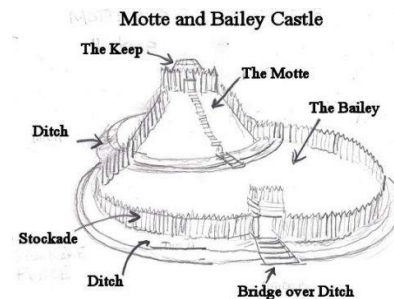


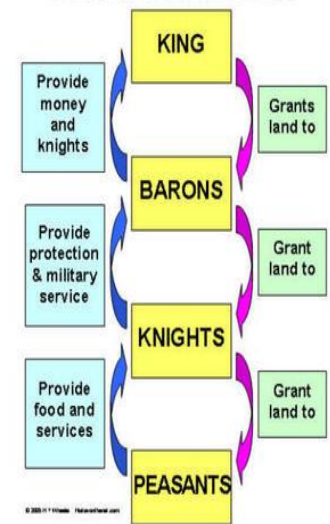
Chronology, events and people.

In 1066 Edward the Confessor, king of England, died. He didn't have any children so there was no obvious successor. There were four contenders to the throne of England. The contenders were: Harold Godwinson who was crowned king the same day as Edward's funeral, William Duke of Normandy (France), Harald Hardrada (a Viking from Norway) and Edgar Aetheling –the closest blood relation to Edward, but he was only 9 years old. Hardrada invaded England and fought Godwinson at the Battle of Stanford Bridge. Godwinson won and had to march south to fight William who had also invade. They fought at the Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066. William won and was crowned King of England on Christmas Day. The events of the year were recorded in the Bayeux tapestry.

After 1066 William had to make sure he had a strong grip over England. A new feature appeared on our landscapes –castles. These were built to house troops who could be used to stop any rebellions. Ordinary people had tough lives in the Middle Ages. There was a system called the Feudal System where rich nobles rented out small plots of land to poorer people. In return they had to work on their lord's land and fight for him when needed. However, poor people could be evicted if they couldn't pay their rent.



FEUDAL SYSTEM



Key words

Anglo Saxon – people who ruled England at the start of 1066
 Fyrd – part time soldiers
 Housecarl – professional Anglo-Saxon soldiers
 Norman - *someone who comes from Normandy.*
 Shield wall – military tactic used in medieval battle
 Vikings – people from Norway
 Witan – the king's council in Anglo-Saxon England
 Bailey – the area of a castle where servants lived
 Feudal System - *where a peasant or villein received a piece of land from a baron in return for serving him in work or fighting.*
 Keep – the most important part of the castle
 Motte – man made mound of earth
 Villein – a peasant
 Abbey – a large monastery
 Baron - *rich, powerful land owners.*
 Battle – a fight between two armies

Cavalry – soldiers on horseback
 Heir – the next in line for the throne
 King - the male ruler of an independent state, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth
 Knight - *a soldier who fought for a baron or king in return for land.*
 Loyalty - faithfulness; if a person promised loyalty, they promised to support someone
 Medieval - *the period of British history from c.1066 – c.1500.*
 Military – the armed forces
 Monarch – a king or queen
 Nobility - the quality of belonging to the aristocracy.
 Papacy - the office or authority of the Pope
 Pope - the head/leader of the Catholic Church
 War - a state of armed conflict between different countries or different groups within a country.

Key dates of 1066

- 5th Jan - The Death of Edward the Confessor
- 6th Jan - Harold Earl of Wessex crowned King of England
- 20th Sept - The Battle of Gate Fulford - The Vikings defeat the English led by Morcar
- 21st Sept - Harold marches his army from the South Coast of England to York to defend against the Viking Invasion
- 25th Sept - The Stamford Bridge Battle - Harold defeats King Harald Hardrada and the Vikings at York
- 28th Sept - Duke William lands at Pevensey, on the South coast of England. The Norman Invasion
- 1st Oct - Harold celebrating his victory over the Vikings at York, receives news of the Norman invasion
- 14th Oct
 - The Anglo Saxons started the Battle by making a shield wall on a hill. It is effective against Norman attack.
 - Part way through the battle a rumour starts that William is dead. Some Normans retreat and flee
 - The English believed that the Normans were in retreat. The English pursued the Normans and foolishly broke their ranks.
 - William shows his troops he is alive and orders his men to turn and kill the Anglo-Saxons who are no longer protected by the shield wall
 - Harold is shot in the eye. Remaining Anglo-Saxons flee
- 25th Dec - Duke William is crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey in London