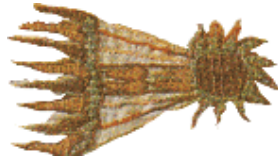


The Coming of the Normans

There are reports of a bright 'star' in early 1066. At the time, seeing a star like this was a sign of bad things - a bad omen.

This is probably what the people saw. It's called Halley's Comet and appears above the earth every 76 years.



In 1016 the Danish king Canute had taken over England and added it to his lands in Norway and Denmark. When Canute died in 1042 **Edward the Confessor** the son of a previous King of England became king.

Edward died in 1066 without any son to follow him.

THE QUESTION WAS WHO WOULD BE KING NEXT?

There were four people who thought they had a claim to be king.....

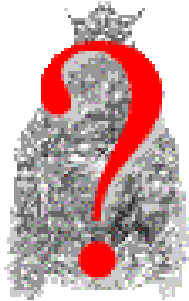
These were

1. Harold Godwinson
2. William the Duke of Normandy
3. Harald Hardrada The King of Norway
4. Edgar

No one could agree who should be king so the only thing to do was to fight to be King of England!

The nearest relative was a boy called **Edgar**. He was only eight years old!

He was young and he was English but how would he fight wars and run the country?



Edward named **Harold Godwinson** as king just before he died. The strong and important men of England chose Harold to be their king too! He was English but he wasn't related to Edward. BUT Harold had already promised William of Normandy that he would help him to become king of England when Edward died.



William, Duke of Normandy came from France. He wanted to be king of England. He had visited England and Edward agreed to name him as the new king when he died. Harold had been made to promise William that he could be king when Edward died but Harold did not take the promise seriously and became king when Edward died.

William was not related to Edward either!



Harald Hardrada the King of Norway felt he should have been king of England too! His family had been kings of England before Edward. There was no one to replace Edward so Harald wanted the crown of England for himself. He too was not related to Edward!



THE COMING OF THE NORMANS

TASKS Fill in the missing words

In _____ the King of England _____ the Confessor died. He had no children to follow him but named _____ G_____ as the new king when he died. There was one relative, a boy called _____ but the important men of England got together and named Harold as king.

Two other men both thought that they should also be king, they were W_____, Duke of N_____ and H_____ H_____ who was king of N_____.

William said that he had been promised the _____ and Harald said that England had been part of Norway and so he should be king. They couldn't _____ who should be king so they would have to fight!

Choose from this list

Harold Godwinson,	William,	Edward	Edgar
Harald Hardrada ,	Norway,	1066,	Normandy,
agree	crowns.		

So you want to be king?

What's your name? _____

Are you English? YES / NO

Are you related to our dead king? YES / NO

Were you promised the crown? YES / NO

If so who by? _____

Would the strong men of England like you? YES / NO

Are there any other reasons why you should be king? YES / NO
(write them down here)

So you want to be king?

What's your name? _____

Are you English? YES / NO

Are you related to our dead king? YES / NO

Were you promised the crown? YES / NO

If so who by? _____

Would the strong men of England like you? YES / NO

Are there any other reasons why you should be king? YES / NO
(write them down here)

COPY THIS TABLE INTO YOUR BOOK AND FILL IN WHO YOU THINK SHOULD BE KING IN ORDER

NUMBER	NAME OF CLAIMANT	WHY THEY SHOULD BE KING	WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE KING
1			
2			
3			
4			

- a) How did you decide who would be your first choice as king? Why did you pick this person first?
- b) Who would you make King of England and why?
- c) Who would you definitely not make king and why?
- d) Why do you think the important people of England did not want a child as king?
- e) Why do you think there are no women being mentioned as possible queens of England?