Year 2
The Normans
Resource Pack

Suggested Teacher Resources:

- *The Usborne History of Britain*, pages 120–130
- *Knight*, Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness Guides
- *History of Britain*, Dorling Kindersley
- [BBC Primary History](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcprimaryhistory) and [BBC Hands on History](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teachers/primary/handsonhistory) are good internet resources to explore.

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Lesson 1. Setting the Scene for a Battle

1066 is a famous year in British history. It was in this year that Britain was successfully invaded for the last time. After the death of Edward the Confessor, no one knew who would rule next. At this time the throne was given to the person who had the strength to maintain stability in Britain, it was not automatically inherited. A group of leaders decided to give the throne to Harold Godwinson who was a noble from Wessex. Another claim to the throne came from the King of Norway, Harald Hardrada. He wanted to be King of England as well, but he was defeated by Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire. Shortly afterwards, William, Duke of Normandy also invaded Britain with his sights set on the crown.

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| To know that three people wanted to be king after the death of Edward the Confessor. | - After a King called Edward the Confessor died, no one knew who would rule next. Harold was given the throne.  
- The King of Norway wanted to be King of England too.  
- William of Normandy also wanted to be King. | This is a useful background for teachers.  
This is a fantastic resource from the BBC for teaching the Normans.  
Introduce the situation to children, explaining that the throne was not inherited but was given to someone powerful when Edward died. Introduce the three possible Kings, Harold, Harald Hardrada (meaning hard-ruler) and William. Harold- promised the throne by leaders of England. Harald- thought his family had been promised the throne by a previous King. William- said that Edward has promised him the throne before he died. Complete character description (resource 1) | Britain  
Norway  
Harold Godwinson  
Harald Hardrada  
William, Duke of Normandy/ William the Conqueror  
Battle of Stamford Bridge  
Battle of Hastings | Who wanted to be the King of England after Edward died?  
What happened before the Battle of Stamford Bridge?  
Who won the Battle of Stamford Bridge?  
Why was the Battle of Stamford Bridge fought? |
LO: To know that three people wanted to be King after the death of Edward the Confessor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harold Godwinson</th>
<th>Harald Hardrada</th>
<th>William, Duke of Normandy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Harold Godwinson" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Harald Hardrada" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="William, Duke of Normandy" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 2. The Norman Invasion and the Battle of Hastings

As soon as Harold Godwinson had defeated Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, he heard news that William, Duke of Normandy, had invaded Southern England. Harold marched his battle-weary army south to meet the invading forces. The two armies met near Hastings on 14th October 1066. Initially, although tired from the previous battle, Harold’s armies held strong. They were positioned in an advantageous location, at the top of a hill looking down on the invaders. After some time, William told his army to feign defeat and pretend to run away from the scene. The English solders chased them, leaving their hill top positions and leaving themselves vulnerable. William’s army capitalised on this mistake and William was victorious. He was later crowned King of England. The Bayeux Tapestry details the whole story from the death of Edward the Confessor to the Battle of Hastings.

