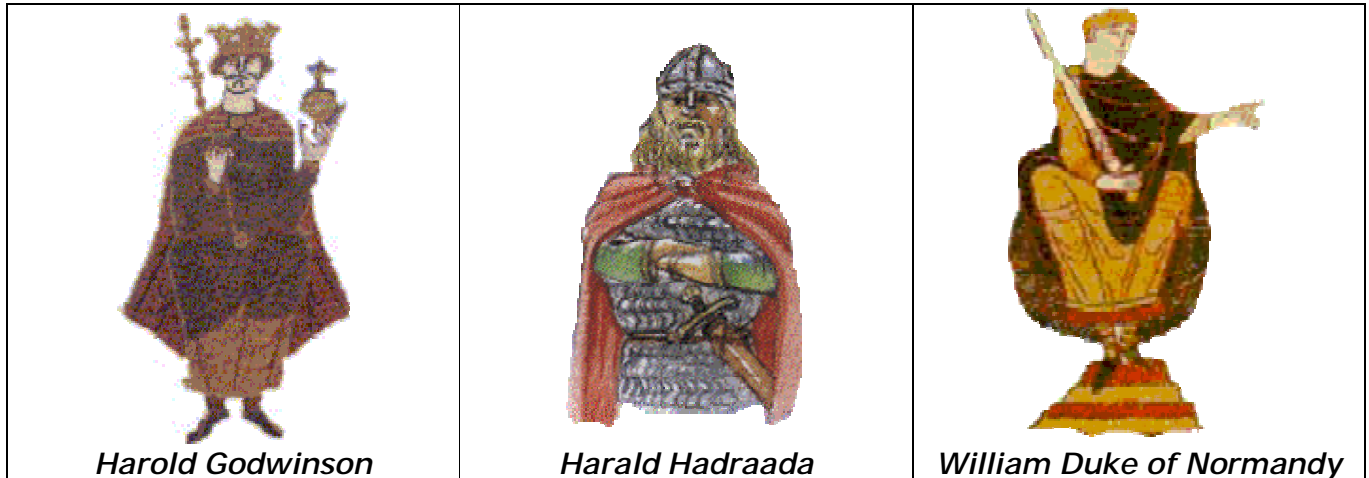


The Norman Conquest

Aims:

- ✘ To understand what happened when the king of England Edward the Confessor died
 - ✘ To learn about the three claimants to the throne, and their arguments
-

On the 5th of January 1066, Edward the Confessor the king of England died. He had no children, which meant he had no direct heir to the throne, but three men thought they should all be the new king of England, and all had good reasons too! They were:



Harold Godwinson was the Earl of Wessex at the time, and this made him the most powerful nobleman in England and the only Englishman claiming the throne, except for a relative called Edgar who was only eight and was not seriously considered for the throne for obvious reasons.

Harald Hadrada's main claim was that Cnut's son promised his father the throne and that he was a descendant of King Cnut, a former king of England. He also felt that he might get some support from Viking families in the North of England.

William was Edward's cousin and was promised the throne by him, and he had helped Edward in the past. William was Duke of Normandy.

On January 6th Harold II was crowned the new king of England, William and Harald were not happy...

TASKS

Task 1) Answer the following questions in full sentences

- 1) Why did England need a new king? 2) Why was there no direct heir to the throne?
- 3) Who were the three men who had claims to the English throne?
- 4) What roles did the three men have in their countries? 5) What is a 'claimant'?
- 6) Who was crowned the new king of England, and when did it happen?

Medieval Realms: Year 7

Task 2) On the separate sheet there are some jumbled up sentences, which belong to either Harold, Harald or William. They are the reasons why they thought that they had a claim to be king. On an A4 piece of paper draw three columns with Harold Godwinson, Harold Hadrada and William at the top. Cut and paste out or copy out the reasons into their correct columns and stick it into your exercise book

Task 3) Complete this paragraph *'I think that.....had the best claim to the English throne because....., and because*

Task 4) On an A4 piece of paper design a poster saying 'Vote for

give reasons why we SHOULD vote for him and SHOULD NOT vote for the others

Either cut and paste or copy out these into their correct columns

Wanted to rebuild the great Viking Empire	Earl of Wessex	The only Englishman claiming the throne
Had sent soldiers to live in England	King of Normandy	Wanted to rebuild the great Viking Empire
Duke of Normandy	Had sent soldiers to live in England	Given the throne by Edward
Had helped Edward	Promised the throne by Edward	Most powerful nobleman in England
Cnut's son promised his father the throne	Edward's cousin	Might get help from Viking families in the north