



THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS



THE MAIN FACTS

What	A tremendous battle between two armies
Who	The French army (who were led by William, Duke of Normandy) and the English army led by King Harold.
Where	Hastings, England
When	14 th October 1066
Why	William of Normandy believed he was the rightful king of England and brought his troops to help him reclaim his throne.

WHO WAS VICTORIOUS?

The battle ended when King Harold of England was killed. William, Duke of Normandy (who later was known as William the Conqueror) became king of England. Historians are not certain exactly how King Harold died as there are multiple different stories. One theory suggests that he was shot in the eye by an arrow while another theory states he was attacked and killed by four Norman soldiers.

Prior to the Battle of Hastings, King Harold's army had defended the throne against the Viking King, Harald Hardrada and his army. This had taken place at Stamford Bridge (which was near York). Some historians believe that the battle at Stamford Bridge weakened King Harold's army and left them at a disadvantage against the Normans.

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

Most of our knowledge about the Battle of Hastings comes from two sources: the Bayeux tapestry and an account (description) of the battle. The tapestry, which shows the battle in picture form, is shown at the top and was supposedly created by William the Conqueror's wife. The account was written by a Norman soldier.

WEAPONS

King Harold's housecarls (his private army of highly trained fighters and bodyguards) used long-handled battle axes. These were also called Danish Axes as they were used by the Vikings.

The Norman soldiers used bow and arrows which are shown on the Bayeux tapestry. Historians think that they fired their arrows upwards so that they would go over the enemy's shields. It is also believed that they used crossbows as they were a newly invented weapon.



Both armies used spears, lances (spears which are carried by the rider of a horse), shields and swords.

FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/1066-and-the-norman-conquest/what-happened-battle-hastings/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6/articles/z3s9j6f>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37645852>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. When did the battle of Hastings take place?
2. What is a lance?
3. Who did King Harold fight at the battle of Stamford bridge before the battle of Hastings?
4. how do historians think King Harold was killed?
5. What were housecarls?