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<tr>
<td>To know why the Battle of Hastings was fought.</td>
<td>-Both Harold Godwinson and William of Normandy wanted to be King of England. -William, Duke of Normandy won the Battle of Hastings and Harold Godwinson died. -The story of the Battle of Hastings is told in a tapestry.</td>
<td><strong>This</strong> is a useful resource on the Battle of Hastings with ideas for activities. <strong>This</strong> is also a good resource for this lesson- a web based game. Tell children the story of the Battle of Hastings explaining how William’s armies were eventually victorious. Look at some of the images from the Bayeux Tapestry and discuss what they show. Write an account of the Battle of Hastings explaining what happened. Create a cartoon strip telling the story of the Battle of Hastings. (<a href="#">resource 2</a>- cartoon strip and two sets of differentiated words.)</td>
<td>Battle of Hastings 1066 crown victory defeat The Bayeux Tapestry</td>
<td>Why were Harold’s armies tired when they reached Hastings? Why did William, Duke of Normandy, come to England? Can you explain what happened at the Battle of Hastings? How do we know some of what happened at the Battle of Hastings?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LO: To know why the Battle of Hastings was fought.
Use these captions to create your cartoon script.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 1</th>
<th>Set 2</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Edward the Confessor dies in January 1066. The King’s advisors, called the Witan, choose Harold Godwinson to be King of England.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After the battle, Harold Godwinson hears news that William, Duke of Normandy, has invaded from the south of England. Harold decides to march his army south.</td>
<td>The King fights William at the Battle of Hastings. The King is killed. William wins the battle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold’s army were defeated at the Battle of Hastings. Harold was killed. William, Duke of Normandy won the battle. The Normans were victorious.</td>
<td>The King marches his army South.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, thinks he should be King of England. He fights Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and loses.</strong></td>
<td><strong>William of Normandy wants to be King of England.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On October 14th, 1066, armies belonging to Harold and William fight for the crown at the Battle of Hastings. Norman Knights fought on horseback.</td>
<td>William of Normandy wants to be King of England. The King fights William at the Battle of Hastings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>William was crowned King of England on Christmas Day in 1066.</strong></td>
<td><strong>William becomes King of England.</strong></td>
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Lesson 3. Norman Castles

William the Conqueror made a promise to his supporters. If they fought for him during the invasion, he would reward them with a share of land in England. After the invasion, lots of land was given to William’s supporters and they quickly began to build castles to defend their land. These first castles, called Motte and Bailey, were made of wood and earth. The words Motte and Bailey come from Norman words meaning mound and enclosure. The Motte, as its name describes, was a huge mound of earth, piled so high that people would struggle to run up its sides. Knights could stand on the top of the mounds and see approaching threats. The Bailey was an enclosed area at the foot of the Motte which contained living areas, bakeries, stables and other facilities. The Motte and Bailey castles could be built rapidly, but they were quite easy to attack. Also, as the structures within the castle were made from wood, they could be burned down easily. Over time, the Normans rebuild the castles opting for stone over wood. Windsor Castle, one of our Queen’s homes, was originally a Motte and Bailey castle.

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| To know why the Normans build Motte and Bailey castles. | - The Normans build Motte and Bailey castles from wood and earth.  
- Motte and Bailey castles were cheap and quick to build.  
- Motte and Bailey castles were easy to attack and burn down. | Show children some images of Norman Motte and Bailey castles. Discuss the purpose of the features- the Motte to provide a vantage point, the Bailey to enclose and protect the castle.  
Explain how and why the Normans built so many castles after the Battle of Hastings.  
Draw and label a Motte and Bailey castle.  
Describe the pros and cons of a Motte and Bailey castle.  
Show children this video clip about Motte and Bailey castles. | invasion  
Motte  
Bailey  
mound  
enclosure  
castle | Can you describe a Motte and Bailey castle?  
Why was the Motte useful?  
Why did the Normans build lots of Motte and Bailey castles?  
How did the Normans improve the design of the Motte and Bailey castles?  
What do you think would make a good castle? |
Lesson 4. Norman Knights and Soldiers

One of the reasons that the Norman invasion was so successful was that the Norman Knights were highly skilled. Norman knights rode on horseback and had perfected a technique which involved holding a spear under their arms and riding full force towards their enemies. Before this point, English soldiers would have ridden horses, but would not have taken them into battle. Horses were expensive and the English soldiers would not have wanted to risk the lives of their horses in battle. The Norman Knights had strong spears known as lances and also carried heavy clubs called maces. For protection, they carried shields, wore helmets and also wore special clothing called chain mail which was made from many small iron rings. Boys began training to be a knight from an early age, passing through stages from page, to squire before becoming a Knight.

