

# Title: What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

The Battle of Stamford Bridge took place on 20 <sup>th</sup> September 1066.	The Battle of Gate Fulford was between Godwinson's men and the soldiers of Edwin and Morcar, two earls of Anglo-Saxon England.
When Hardrada invaded before this battle, he brought with him 500-600 warships and 10,000 men.	At this battle the Viking army left their armour on their ships, carrying only their weapons and shields.
Hardrada's army were worn down after fighting a battle only 3 days ago.	Harold decided to head south to fight in this battle because he felt the September storms stopped William from heading to England.

Find it, fix it.  
5 of these facts are incorrect. Find them and fix them.

**Challenge: Why was the Battle of Stamford Bridge significant?**

## Learning Objectives

- Describe** the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain** what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess** the advantages and disadvantages of each army.



# Title: What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

The <b>Battle of Stamford Bridge</b> took place on 20 <sup>th</sup> September 1066. <b>GATE FULFORD</b>	The Battle of Gate Fulford was between <b>Godwinson's</b> men and the soldiers of Edwin and Morcar, two earls of Anglo-Saxon England. <b>HARDRADA'S</b>
When Hardrada invaded before this battle, he brought with him <b>500-600</b> warships and 10,000 men. <b>200-300</b>	At this battle the Viking army left their armour on their ships, carrying only their weapons and shields.
Hardrada's army were worn down after fighting a battle only <b>3</b> days ago. <b>5</b>	Harold decided to head <b>south</b> to fight in this battle because he felt the September storms stopped William from heading to England. <b>NORTH</b>

Find it, fix it.  
5 of these facts are incorrect. Find them and fix them.

**Challenge: Why was the Battle of Stamford Bridge significant?**

## Learning Objectives

- Describe** the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain** what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess** the advantages and disadvantages of each army.



# Title: What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

Is it ever  
acceptable to  
use force to  
take power?



Individual liberty,  
rule of law

## Learning Objectives

- Describe** the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain** what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess** the advantages and disadvantages of each army.

# Title: What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

In your book, on one A4 page, make yourself a timeline. With your partner write down as many events as you can remember from this course so far.

**Challenge:** Highlight any turning points in this story so far e.g. the death of the king at the time.

1053, Harold Godwinson becomes Earl of Wessex when his father dies.

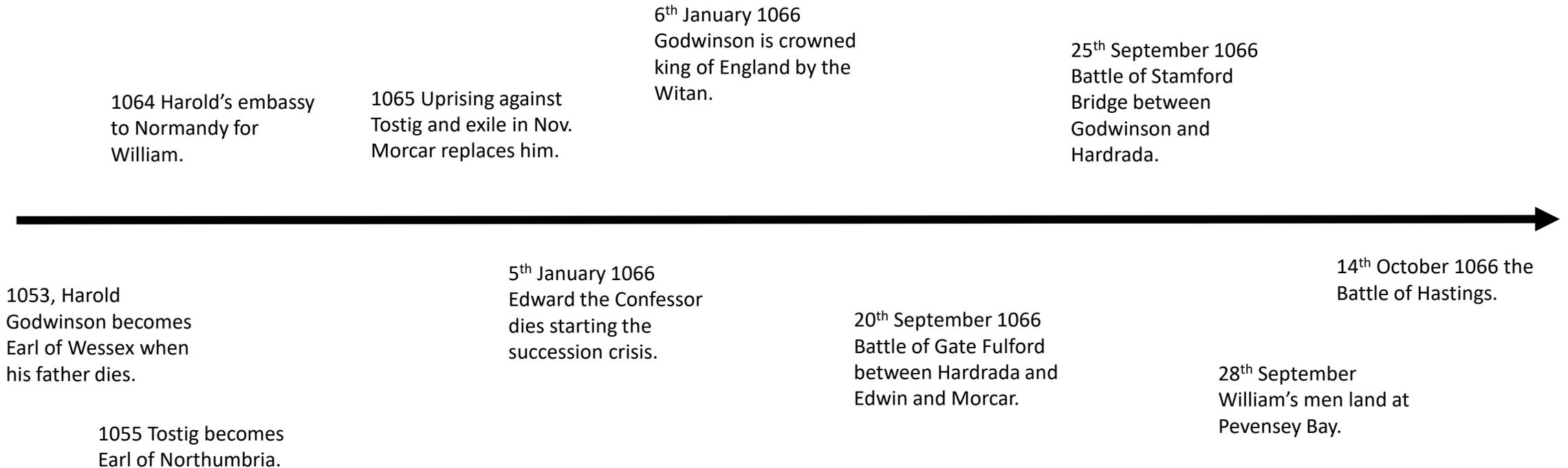
20<sup>th</sup> September 1066  
Battle of Gate Fulford  
between Hardrada and  
Edwin and Morcar.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8OPQ\\_28mdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8OPQ_28mdo)

## Learning Objectives

- Describe** the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain** what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess** the advantages and disadvantages of each army.

