26	Illegitimate	Not allowed by law.

	Term	Definition
27	Infantry	Soldiers on foot
28	Inherit	To receive money, land or a title after the death of someone.
29	Invade	To use force in an attempt to take control of an area or country.
30	Law	The system of rules by which a country is controlled.
31	Motte and bailey castle	A type of Norman fortress used to station troops that could be used to suppress rebellions. These castles featured a motte (a mound of earth) and a keep (a tower at the top).
32	Nobility	The richest and most powerful men in England
33	Normans	People of Scandinavian origin who settled in Normandy from c. 912.
34	Oath	A solemn promise.
35	Papal Banner	Formal support given to a king by the Pope
36	Peasant	A person of low status, usually a farmer labourer (worker)
37	Pope	Head of the Roman Catholic Church.
38	Rebel	To rise up against a ruler.
39	Revolt	To rise up against a ruler, often using violence
40	Saxons	A tribe originating from north western Germany and the Netherlands.
41	Siege	A blockade of a city or a castle
42	Shield wall	The Saxon tactic of forming a protective line by joining their shields together.
43	Succession Crisis	A crisis in which there is an unclear heir to the throne.
44	Suppress	Stopping something from continuing.
45	Survey	To examine and record information about something.
46	Sub-Regulus	Acting king (when the king was unable to attend to his duties)
47	Tenants-in-Chief	Most powerful barons and bishops.
48	Vikings	Scandinavians who raided and settled in many parts of North West Europe.
49	Villein	A peasant
50	Witan	Anglo-Saxon council which was often responsible for choosing the heir to the throne.

Key Individuals

	Individual	Description
51	Edward the Confessor	King of England who died in January 1066.
52	Edgar Aetheling	Nearest relative to Edward the Confessor (his grandfather was Edward's half-brother) and supported by the Witan.
53	Harald Hardrada	A Viking Warrior (Hardrara meaning 'Hard Ruler'), Edward the Confessor's brother (Harthacanute) had promised Hardrada's father (Magnus) the throne.
54	Harold Godwinson	The Godwin family were the most powerful noble family in England; they controlled Wessex. Edward was married to Harold's sister and Harold said that Edward had promised the throne to him on his deathbed. He acted as ' sub-regulus ' in the final years of Edward's reign.
55	Tostig Godwinson	Brother of Harold Godwinson. After being exiled by his brother he supported Harald Hardrada's claim to the throne.
56	William of Normandy	Illegitimate son of Richard Duke of Normandy (also known as William 'the Bastard'). Distant cousin of Edward the Confessor. It is believed that William had sent support when Edward was threatened with rebellion in exchange for becoming heir to the throne.
57	Edwin, Earl of Mercia and Morcar, Earl of Northumbria	Supporters of Godwinson. Fought against Hardrada at the battle of Fulford. Later supported Edgard Aetheling.
58	Hereward the Wake	An exiled Anglo-Saxon nobleman who led a rebellion leading to the Siege of Ely 1071. " <i>The Wake</i> " meaning " <i>The Watchful</i> ".
59	Waltheof	Earl of Northumbria, led revolt against William in 1075, was beheaded.
60	Orderic Vitalis	An English chronicler and Benedictine monk who wrote the Historia Ecclesiastica (a chronicle of Anglo-Saxon and early Norman England).

Timeline

1042	Edward Confessor becomes king
1051	William supports Edward when the Godwins rebel – William claims this is when Edward promises him the English throne.
1053	Godwins make peace with Edward and are given their land and titles back.
1060	Harold Godwinson becomes King Edward's sub-regulus (a deputy king)
1064	William claims Harold Godwinson swears to uphold his claim to the English throne whilst visiting Normandy.
4th-5th January 1066	King Edward the Confessor dies.
6th January 1066	Harold Godwinson is crowned king of England by the Witan
20th September 1066	Harold Hardrada (7000 Vikings) defeats the Anglo Saxons (3500) at the Battle of Fulford Gate; Harold marches North to deal with the Viking threat, marching 190 miles in 4 days.
25th September 1066	Battle of Stamford Bridge; Harold Godwinson takes Harold Hardrada's men by surprise.
28th September 1066	William lands at Pevensey and builds temporary Motte and Bailey castle; Harold marches South (250 miles in 13 days)
14th October 1066	The Battle of Hastings; In a 9 hour battle, William Duke of Normandy defeats Harold Godwinson.
October-December 1066	William establishes control over defiant towns and their people en route to London through violent means
25th December 1066	William, Duke of Normandy is crowned king, having marched to London and secured oaths of loyalty from the remaining earls.
1067	-William distributes land in areas of potential rebellion to loyal barons -Rebellions continue in Northumbria, and there is an attack on Dover Castle (Rebellion of Eustace). There are rebellions on the Welsh border marchlands.
1068	Rebellions in south west – siege of Exeter; Edwin and Morcar flee William's court to go North
1069	Rebels burn a Norman earl (Robert de Commines) to death in Durham; rebellion spreads to York; William responds with the Harrying of the North (burning the area and salting the land, causing mass starvation and devastation to the area). This use of terror ends rebellion in the north. The effects are long lasting; 80% of Yorkshire is still recorded as 'waste' in 1086.
1069	Rebellions in the west
1069	Harrying of the North ends rebellion in the north. 80% of Yorkshire is still recorded as 'waste' in 1086.
1070	First Norman stone castle is built in Wales
1071	East Anglia rebellion of Hereward the Wake (Siege of Ely) is defeated
1075	'Revolt of the Earls' in the North is easily defeated and ends with the execution of Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria, the last English Earl in England on 31 st May 1076
1085	Commissioning of the Domesday Book
1086	Creation of Domesday Book By 1086, in 20 years, William had built nearly 500 castles (approx. one every two weeks)
1087	Death of William I, William Rufus becomes king William II
1088	Norman Barons rebel; Pevensey castle is besieged
1096	Rufus recognised as the ruler of Normandy
1100	Rufus is killed, his brother Henry is crowned king Henry I