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| To describe a Norman Knight. | -Norman Knights rode on horseback.  
- Norman Knights wore special clothing called chain mail.  
- Norman Knights would begin as a page, and then become a squire before becoming a Knight. | Look at some images of Norman Knights in their armour.  
Teach children the stages through which a boy would progress before he became a knight.  
Explain that a boy would be chosen from birth and would begin his training at seven years old.  
This interactive page explains the process well. Children can create an information text, separated into paragraphs, about the stages.  
Look at the weapons and clothing a Knight would have used and worn. Teach children the vocabulary required to describe a Knight.  
Children can draw and label a Norman Knight and/or write a description. (resource 3) | Normans  
Knights  
horseback  
technique  
spear  
lance  
mace  
shield  
helmet  
chain mail  
page  
squire | Why were Norman Knights so successful in battle?  
Describe how a young boy could train to become a Knight.  
What weapons would a Knight carry? |
LO: To describe a Norman Knight.

Use these labels to help you label this Knight:

spear  helmet
shield  sword
armour  chainmail

Can you describe the Knight using the labels to help you?

_________________________________________________________________  
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Lesson 5. The Domesday Book

One of the main reasons why William of Normandy wanted to invade England was for its wealth. Previous English Kings had established an efficient tax system that generated a large amount of money. William was curious to know exactly how much he was owed by the people of England, to do this he needed to establish exactly what everyone owned. He decided to create a list, detailing land and livestock ownership. Royal commissioners were sent all over the kingdom to check exactly who owned what. All of the information was written down and then copied into a book. This book later became known as the Domesday Book, its name coming from the Biblical day of Judgement or Doomsday. This survey, or census, provides an interesting picture of life in England at the time it was undertaken from 1085-1086.

See page 178 of What Your Year 2 Child Needs to Know

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<td>To understand why William the Conqueror created the Domesday Book.</td>
<td>- The Domesday book was a list of land and things people owned in 1086.</td>
<td>Recap the Battle of Hastings and how William came to rule. William was a new King, and he wanted to know exactly how wealthy his country was. Discuss what ‘tax’ is and why people pay it. Discuss the context of 1085-1086 explaining that William the Conqueror wanted to find out how much tax he was owed. Explain how he undertook a census. Role play a rich landowner paying lots of tax and a poorer person with a very small farm paying less tax- this will illustrate why William needed to know what people owned. Show children images from the Domesday Book including simple translations. Role play William &amp; his commissioners conducting the survey. Then write about what was included in the book. (resource 4) Find out more about the Domesday Book here.</td>
<td>wealth</td>
<td>What is a tax?</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- In 1086 people paid some of the money they earned to the King, this was called a tax.</td>
<td></td>
<td>tax</td>
<td>Why did the Kings of England want taxes?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- William the Conqueror wanted the Domesday Book created so he knew how much tax people owed him.</td>
<td></td>
<td>ownership</td>
<td>Why did William the Conqueror create the Domesday Book?</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>commissioners</td>
<td>How did William the Conqueror find the information for the Domesday Book?</td>
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<td>census</td>
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<td>Domesday Book</td>
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<td>information</td>
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Find out more about the Domesday Book here.
LO: To understand why William the Conqueror created the Domesday Book.
Lesson 6. Assessment Task

This lesson offers an opportunity to assess what your pupils have learned about the Normans over the past half term. Children have studied the Norman Invasion and the Battle of Hastings, Norman Castles, the life of a Norman Knight and have also looked at the reasons why William the Conqueror created the Domesday Book. We have included some ideas below to help you design a suitable assessment task that will give you information about how your class have progressed in this area of history.

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| To write a report. (Change as appropriate) | -The Normans invaded Britain.  
-William, Duke of Normandy fought Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings.  
The Normans built castles in England.  
-Training to become a Knight took many years.  
-William the Conqueror undertook a census of England and recorded information in the Domesday Book. | Create an information booklet about the Normans. This task can be differentiated to support your less able writers.  
Write a report about the Normans providing structural support for writing where appropriate. Offer children a chance to record an oral report if their understanding will not be reflected in their writing.  
Ensure children have a clear understanding of the expectations for the structure of the report- discuss what makes a good report to generate success criteria.  
If you choose to assess one particular aspect of this unit, you may want to set a specific task such as creating a guide book for a Norman Castle. | As previously studied. | Why did the Normans invade Britain?  
What happened at the Battle of Hastings?  
How would a boy become a Norman Knight?  
Describe a Norman castle.  
Why did William the Conqueror create the Domesday book? |