

Topic - 1066

Edward the Confessor was king of England between 1042-1066. Edward married but had no children. For a king to die without an heir was a disaster. A strong ruler, preferably with experience, good at fighting and leading armies and related to the king was required. Here are the candidates:



Harold Godwinson	Key Vocabulary	
Anglo-Saxon Earl of Wessex, one of the most powerful men in England Harold's sister was married to King Edward. Harold was a brave and respected soldier with a tough streak. The Witan, wanted Harold to be the next king. Edward promised the throne to William on his deathbed.	Bailey	Flat area at the foot of the motte containing storerooms, animals etc.
	Barons	Nobles who fought for Williams at Hastings & were rewarded with large areas of land to control for him.
	Bayeux Tapestry	Embroidery which tells the story of the Battle of Hastings (Norman perspective)
William of Normandy	Cavalry	Soldiers who fought on horseback
Norman Duke of Normandy, France. William came from a fighting family. He was a brave soldier. Edward's cousin. Edward had lived in Normandy from 1016-1042. Edward had supposedly promised that William should become King of England. Harold had promised to support William.	Heir	Next in line to the throne
	Knights	Soldiers who were given land in the Feudal system
	Motte	Large man-made mound on which a tower was placed for defence
Harald Hardrada	Normans	From Normandy in France, descendants of Vikings (North-men)
Viking King of Norway Vikings had ruled Britain before Most feared warrior in Europe - Hardrada means 'hard ruler' and his nickname was 'the Ruthless'. Harald was supported by Tostig, Harold Godwinson's brother who wanted revenge.	Peasants	Ordinary people, who worked on the land and has to serve their master, often a knight
	Rebellion	An uprising against the ruler

Battle of Hastings



Battle of Hastings - Sequence of Events

5 Jan 1066	Edward the Confessor died. The Witan elected Harold Godwinson to be the next king of England.
6 Jan 1066	Harold was crowned as king of England, probably at Westminster Abbey.
20 Sep 1066	Harald Hardrada and Tostig invaded, with more than 10,000 men in 200 long ships. Anglo- Saxon Earls Edwin and Morcar were defeated at Battle of Fulford.
25 Sep 1066	Harold Godwinson travelled north to fight Harald Hardrada. In four days he marched 180 miles to surprise Hardrada and Tostig, east of York. Godwinson defeated Hardrada but his army was tired and badly reduced in size.
27 Sep 1066	William Duke of Normandy set sail with almost 700 ships. His soldiers landed at Pevensey and made a small castle. The Normans pillaged and burned the surrounding area, in order to force Harold to come south. Having heard of William's landing while at York, he raced his army down the old Roman road of Ermine Street
12 Oct 1066	Harold arrives at London, to recruit more troops
14 Oct 1066	Battle of Hastings—death of King Harold