

# The Norman Conquest

Year 7 Topic 2 Homework booklet



**Pupil:**

**Class:**



Task	Task title	Summary	Page	Date due
1	Why did William want to conquer England?	Read William's speech and select a reason for invading for each section.	3-4	
2	Where should you build a castle?	Decision making activity looking at where to site a Norman castle.	5-7	
3	Recap, Revise and Relearn Assessment	A multiple-choice assessment, designed to build long-term memory of the key topics, ideas and vocabulary we have studied.	8	

**Homework should be written out and handed in to your teacher on the date it is due – there is space in the booklet to complete homework tasks.**

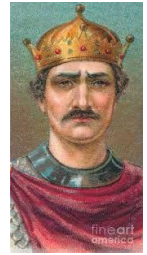
**If you are stuck with your homework task:**

- **Speak to someone in your class to help**
- **Have a look through your class work, which you can have from your teacher**
- **Speak to your teacher**

**Any issues with the homework (such as being stuck on a task or losing your homework booklet) must be addressed with your teacher before the due date.**

## Task 1 – Why did William want to conquer England?

'Bonjour, my name is William, Duke of Normandy. Have you heard what is happening in England? Edward the Confessor has died and Harold Godwinson has made himself King. I think I shall invade, and conquer England for myself.



	Reason for invading
Harald Hardrada also wants to conquer England. He is from Norway and his ancestors ruled England. He has a lot of support in the North and may be successful. If Hardrada defeats Godwinson the Viking Empire will stretch from Scandinavia to the English Channel. They are ambitious, and may use their base in England to attack mainland Europe – and Normandy would be their first target! If I conquer England now, Normandy will be protected.	
In addition, England is a wealthy country. The Romans occupied England for 500 years. They created good roads, wealthy towns and trading centres. And the silver mines will come in very useful! The Saxons would have to pay taxes to me, just like they paid taxes to the Romans...yes, conquering England could make me a very, very rich man and, naturally, also make rich those who support me.	
I will also become powerful. I am a Duke , it is true, but that's not the same as being a King... It could be a small problem to rule two nations separated by the Channel, I might have to do a lot of travelling to ensure that I am not overthrown in my absence. But I am sure I can persuade them that they will gain more from supporting me than challenging me! My sons will inherit and empire and history will remember me as a successful warrior and a mighty King.	
Plus, England is the only place to attack if I want to become more powerful. England has no castles or city walls to protect it, only these earth embankments! It is a defenceless little nation.	
And let's not forget the fact that Harold Godwinson is a wretched little liar who has not right to the throne. He rebelled against his King, Edward the	

<p>Confessor and Edward had to ask me for help! After this rebellion by Harold, Edward decided that I should be King, not Harold. He even sent Harold to me to promise that he would be loyal! Harold has been asking for this war ever since he stole the throne when Edward died.</p>	
<p>I am a little worried, of course, that war is a sin. But I have checked with the Pope, Alexander II, and he has agreed that Edward's wishes should be supported. The Pope is God's representative on earth and now he has given me his blessing to become the King of England. There may be people who won't like this, but with God and the Pope on my side, who can argue with me?!</p>	

### **Activities:**

**Read William's speech above and select one of the reasons for invading from the list below that best describes each section. Write your selection in the column 'Reason for invading'. Use each reason only once.**

<p><b>Fame, power and reputation.</b></p>	<p><b>It is the right thing to do.</b></p>
<p><b>Future peace and safety of Normandy.</b></p>	<p><b>Wealth.</b></p>
<p><b>God has given his blessing.</b></p>	<p><b>Chance of an easy victory.</b></p>

## Task 2 – Where should you build your castle?

After William defeated Harold at the Battle of Hastings his next task was to make the rest of England accept his authority.

He sent Norman lords to control different parts of the country for him. They had to build castles as quickly as possible.

These castles had several purposes:

- They made local people believe that the Normans were powerful and should not be challenged.
- They were the places people came to pay their taxes.
- They were the places where people were taken when they broke the law.
- They looked even more impressive as normal people's houses were small huts with one room made of wattle and daub (straw, sticks, mud, and sometimes animal poo!)

### Things to consider when building a castle.

You will have to build your castle quickly because the local people will be angry that you are taking their land.

This means that **you need lots of workers.**

The first castle needs to be made of wood with a high fence for protection.