# Title: What happened at the Battle of Hastings?



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8OPQ\\_28mdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8OPQ_28mdo)

## Learning Objectives

- Describe the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess the advantages and disadvantages of each army.

# The Battle of Hastings: Storyboard



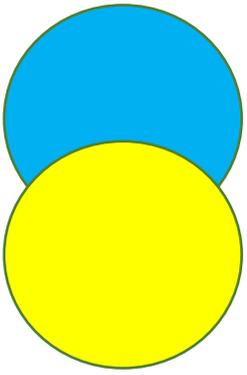
Watch the story of the Battle of Hastings. As you watch, you need to record 6 main events that happened in the Battle of Hastings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zigjVCFzZ38>

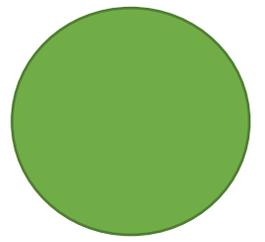
## Learning Objectives

- Describe** the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain** what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess** the advantages and disadvantages of each army.





On 28<sup>th</sup> September, \_\_\_ days after the Battle of Stamford Bridge William landed in England on Pevensey Bay in \_\_\_\_\_.

William arrived with approximately 7000 men and \_\_\_ ships, and had the support of the Pope. Some historians believe he has 800 knights and 4-6,000 foot soldiers.

William provoked Harold by attacking his former \_\_\_\_\_. He felt betrayed by Harold for ignoring his promise in the \_\_\_\_\_ to Normandy.

When Harold arrived, tired from his \_\_\_\_\_, he assembled his men on top of a small hill (Caldbec hill) where they formed a shield wall to fight off the \_\_\_\_\_ troops.

William's men were led well. When Harold's \_\_\_\_\_ would not break, William instructed his men to perform a false retreat, fooling the English and breaking their defence.

William is victorious. Harold dies at the battle, with the \_\_\_\_\_ suggesting he died by an \_\_\_\_\_ to the eye, which showed the luck of William.

**Missing words:**

Battle, Sussex, 3 shield wall, 700, arrow, earldom, Norman, Bayeux Tapestry, embassy

## Example answer story.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September, 3 days after the Battle of Stamford Bridge William landed in England on Pevensey Bay in Sussex.

William arrived with approximately 7000 men and 700 ships, and had the support of the Pope. Some historians believe he has 800 knights and 4-6,000 foot soldiers.

William provoked Harold by attacking his former earldom. He felt betrayed by Harold for ignoring his promise in the embassy to Normandy.

When Harold arrived, tired from his battle, he assembled his men on top of a small hill (Caldbec hill) where they formed a shield wall to fight off the Norman troops.

William's men were led well. When Harold's shield wall would not break, William instructed his men to perform a false retreat, fooling the English and breaking their defence.

William is victorious. Harold dies at the battle, with the Bayeux Tapestry suggesting he died by an arrow to the eye, which showed the luck of William.

# Soldiers and weaponry

Use the information you have been given to annotate your image of William's knights and Harold's housecarls.

Then complete your table: What were the strengths and weaknesses of both armies?

- Challenge: Which army do you think was strongest? Explain why and compare it to the other army.

## Learning Objectives

- Describe the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- Explain what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- Assess the advantages and disadvantages of each army.

### Harold's Saxon army

#### **Housecarls:**

These were the well-trained, experienced full-time fighters of the Saxon army. They wore the armour of a chain-mail coat made of iron rings. They also carried a kite-shaped shield and wore iron helmets. The shields used were round, hide-covered and wooden with a central metal boss. They were practiced in using a shield wall and creating gaps to allow them to strike out using battle axes. They were armed with a mighty battle-axe – capable of killing a horse! They also carried swords, spears or a small throwing axe. Other weapons included a javelin, long axe and sword. Harold's housecarls were good because they were well defended with their shield wall, and their weapons could attack horses well, but they depended on discipline and endurance- once their shield wall was gone, they were vulnerable.

#### **The Fyrd:**

These were mostly local, untrained peasant farmers with a duty to defend the country. Only the leaders (the local landowners), would be armed like the Housecarls. The rest had no armour. Some had round homemade wooden shields and leather helmets. Their weapons varied. Some had axes, but others had only farm tools and anything they could find.

