

Y7 - REVISION JAN/FEB ASSESSMENTS

WE DO & YOU DO - Harold Godwinson

Harold Godwinson

Edward the Confessor was married to Harold's sister, Edith.

Harold had powerful supporters in England, especially earls, thegns, and bishops.

He was born in England, and was popular with ordinary people.

He had been involved in running the country for many years, and was excellent as a warrior in battle. He gained control of Wales for Edward.

He had experience of running the government, and he commanded Edward's armies. Edward also made him his 'deputy king'.

He was not directly related to Edward. Nevertheless, Edward had promised him the throne on his death.

Harold was a Godwinson; the most powerful family in England. They controlled large amounts of land in Wessex and ran the country for Edward the Confessor.



WE DO & YOU DO - Harald Hardrada

Hardrada

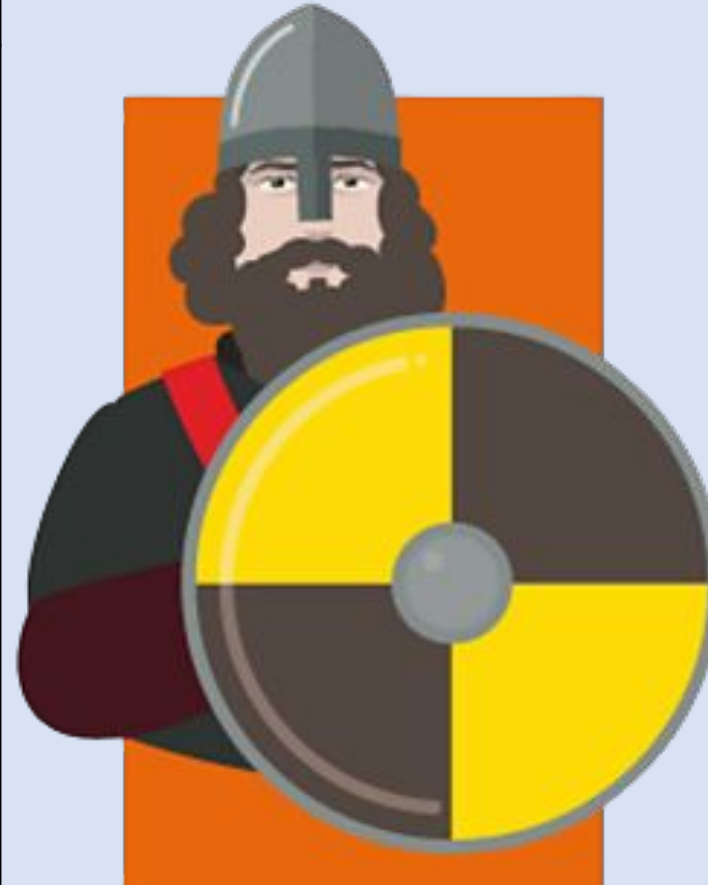
Hardrada was King of Norway and believed he was a direct descendant of the Viking Kings of England.

He was an excellent warrior and had won many battles.

He was very unpopular with his people, but very powerful.

Hardrada may have been welcomed in the North of England, because they still had Viking customs and laws, however, the south of England would have feared him.

He had 15,000 warriors and a fleet of ships.



WE DO & YOU DO - William of Normandy

William of Normandy

William was a cousin of Edward the Confessor.

Edward the Confessor saw William as a close friend and promised William he could be king of England after his death.

