

THE NORMAN CONQUEST

LESSON 2

THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

<p>Objectives/learning outcomes Pupils will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn what the Bayeux Tapestry is. • Explain what the Tapestry can tell us about events that happened in 1066. • Use sources to evaluate in what ways the Tapestry could be biased? 	<p>Starter How do historians know about the events of 1066? Historians have to find EVIDENCE [clues, information about the past]. The word SOURCE is sometimes used. Use the grid. Show the picture of Anglo-Saxon Chronicle What is it? What is a chronicle? How old is it? [Started in A.D. 890] What language? [Anglo-Saxon] When could people first write? Who wrote it? [English Monks] What information does it contain? [Events from the time] Who could write at the time? [Rich and monks] Would they have seen the events they describe? [Yes, or from people they met] How would they get the information? Do you think many records like this have survived? Why or why not? What does it tell us about the people who wrote it?</p>
<p>Activities and homework</p> <p><u>Activity 1</u> What is the Bayeux Tapestry?</p> <p><u>Activity 2</u> What does the Bayeux Tapestry tell us?</p> <p><u>Activity 3</u> Examining the evidence Was William Duke of Normandy promised the throne?</p> <p><u>Homework</u> Homework 1 What does the evidence say? [Advanced] Homework 2 Draw your own scene from the Bayeux Tapestry [Standard]</p>	<p>Plenary Recap keywords related to source evaluation. Evidence is... A source is... A source is primary if... A source is secondary if... A source is biased when... The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is... The Bayeux Tapestry is... The Bayeux Tapestry might be unreliable because...</p>

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What evidence would be available in 1066?					
<i>Evidence</i>	✓ <i>x</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	✓ <i>x</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	✓ <i>x</i>
Radio		Things made		Newspapers	
Television		Diaries		Books	
Drawings		Word of mouth		Coins	
Weapons		Buildings		Paintings	

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Show Bayeux Tapestry Image 1

What is the Bayeux Tapestry?

The most famous source about what happened in 1066 is a strip cartoon. It is over 1000 years old and is called the Bayeux Tapestry.

No-one knows exactly when the Tapestry was made but it was produced within 20 years of the Battle of Hastings. For centuries, it lay almost unknown in Bayeux Cathedral until historians discovered it in the 18th century. Bishop Odo, William's half-brother, probably ordered that it should be made. Bishop Odo appears quite a lot in the Tapestry. The Tapestry is in fact embroidery made of linen with pictures stitched in wool. It measures 6.88m by 5.36cm with writing in Latin explaining what is happening. It is a very special record of the events of 1066 because it contains both writing and pictures. The Tapestry contains hundreds of images divided into scenes each describing a particular event. Today, anyone can see it in the Norman town of Bayeux. The colours still look fresh and clear.

TASK

Bayeux Tapestry questions

1. What is the name of the strip cartoon of the events of 1066?
2. How old is it?
3. What does the Bayeux Tapestry show?
4. Who ordered the Tapestry to be made?
5. What materials were used to make the Tapestry?
6. What is the size? How long? How wide?
7. What language is used?
8. Where would you go to see it today?
9. Why might what the Tapestry shows not be accurate?
10. Why might you not trust what the Tapestry shows?

