

## Year 7 Unit 1 - Journey of Knowledge - Why did so many people migrate to Britain before 1066?

### Context and Introduction to Unit:

Pupils will assess the reasons why Britain experienced such high amounts of people migrating before 1066. They will be able to identify the groups of people that arrived in Britain and the reasons for each group migrating. Pupils will be able to explain similarities and differences between the reasons why each group migrated. Pupils will be able to understand the importance of new developments each group gave to Britain. Students will explore local history when looking into the Roman fort of Deva (Chester). Students will look at the lead up to the Battle of Hastings, following the power of the Godwin family.

*Prior knowledge (KS2/KS3) Pupils will most likely be aware of the Battle of Hastings and post-1066 history, this scheme of learning will introduce students to how significant the Battle of Hastings was in 1066.*

### The bigger picture:

*Personal development opportunities.  
Career links Journalism, law, politics, civil service, diplomatic service, archivist, historian  
RSE- Respect and tolerance*

### CORE KNOWLEDGE

- Before 1066, many different groups of people migrated to Britain for different reasons. Years are written as BC or AD. BC, and these are based on the estimate of the birth of Jesus Christ. They meaning "Before Christ", denotes years before this event, while AD, meaning Anno Domini (Latin for "in the year of the Lord"), denotes years after. They can also be BCE or CE, which means "Before Common Era" or "Common Era". These still denote the same years as BC and AD.
- Celts migrated to Britain in 750BC. They were made up of many different tribes and groups with their own traditions and chiefs. Men and women both ruled Celtic tribes. Celts migrated for the purpose of trading and raw materials. Celts were a warrior-based society and their tribes would fight against each other for power. They were extremely superstitious and believed in over 400 Gods. They believed in human sacrifice to their Gods, and the Lindow Man is an example of this.
- The Roman Empire extended largely across Europe. They wanted to take control of Britain for their precious metals, raw materials and cattle. Julius Caesar led a failed invasion of Britain in 55 and 54BC. However, in 43AD, Emperor Claudius led a successful invasion and over the next thirty years took control of most of the south of Britain.
- The Romans brought over lots of new ideas and goods to Britain, including Latin, Christianity, aqueducts, sewers, currency, central government, and roads. They built new towns, in a grid structure with forums at the centre. Many of these inventions became integral to modern British society. The Romans had to leave Britain in 407AD to protect their Empire.
- Anglo-Saxons were a tribe of Germanic origin. They came to England after the Romans left, along with other northern European tribes (Jutes, Angles, Saxons, Frisians). The time period of this migration is known as the Dark Ages because very little information was written down. Archaeological evidence suggests that migrating tribes settled into Britain peacefully, even marrying into the different tribes. Anglo-Saxons were used for trading, fighting and farming. Anglo-Saxon society was divided into a hierarchy based upon loyalty. The king was at the top with power and wealth reducing as the hierarchy went down. The hierarchy created an organised work force and a ready-made military.
- As the Anglo-Saxons settled into Britain, seven kingdoms emerged: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Kent. Each of these kingdoms had its own tribes, traditions and benefits. Each had a coast line to protect themselves and for trading. The kingdoms eventually were taken over by others as they became more powerful. By 850AD, only 3 remained.
- The Vikings were a group of people from Scandinavia, some were warriors, farmers, traders or even enslaved people. They invaded England during the 700s, often violently raiding churches and monasteries. Some were searching for better farmland, resulting in them attacking the other Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. In 1016, the Viking King Cnut had taken the English throne.
- Godwin was an Anglo-Saxon thegn, who showed loyalty to the Viking King, Cnut. He was rewarded for his loyalty and became the first Earl of Wessex. He gained as much land and military power as Cnut. Upon king Harthacnut's death in 1043, Godwin helped Edward to become King of England. He was known as Edward the Confessor. Godwin's family became very powerful and were loyal to Edward. Godwin's son, Harold Godwinson, became the Earl of Wessex and a trusted advisor of Edward.

## Year 7 Unit 2 - Journey of Knowledge - Did the Normans really bring a 'bucketload of trouble' to England?

### Context and Introduction to Unit:

Pupils will learn about the reasons why there were three contenders to the throne in 1066. Pupils will analyse the events following the death of Edward the Confessor and the fight for the throne between the three contenders as well as investigating the events and consequences of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Pupils will also consider the different ways in which William I aimed to control England.

