

BATTLEFIELD 1066

On Saturday 14 October 1066, the English King, Harold Godwinson and William, Duke of Normandy had a fight for the English crown.



The **Battle of Hastings** happened here almost 1,000 years ago. The battle was fierce and bloody. Thousands of soldiers were killed. William said that he should be king of England because he had been promised the crown.



COUNTING CHALLENGE!

As you walk around the battlefield, count:



The number of arrows in the trees



The number of Saxon soldiers



The number of Norman soldiers

START HERE

THE SAXONS (ENGLISH)

1. FYRD SOLDIER

Draw this soldier's helmet, sword OR shield:

3. FOOT SOLDIER

This soldier has an axe. Axes were very heavy and could cause horrible injuries. The long handle helped soldiers attack with more force.

How long is the handle on this axe?

 cm

5. BATTLE CRY

The Saxons shouted 'Ut, ut, ut!' or 'Out, out, out!'. The Normans shouted 'Dex aie!' or 'God help us!'

Pretend you are Normans or Saxons and try the battle cries.



2. SHIELD WALL

Stand behind the shield wall. You are a Saxon looking at your enemy.

How do you feel?

Happy	1 2 3 4 5	Sad
Good	1 2 3 4 5	Bad
Strong	1 2 3 4 5	Weak
High	1 2 3 4 5	Low
Safe	1 2 3 4 5	Dangerous

4. STANDARD BEARER

'Standard' is another word for a banner. The Saxons could see this banner across the battlefield. It helped them stay together. The Saxon standard had a dragon on it.

Draw your own battle banner here:

10. BATTLE'S END

The battle ended when an arrow hit King Harold in the eye. Later, William built Battle Abbey here to thank God for his victory and remember the soldiers who died.

Stand at the spot where Harold died. Is it important to still remember this battle?

Yes No

9. NORMAN ARCHER

This archer's arrow could hit a target 200 paces away.

How far up the hill would it get?

8. BATTLE TACTICS

You are William looking across the battlefield.

What instructions would you give to your soldiers?

7. SHARP SPEAR

Norman foot soldiers carried spears. They also carried shields.

What is different about this shield to the Saxon shield of the Fyrd soldier?

THE NORMANS

6. BATTLE FORMATION

The Norman army had: **Archers** at the front, **Foot soldiers** in the middle, **Knights** (on horses) at the back.

Split your group into archers, foot soldiers and knights. Stand in the correct order. Strike a pose!

11. BAYEUX TAPESTRY

The story of the Battle of Hastings was sewn into a long length of fabric. Today, this tapestry can be seen in the French town of Bayeux in Normandy.

What can you see in this picture?

12. WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

On Christmas Day, 1066, William was crowned king of England. He built castles across the country and gave the Normans important jobs to show he was a powerful ruler.

What was the date when William was crowned?

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INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL WALKERS

- The Battlefield Walk will take 30-40 minutes.
- Students should move around the site in small groups.
- The paths are grass, bark and loose gravel. The ground is uneven and sometimes wet or boggy. It is not suitable for wheelchairs. There are some steps in places.
- PLEASE NOTE: IN VERY POOR WEATHER THE BATTLEFIELD MAY BE CLOSED. For updates and information prior to your visit see <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield/school-visits/>
- Students should be supervised at all times. Please do not climb trees or go into ponds.

SHARE YOUR ADVENTURE

Got any good photos or films from your visit? Share them @EHEducation

GET MORE FROM YOUR VISIT

Download our Battle of Hastings re-enactment activity to bring the 14th October 1066 to life. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/teaching-resources/teaching-resources-1066/>

Abbey – a building lived in by monks or nuns

Archer – a person who shoots with a bow and arrows

Arrow – a stick with sharp pointed head that is shot from a bow

Attack – act violently towards someone or something

Axe – a tool with a blade

Back – the position furthest from the front

Banner – a strip of cloth showing words or a design, hung on a pole

Battle of Hastings – the fight between Harold Godwinson and William, Duke of Normandy for the crown of England

Carry – to take something from one place to another

Castle – a large fortified building

Correct – true, right

Crown – a piece of headwear, worn as a symbol of authority

Dangerous – likely to cause problems or harm

Different – not the same as something else

Dragon – a mythical monster, like a giant reptile, able to breathe out fire

Enemy – a person who is hostile to someone or something

Eye – the organ of sight

Fabric – cloth

Fierce – violent or aggressive

Foot soldier – a soldier who fights on foot

Force – physical strength in movement

Front – the position furthest forward

Fyrd – Harold Godwinson's citizen army

Handle – the part by which something is held

Harold Godwinson – the English King, leader of the Saxons

Heavy – something of great weight

Helmet – a hard or padded protective hat

Injury – being harmed or damaged

Instruction – direction or an order

Knight – a medieval man with a duty to fight for the king

Middle – the position between front and back

Pace – a measurement of walking steps

Pose – a position in which to be photographed

Powerful – having power

Remember – keep something in mind

Safe – protected from harm

Sew – make stitches with a needle and thread

Shield – a piece of armour held for protection

Soldiers – someone who serves in the army

Spear – a weapon with a pointed metal tip and a long handle

Standard – see **Banner**

Sword – a weapon with a long metal blade

Tapestry – a piece of material with designs sewn into it

Target – the focus of an attack

Town – a settlement, larger than a village, smaller than a city

Tree – a woody plant with a trunk and branches

Victory – defeating someone in battle

William, Duke of Normandy – the leader of the Normans

