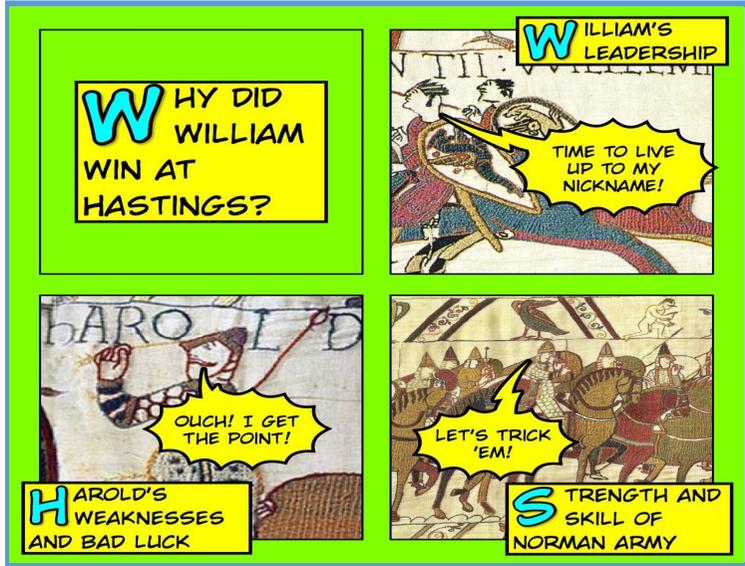


KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 3 - Hastings

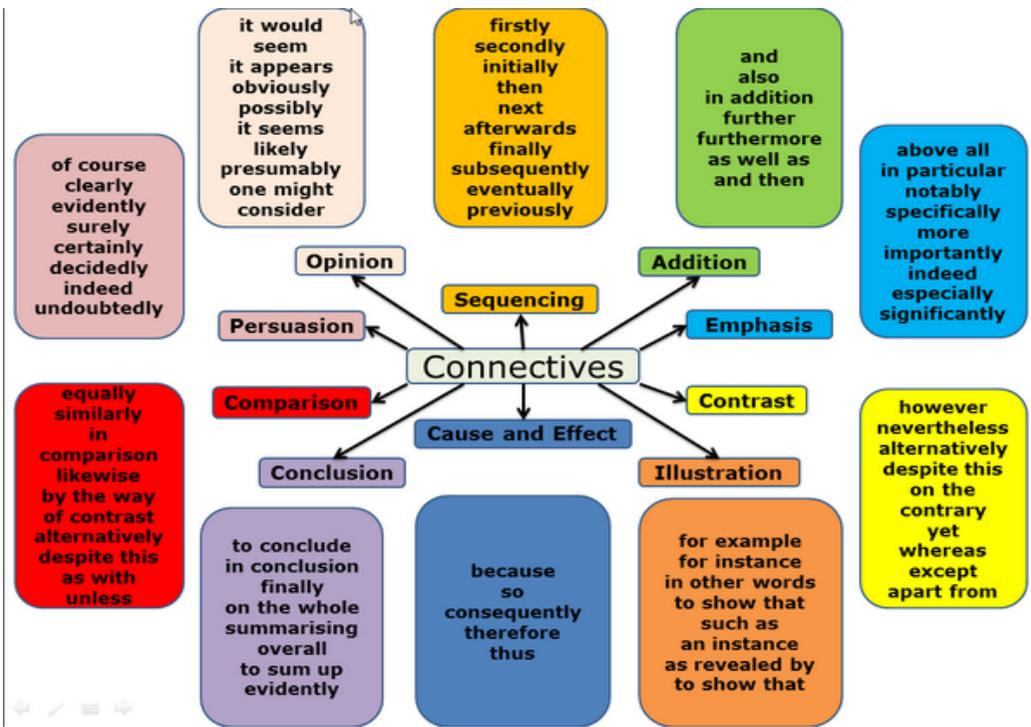
Key Dates: **5 Jan** - Edward the Confessor died. Witan elected Harold Godwinson king.
6 Jan - Harold was crowned king of England, at Westminster Abbey.
20 Sep - Hardrada invaded; with 10,000 men in 200 ships.
25 Sep - Harold Godwinson took four days to march 180 miles to surprise Hardrada, near York. Godwinson won but his army was tired.
27 Sep - William Duke of Normandy set sail with 700 ships. Having heard of William's landing Harold raced back down.
12 Oct - Harold arrives at London, to recruit more troops.
14 Oct - Battle of Hastings - death of King Harold.
25 Dec - William crowned King of England.