*Prior knowledge (KS2/KS3) Pupils will have learned about the progress of Godwin, Earl of Wessex and his progression to get his son, Harold Godwinson to become a trusted advisor of King Edward the Confessor. They will know that Edward the Confessor was King of England in 1065.*

### The bigger picture:

*Personal development opportunities.  
Career links Journalism, law, politics, civil service, diplomatic service, archivist, historian  
RSE- Respect and tolerance*

### CORE KNOWLEDGE

- Edward the Confessor died in January 1066, without a clear heir to the throne. On his deathbed, he had named Harold Godwinson as his successor. Harold Godwinson, son of the influential Godwin, was a trusted advisor to Edward. However, Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, also believed he should take the throne as he was an experienced ruler. At the same time, William of Normandy had been given the support of the Church in his aim to become king. The uncertainty about succession led to a year of conflict, with each claimant believing they had the strongest right to the throne. Harold Godwinson claimed Edward chose him. William argued Edward had promised him the crown years before, while Harald Hardrada based his claim on an earlier Viking agreement with English kings.
- Godwinson is initially crowned King Harold II the day after Edward's death. Hardrada invades England, and meets Godwinson at Stamford Bridge to battle on the 25th September 1066. Godwinson defeats Hardrada. The battle was fierce, with the Vikings caught by surprise and unprepared, as many had left their armour on their ships. Despite Hardrada's reputation as a skilled warrior, he was killed during the battle. Harold's army was victorious but badly weakened by the heavy fighting and long march north and back south. This exhaustion would prove costly only weeks later when William invaded from Normandy.
- In the south, William sailed and invaded. Godwinson travels to meet him and the Battle of Hastings takes place on the 14th October 1066. William wins the Battle of Hastings and takes the crown. William's victory was due to his mix of cavalry, archers, and infantry, compared to Harold's shield wall of foot soldiers. Harold's troops were already tired after fighting at Stamford Bridge. A key moment came when Harold was killed, leaving his men leaderless, which secured William's success.
- William commissions the Bayeux Tapestry to commemorate the Battle of Hastings. The tapestry is nearly 70 metres long and tells the story of 1066 through embroidered images, showing events like Harold's oath, the invasion, and the battle itself. It is also a piece of Norman propaganda, presenting William's claim to the throne as rightful and portraying Harold as untrustworthy. While useful evidence, it is not fully reliable because of its bias.
- To help him gain control, William uses the Feudal System. It is the hierarchy of Norman England, with the King at the top, followed by barons, knights and peasants. The system helped William respond to potential threats by organising society and ensuring that the people who owned land were supportive of his rule. William rewarded loyal Norman barons with land taken from Anglo-Saxon nobles, making them dependent on him for power. This meant he could trust them to provide knights when needed. Ordinary peasants, or serfs, worked the land in return for protection but had very few rights. This system kept England stable under Norman control, as every level of society owed loyalty to the King.
- Another way that William controlled England was through the Domesday Book in 1086. This surveyed the country to establish people's lives, earnings and land. It allowed William to tax the country and further gain control. It recorded who owned which pieces of land, how much it was worth, and what resources were available, from livestock to mills. This level of detail was unmatched in medieval Europe. The Domesday Book gave William power over both nobles and peasants by making it clear that all land ultimately belonged to him. It also reduced disputes over landownership, making his rule more secure.
- William used Motte and Bailey castles to control the country. They were structured to protect its' inhabitants, with a drawbridge, a ditch, a palisade, a Motte and a keep. They allowed him to demonstrate that he had total power, keep him and his people safe and intimidate the Anglo-Saxons to stop them from attacking. The castles could be built quickly using wood, sometimes in just a matter of weeks, allowing William to establish control across England fast. Their high motte gave excellent views over the surrounding area. However, their wooden structures were vulnerable to fire and rot. Over time, many were replaced with stronger stone castles, which were more permanent symbols of Norman strength.
- When William took control of England, much of the north did not support him being king. As a result, in 1069-70, William attacked in the Harrying of the North. This brutal attack killed many inhabitants of the north and their food supplies. It forced the north into compliance. Villages were burned, crops destroyed, and animals slaughtered, leading to widespread famine. Tens of thousands are thought to have died from starvation and exposure as a result. The Harrying of the North showed William's determination to crush rebellion but also created long-lasting devastation in the region. While it secured control, it also left resentment towards Norman rule.