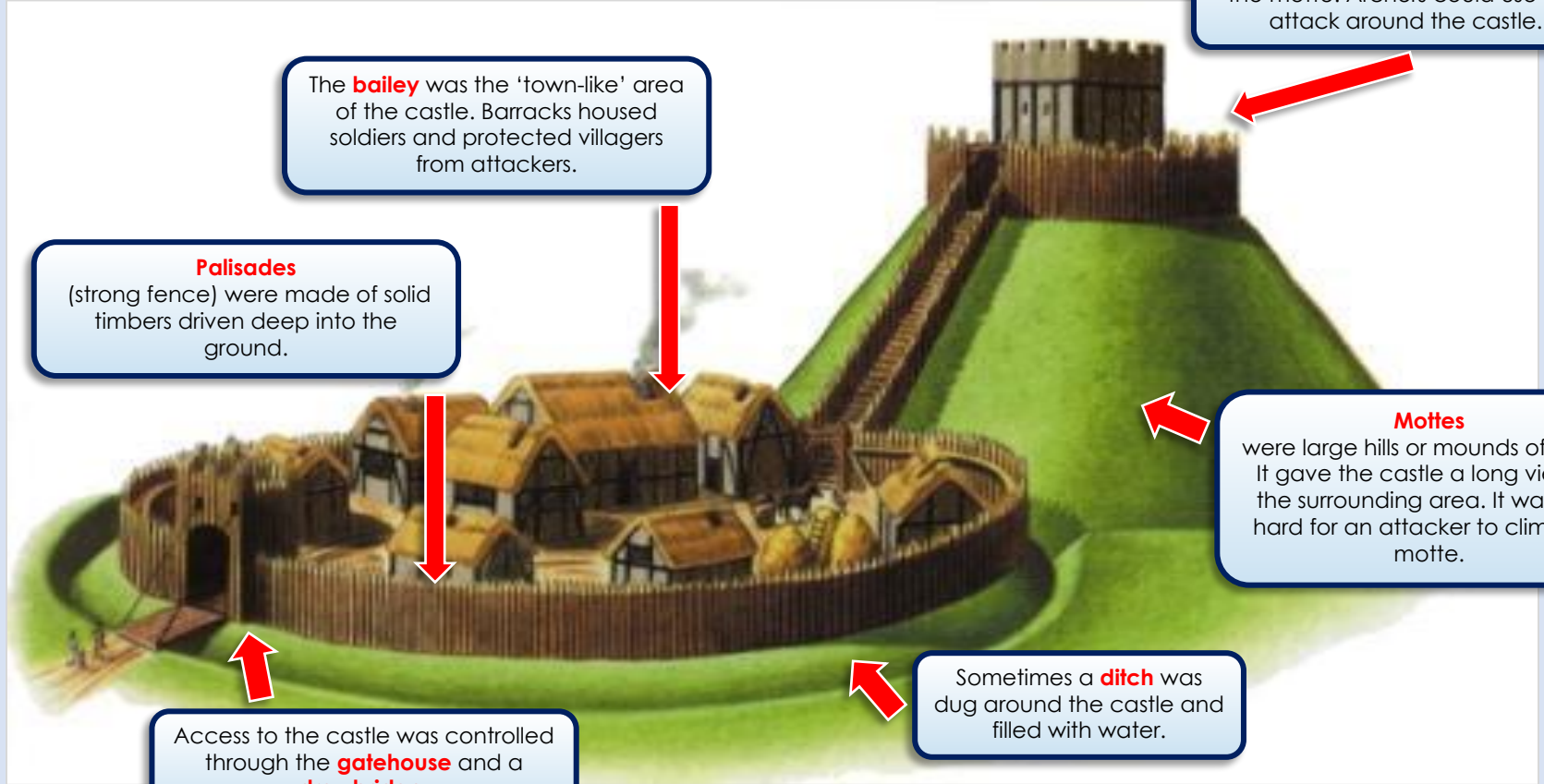
William had been a very successful ruler of Normandy (France) and he thought he could do an equally good job for England.

William was supported by the Pope, who was head of the Christian church in Europe.

William said that Harold Godwinson had sworn to God that when Edward died, Harold would do everything to make sure that William would be the next king of England.



WE DO: How effective were Motte and Bailey Castles?



A wooden **keep** was at the top of the motte. Archers could use it to attack around the castle.

The **bailey** was the 'town-like' area of the castle. Barracks housed soldiers and protected villagers from attackers.

Palisades (strong fence) were made of solid timbers driven deep into the ground.

Mottes were large hills or mounds of earth. It gave the castle a long view of the surrounding area. It was also hard for an attacker to climb the motte.

Sometimes a **ditch** was dug around the castle and filled with water.

Access to the castle was controlled through the **gatehouse** and a **drawbridge**.

FEUDAL SYSTEM

William, King of England

Tenants-in-Chiefs

The 5 earldoms went, and were replaced by 190 smaller land owners.

Under-tenants

1000s of trained knights that replaced the Anglo-Saxon thegns.

Peasants

Slavery was ended, however, peasants had to work harder under the Normans.

The Feudal System was used by William to award people land in exchange for **military service** and **tax**.

William kept control by **awarding land and power** to people who were loyal to him, but **took it away** when they turned against him.

What's really important is that William **got rid of the 5 earldoms** from Anglo-Saxon times. He split them into 190 – so they were **smaller** and easier to control.

DOOMSDAY BOOK

The Domesday book was a collection of information about **who owned what in all of England**.

It had information such as, what land people owned, what animals they had, what equipment they possessed, and **how much their land was worth**.

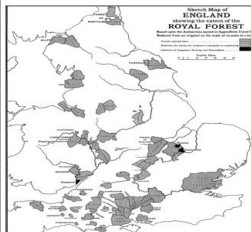
This allowed William to keep control by making sure that he **knew his Kingdom well** and that he could **take more tax to fund his army and castle building**.

Knowing his kingdom also allowed him to **ask for more knights or soldiers** from land owners.

He also used the information to settle **legal disputes** between **land owners**, giving William more authority and power.



FOREST LAWS



- These laws protected the king's favourite animals (deer and wild boar) and their environment. **Nobody could hunt or use these forests** or collect resources such as wood and vegetation.
- People who lived near the forests suffered as they relied on the forests for building materials, hunting animals for food, and collecting wood for fuel. **William controlled the resources of the forests**.
- The forest laws **symbolised William's control**.
- Harsh punishments** further showed that William was in control – hunting deer resulted in the punishment of being blinded.
- Forest fines** added to the King's wealth.

SHERIFFS



Norman sheriffs had **much more power than the tenants-in-chief, and answered to no-one but the king**.

The sheriff had to **organise the fyrd, run castles, and organise the king's armies**.

William ordered the sheriff to **enforce laws and make sure that tax was collected properly**.

They helped William to **keep an eye all over England. Any signs of trouble, and the sheriffs would tell William, who could act to stop it**.