### William's Norman army

#### **Infantry:**

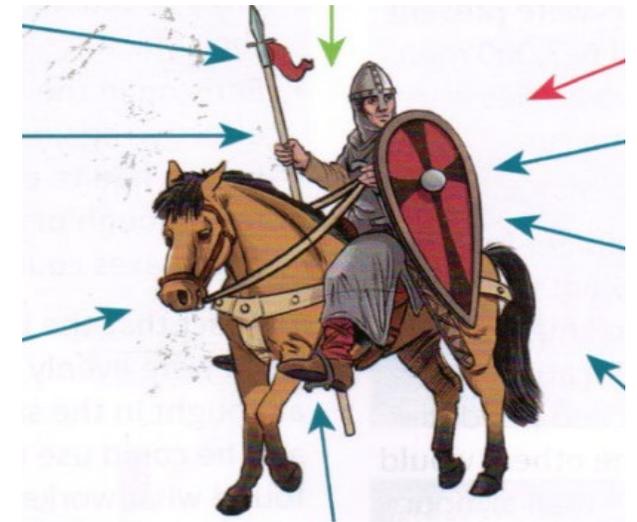
These were well trained, experienced full-time fighters. They wore armour including chain-mail coats of iron rings, kite-shaped shields and iron helmets. They were armed with a sword, a spear or an axe.

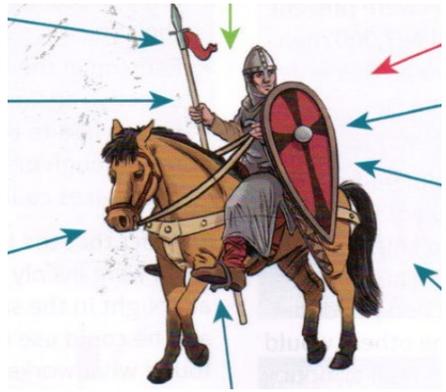
#### **Cavalry/Knights:**

These were the best soldiers in the army. They were highly trained full-time fighters. On flat ground, infantry could not stand up to the power of a knight. They wore armour including a chain-mail coat of iron rings, a kite-shaped shield and an iron helmet. They carried a sword, spear or axe. Blunt instruments such as the battle mace were also used. They rode large, trained warhorses. They also carried a gonfalon: a battle pennant used for signalling manoeuvres. William's knights were good at charging, with the height from their horses meant they had an advantage to strike downwards, but the horses were vulnerable and not as good charging up hill.

#### **Archers:**

These were highly trained men. They didn't normally wear armour as they needed to be able to move freely, though some did wear leather or iron helmets. They carried their bow and a quiver of arrows (with a range of up to 100m). Many also carried a small knife or sword.

