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1066

These activities are for you to do at home with an adult. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1. Use information books and online sources to help you answer the enquiry question 'Who were the Normans and what was the Norman Conquest of England?' Write a few paragraphs to answer the question.

2. Find out about the historical figures listed and their importance to the story of the Norman Conquest of England. Write a paragraph about each figure. Include details about when each figure lived, who they were and how they were involved in the Norman Conquest.

- Edward the Confessor
- Harold II, also called Harold Godwinson
- Harald Hardrada
- William the Conqueror, also called William, Duke of Normandy

3. Use your research skills to find out about the struggle for the crown between Harold II, Harald Hardrada and William, Duke of Normandy. Write a list of key events and how these men were involved during 1066. The first two are provided.

- 5th January – The King of England, Edward the Confessor, dies.
- 6th January – Harold Godwinson is crowned Harold II.

4. Use a range of sources to find out about the Battle of Hastings. Create a mind map to record your findings under headings of your choice. Then, use your mind map to write a report about the Battle of Hastings, including what happened after the battle. Include a title, opening paragraph, headings, facts and at least one picture with a caption.

5. Use a dictionary to help you write definitions for the topic-related words listed.

battle	conflict	conqueror	conquest	coronation
invasion	opponent	succession	victorious	

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6. The Bayeux tapestry tells the story of the Norman Conquest. Use online sources to find out more about this amazing artefact. Answer the questions and record any interesting facts that you discover, then choose a section of the tapestry that you find interesting and draw a picture of it. Describe what the section tells us about the Norman invasion.

- What is a tapestry?
- What weapons are shown in the tapestry, and how were they used?
- Why do you think the Bayeux tapestry is an important artefact for historians?

7. Everyday life for the Anglo-Saxons changed after the Norman invasion. Use a range of sources to find out about Norman society and the changes that happened after the invasion. Complete a fact hunt and record your findings under headings, such as the feudal system, the *Doomsday Book* and taxes, religion, art, entertainment, homes, clothes, country life or becoming a knight, to organise your facts.

8. The first castles that the Normans built were simple motte and bailey castles, made from wood and mounds of earth. Over time, they improved their wooden castles, rebuilding them with stone. Use your research skills to find out more about Norman castles and then draw a labelled diagram of either a Norman motte and bailey or stone castle. Include a sentence to explain each feature's purpose.

9. Visit the website **Historic Royal Palaces – Norman Castles: Map** to see the extent of William the Conqueror's castle building across England. You might like to visit one of the castles, if there is one near to where you live. Alternatively, look online to see pictures of the castles and learn about their history.

10. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about the Normans, the Norman Conquest of England, the historical figures involved and the events surrounding the invasion.

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Useful websites

DKfindout! – Who Were the Normans?
English Heritage – 1066 and the Norman Conquest
BBC Bitesize – The Norman Conquest: What happened in 1066?
Britannica Kids – Edward the Confessor
Britannica Kids – Harold
Nordic Culture – 5 facts about Harald Hardrada
DKfindout! – William The Conqueror Facts – King William I
Reading Museum – Britain's Bayeux Tapestry
BBC Teach – The Normans (animation) – History KS2
Primary Homework Help – Norman Castles – Medieval castles
English Heritage – Find a castle

Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
I Was There: 1066 The Norman Conquest	Jim Eldridge	9781407197852
Explore! Normans	Izzi Howell	9781526300614
Settlers and Invaders of Britain – The Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans	Ben Hubbard	9781474755047
Horrible Histories: Stormin' Normans	Terry Deary and Martin Brown	9781407165684
Why do we remember? The Battle of Hastings	Claudia Martin	9781445148465
Castles	Philip Steele	9780241358436