

# Battles That Shaped Britain's History

Teachers' Notes : The Battle of Hastings

*Battles That Shaped Britain's History* is a terms project that looks at key battles over the last 2000 years. This week we are looking at the battle between King Harold of the Saxons and William of Normandy.

1. Look at the time line and where this battle fits in. The Saxon period lasted for many centuries until 1066.
2. There is an information pack of 5 pages about the Battle of Hastings and the important battle before that at Stamford Bridge between Harold Godwinson and Harold Hardrada. These will be needed for the activities below.
3. **First Activity:** The activities pages start with a cloze passage about succession to the crown after King Edward died. There were a number of claimants, the most important being Harold Godwinson, Harold Hardrada and William of Normandy. Children can either just fill in the spaces or rewrite the whole passage. They need to read page 1 of the information pages.

**Second and Third Activities:** These activities are comprehension tasks and requires sentence answers. They need to read pages 2 and 3 of the information sheets that look at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and William invading in the South.

**Fourth Activity:** This involves reading about the actual battle and then describing in their own words what happened. They will need page 4 of the information pack.

**Extension Activities:** The pupils have a choice from three themes that look at England after the Battle and how William changed life in England forever :

1. The building of castles;
2. The development of the Feudal System;
3. The writing of the Domesday Book.

## Taking Notes Effectively

**What is the piece of writing about ?**

*Read the introduction and headings.*

*Look at the illustrations, charts and graphs and read the captions.*

**What are the main points or ideas ?**

*Read through carefully thinking about what the main points or ideas are.*

**Make your notes**

*In your own words, summarize the information. Do not copy information directly from the book or internet. If you include a quote that is written in the book, use quotation marks.*