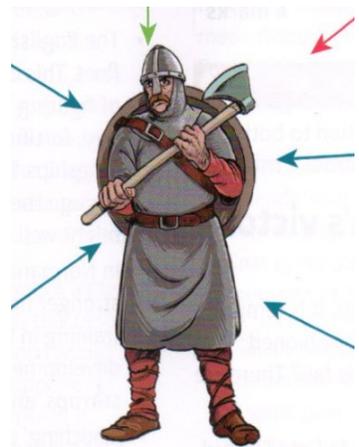




### William's army

Strengths

Weaknesses

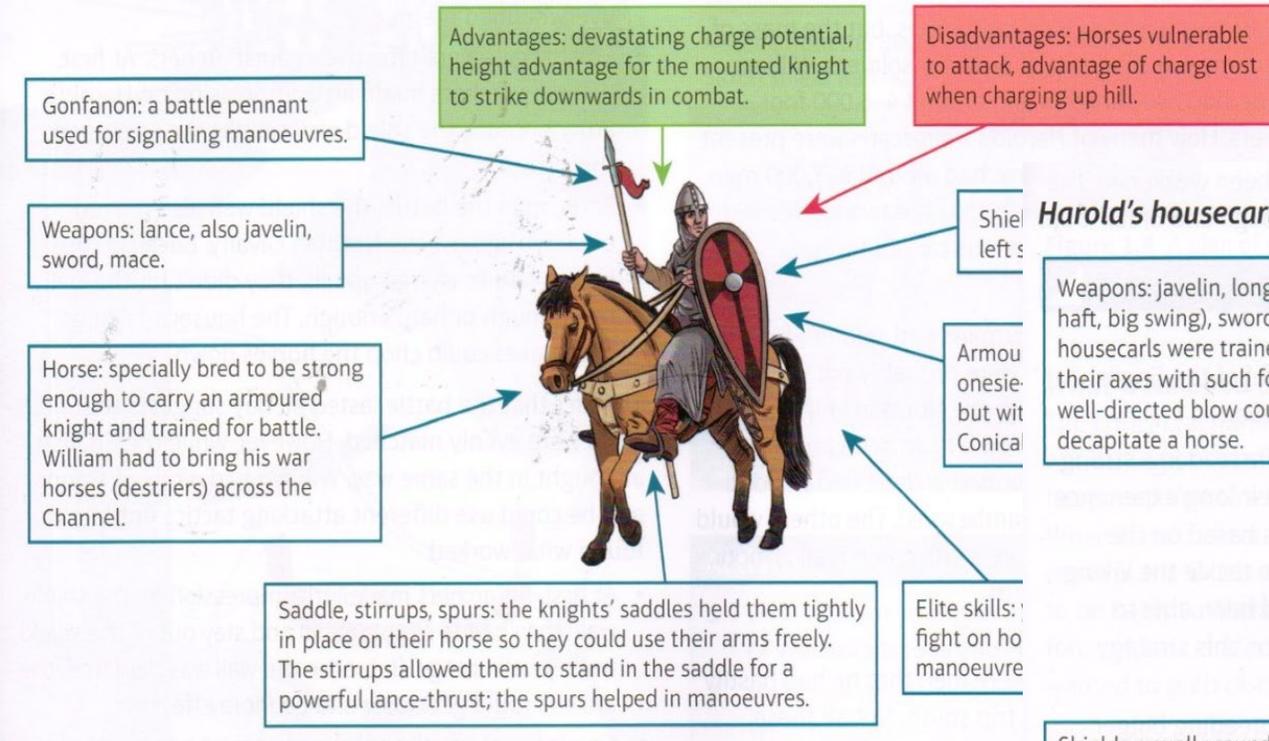


### Harold's army

Strengths

Weaknesses

## William's knights



## Harold's housecarls

**Weapons:** javelin, long axe (1.3 m haft, big swing), sword. The housecarls were trained to wield their axes with such force that a well-directed blow could decapitate a horse.

**Shields:** usually round, hide-covered wooden shields with central metal boss. Housecarls formed the shield wall, with troops two or three lines thick behind it. Housecarls were practised in making a gap in the wall for axemen behind to strike, then closing the wall again.

**Advantages:** a disciplined shield wall was proof against arrows and very hard to break; heavy axes caused severe injuries and took down horses.

**Disadvantages:** depended on discipline and endurance. Once the shield wall was depleted, its advantages disappeared; opponents could charge through and it could turn into a general chaotic combat.

**Elite skills:** shield wall, long-handled axe; discipline and endurance. Harold's housecarls were the elite foot soldiers of Europe. Would fight to the death to defend their king.

**Armour:** chain mail or metal plates sewn onto leather. Conical helmet with nose-piece. Similar design to Norman armour.

## Learning Objectives

- **Describe** the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- **Explain** what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- **Assess** the advantages and disadvantages of each army.



## William's army

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Infantry These were well trained, experienced full-time fighters. They wore armour including chain-mail coats of iron rings, kite-shaped shields and iron helmets. They were armed with a sword, a spear or an axe.</p> <p>Knights These were the best soldiers in the army. They were highly trained full-time fighters. On flat ground, infantry could not stand up to the power of a knight William's knights were good at charging, with the height from their horses meant they had an advantage to strike downwards,</p>	<p>Knights horses were vulnerable and not as good charging up hill.</p> <p>Archers vulnerable not wearing armour but able to move.</p> <p>Distance potential problem.</p>

## Harold's army

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Harold's housecarls were good because they were well defended with their shield wall, and their weapons could attack horses well.</p> <p>Housecarls were well-trained, experienced full-time fighters of the Saxon army. They wore the armour of a chain-mail coat made of iron rings. They were armed with a mighty battle-axe – capable of killing a horse!</p>	<p>Housecarls depended on discipline and endurance- once their shield wall was gone, they were vulnerable.</p> <p>The Fyrd were not the best soldiers: mostly local, untrained peasant farmers with a duty to defend the country. Only the leaders (the local landowners), would be armed like the Housecarls. Not all the Fyrd had armour. Some had round homemade wooden shields and leather helmets. Their weapons varied.</p>

### Learning Objectives

- -Describe the events of the Battle of Hastings.
- -Explain what types of soldiers and weaponry each army had.
- -Assess the advantages and disadvantages of each army.



# Describe two features of William's army at the Battle of Hastings.

This question is **worth 4 marks**.  
You get **2 marks per feature**.

**A feature** is something distinctive or characteristic e.g. one feature here might be the system of earldoms. Each feature needs a **supporting detail**. This is some specific information that shows you understand the feature.

## Self-assess

Have you included:

- One clear feature of William's army at the Battle of Hastings
- A supporting detail for the feature
- Another clear feature of William's army at the Battle of Hastings
- Another supporting detail

**Describe two features of William's army at the Battle of Hastings (4).**

*One feature of William's army at the Battle of Hastings was...*

---

---

*For example,*

---

---

*Another feature of William's army at the Battle of Hastings was...*

---

---

*For example,*

---

---