This means **you will need lots of wood.**

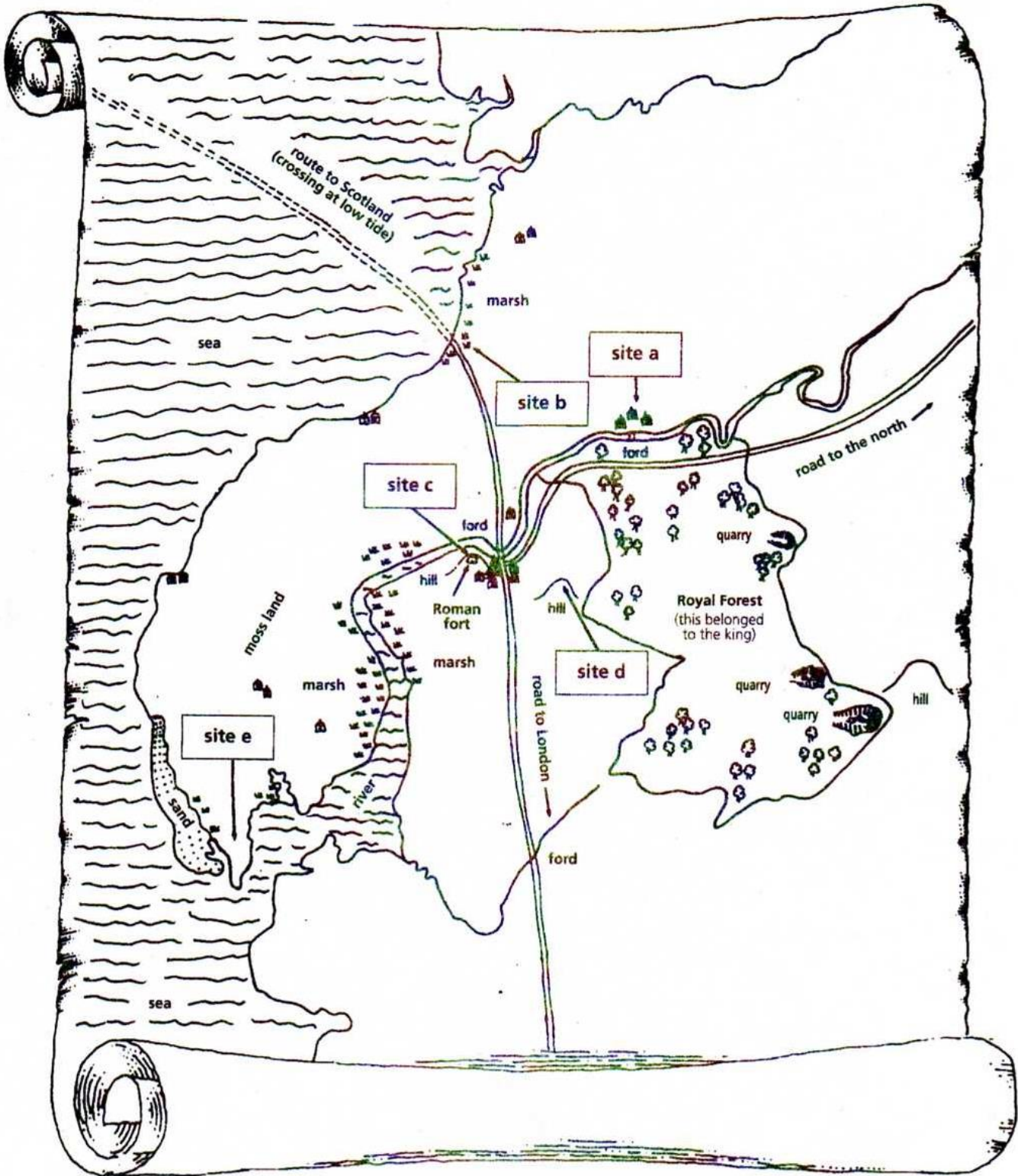
**You have to protect England from invasion,** attackers might come across the sea.

**You need to protect your self from uprisings** of the local people.

**You need to be able to travel easily,** maybe even to London to visit the King.

**This map shows five different possible places where you could build your castle.**

Think carefully about all the different sites and the good and bad things about each.



## Decision time

Now you need to **fill in the table below** to help you make your decision.

	Points for this place	Points against this place
Site A		
Site B		
Site C		
Site D		
Site E		

I think a castle should be built at site...

Because.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### **Task 3 – Recapping, Revising and Relearning Quiz**

This week's homework is a quiz designed to test and revise the key ideas, themes and vocabulary you have learnt in this topic.

**Q1.** Why did William of Normandy think that he should be king?

**Q2.** Why did Harold Godwinson think that he should be king?

**Q3.** Why did Harald Hardrada think that he should be king?

**Q4.** Who died at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?

**Q5.** What battle took place after the Battle of Stamford Bridge?

**Q6.** What is one of the 3 main arguments for why William defeated Harold Godwinson?

**Q7.** What is the tactic William used to break the shield wall?



**Q8.** What is the name of the tapestry that tells the story of William's journey to become king of England?

**Q9.** Who paid for the tapestry to be made?

**Q10.** Name one feature of a Motte and Bailey Castle.

**Q11.** What is a strength of the Stone Keep Castle?

**Q12.** What is a weakness of the Stone Keep Castle?

**Q13.** What is a strength of the Concentric Castle?

**Q14.** What is a weakness of the Concentric Castle?

**Q15.** How did William use castles to control England?

**Q16.** What is the Feudal System?

**Q17.** Who was at the top of the Feudal System?

**Q18.** What did the Peasants gain from the Feudal System?

**Q19.** How did the Feudal System help William control England?

**Q20.** What was the Domesday Book?

**Q21.** How did the Domesday Book help William to control England?

**Q22.** What is the name of the rebellion that took place in the North during William's reign as king?

**Q23.** How did William deal with this rebellion?

**Q24.** Who rebelled against William in 1070?

**Q25.** Why did their rebellion fail?

Note: The publication of this booklet and the material contained within it is in no way whatsoever an endorsement of the viewpoints contained. As a school, we are opposed to any form of prejudice, discrimination, and intolerance. However, in order to understand and be aware of such ideas and how they are used to influence people, it is important to study and discuss certain key texts, events, themes and ideas.