By the end of this Half Term I should know:
 Why England was left vulnerable after the death of Edward the Confessor.
 Who had the best claim to the throne of England.
 What happened at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
 How the Battle of Hastings was won.
 Why William killed over 100,000 people in the north.
 Why William built Motte and Bailey castles.
 Why the Normans changed their castle building techniques and introduced stone keep castles.
 The best methods of attacking stone castles.

Key Terms

- Claimant:** a person who believes that he or she has a right to something.
- Reign:** How long a king or queen rules for.
- Heir:** Someone who inherits property, titles or a throne after someone else dies.
- Witan:** Anglo-Saxon earls who advised the king and made important decisions.
- Pope:** The head of the Catholic Church.
- Harold Godwinson:** claimed Edward promised him the throne on his deathbed.
- Harold Hardrada:** Norwegian, related to King Cnut (king of England 1016-1035).
- William of Normandy:** He was a distant cousin of Edward. Claimed that Edward promised him the throne in 1051.
- Edgar the Aethling:** 14 year old Hungarian, related to Edward the Confessor.
- Housecarls:** Harold's elite troops (Trained fighters)





KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 3 - Hastings



1066 and all that - Year of crisis: January 1066 saw the death of Edward the Confessor, King of England. Many people had predicted that some great evil would happen as they had seen an omen, (a bad sign) in the night sky (**Hallie's comet**). Edward left no heir to the throne, which meant that England was without a leader and anyone who felt that they had a claim to the English throne would try to take it by force. The four main contenders were Harold Godwinson (English Earl of Wessex), Harald Hardrada (King of Norway), Edgar Aetheling (Child), and William (Duke of Normandy). Even though Edgar was closest relative to Edward troops would not fight a war with Hardrada or William of Normandy with a child as their leader.

Battle of Hastings: The **Witan** council acted quickly and crowned Harold **Godwinson** king the day after Edward's death. Unfortunately, this did not stop Harald **Hardrada**, along with Godwinson's brother **Tostig** from attacking England. Godwinson marched his troops over 300 miles to **York** to fight off the invasion. Even though he crushed Hardrada his luck changed as **William** had landed his troops at **Pevensey** on the south coast. Harold marched his troops back south and met the Duke at **Senlac Hill**, just outside Hastings. A mixture of **luck, preparation** and **tactics** saw **William** defeat Harold and became the new **King of England**.

William takes control of England (Harrying of the North): William had defeated the English army but the English nobles might still try to oppose him. First he captured Dover castle (so he had an escape route) and then he captured the cities of Canterbury and Winchester. He showed his power by burning down property and killing the English. Soon the English nobles accepted him as king. He was crowned at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066. In 1067 there were rebellions but the most important one took place in the North in 1068-9. During the winter of 1069-70 he led his army across the North, burning houses and killing people. He destroyed whole villages and farms and he killed all the livestock; over 100,000 people died.

William enforces control (Motte and Bailey Castles): The rebellions in the north showed William that his troops needed protection from further English attacks as there was only 5,000 of them. They needed bases from which to control the countryside, and strongholds to protect them from attack. The castles had to be built in a hurry, so they were built of timber (wood) on an earth mound (**a motte**) with a **bailey** (living area for the soldiers). William built castles at important places - hills, rivers, towns - so that if the English tried to rebel they'd be forced to attack a castle. The castles were quick to build. A motte and bailey castle could be up in a few weeks! The surrounding area was cleared of trees and was called the killing ground.

William enforces control (Stone keep Castles): Motte and Bailey castles gave William the time needed to build stone castles. Stone castles lasted for many years. They had an outer stone wall and inside that, a stone keep. A stone keep had thick walls and few windows. Entrance to the keep was by stone steps leading to the first floor. The kitchens were situated on the ground floor while living quarters were on the upper floors. The Stone Keep would be surrounded by a thick stone wall containing turrets for lookouts. The Bailey was now the area outside the keep but within the outer wall and shelter for animals was built up against these walls. The walls were surrounded by a ditch or moat and a crossed using a drawbridge.

Attacking Castles: There were many different techniques used when attacking castles. The most common way to make a castle fall was to besiege it. A castle could last many months with the right supplies; however, there was not much knowledge about preserving food at this time. The invaders used catapults to throw dead bodies into the castle to spread diseases. Other weapons were used such as catapults; these were very efficient siege weapons, trebuchets were introduced many years later. Diggers dug tunnels right beneath a wall or tower and would fill them with anything that would burn easily. They set fire to the tunnel burning the supports and making the wall collapse. Other methods included battering rams, ladders and siege towers.