

Who Should Be King?

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The following people wanted to be the king of England in 1066. Think carefully about the advantages and disadvantages of each one before deciding who was the best man for the job.

Edgar

- ◆ 14 years old
- ◆ Lived abroad
- ◆ Closest living relative of Edward

William of Normandy

- ◆ Edward promised him the throne
- ◆ England had close ties with Normandy and Edward had lived there for a while
- ◆ Powerful and experienced
- ◆ Good soldier
- ◆ Had helped Edward out of trouble when he had quarrelled with the Godwinson family

Harold Godwinson

- ◆ English
- ◆ Popular
- ◆ His family had been Edward's advisors
- ◆ Powerful and experienced
- ◆ Edward's brother-in-law
- ◆ Good soldier
- ◆ Claimed Edward had promised him the throne just before he died

Harald Hardrada

- ◆ Related to one of England's previous kings
- ◆ King of Norway - Norway used to rule England
- ◆ Quite popular with people in the north of England
- ◆ Good soldier
- ◆ Powerful and experienced