

## The Battle of Hastings

King Harold positioned himself at the back of his men at the top of Senlac ridge, a steep hill. In front were his soldiers provided a shield wall. The leaders holding a javelin and sword, whilst the men used slings, pitchforks and scythes.

Using shields, they blocked the arrow fire.

The English force held their positions.

Some of the English broke away and started to charge at the Normans on the left flank of the army.

Losses were heavy and few returned up the hill.

There was a break in the fight at noon – to remove the dead and wounded.

The English were surprised, it is at this point that some argue that Harold brought up his helmet and got the arrow in his eye. However, he continued to fight on.

Harold's brothers died. Whilst the English line held. The soldiers at the rear of the group meanwhile, chased the right flank of the troops down hill.

The English front line is short.

With Harold dead, the soldiers at the rear retreat to the forest.

William spoke to his men and reminded them he had never lost a battle. At 9am he sent his archers up the hill – not far from the enemy they started to shoot their arrows.

Norman infantry marched up the hill.

Normans retreated

William ordered the cavalry (horsemen) to charge the English.

William ordered the archers forward, they aimed high in the air.

The arrow attack was followed by another cavalry attack in which many horses and losses were made on both sides.

The Normans retreated, William instructed his knights to attack. They dismounted and attack. Archers fired from their positions as well.

Normans attack from the side, breaking shield wall. Knights reach Harold and kill him

Normans pursue, but know they have won.