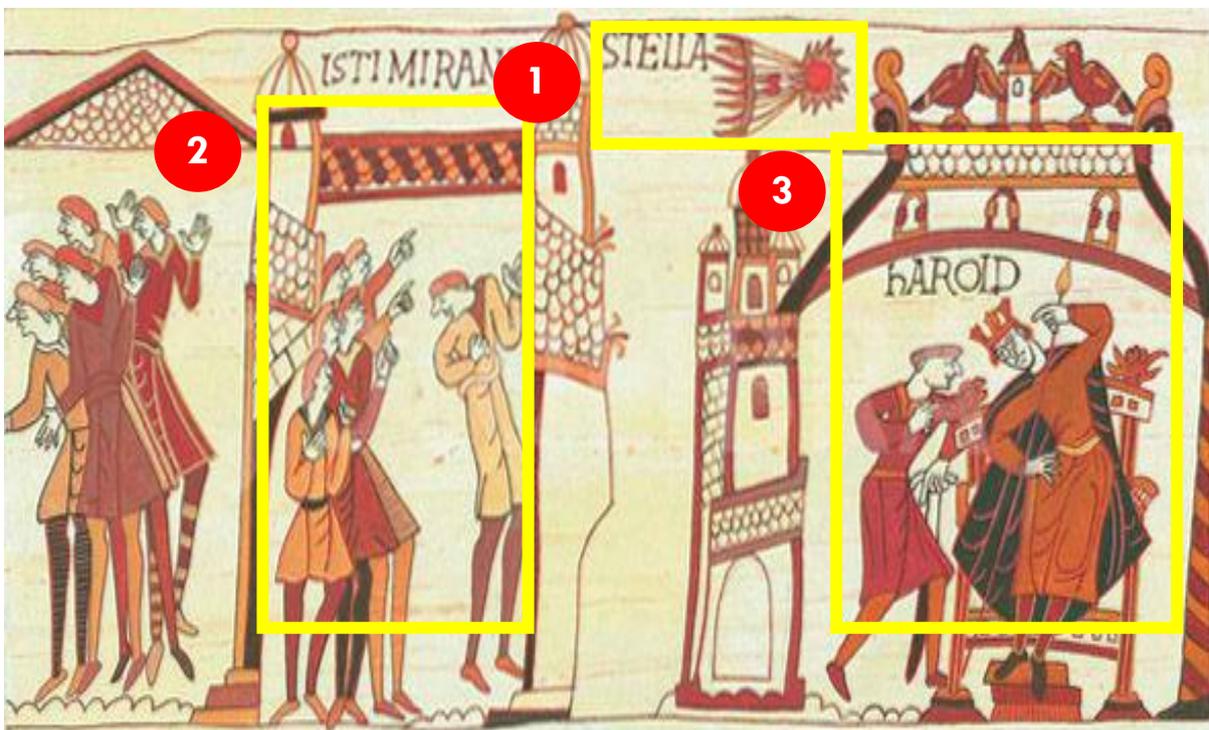
Halley's Comet

At the beginning of 1066, Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England. Shortly afterwards, there were reports of a star in the sky. Today, we know that it was a comet called Halley's Comet. It is a "periodic" comet and returns to the Earth every 75 years. The last time it was seen was in 1986, and it is projected to return in 2061. It was such a memorable event that it was shown in the Bayeux Tapestry. There was another reason why the Normans chose to show it in the Tapestry. This was seen as a bad omen - a sign that England could expect troubled times.

Bayeux Tapestry Image 2 What is happening in this scene?



Bayeux Tapestry Image 2 Halley's Comet

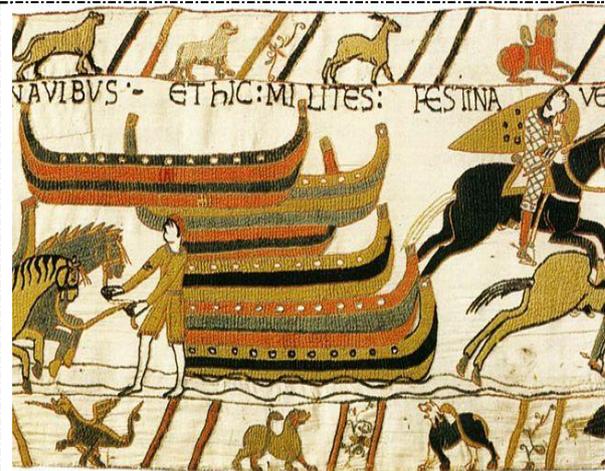


1. Halley's comet appears. 'Stella' is Latin for star. 2. People think it is an evil omen, are terrified and look away. 3. News of the comet is brought to Harold.

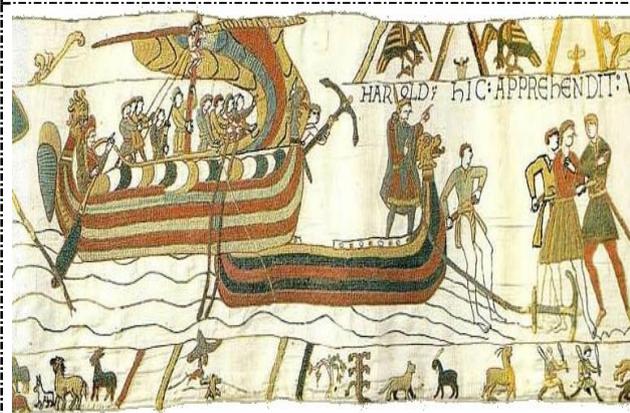
What does the Bayeux Tapestry tell us?



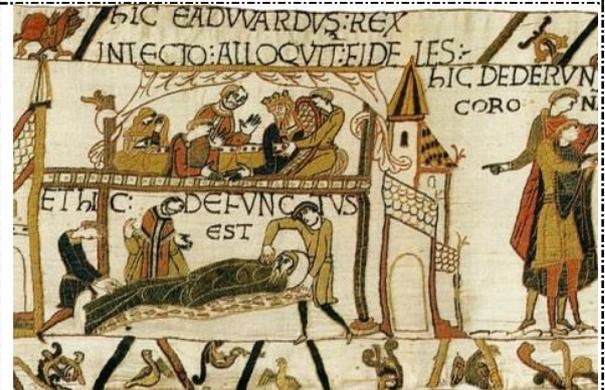
Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6

<p>In the Royal Palace of Westminster Edward the Confessor, King of England since 1042, is talking to his brother-in-law Harold, Earl of Wessex.</p>	<p>In 1064, Harold's ship is blown off course. Count Guy's soldiers capture Harold. He is taken to William of Normandy.</p>
<p>Harold is crowned King of England on 6th January 1066. At the far side people cheer him.</p>	<p>Harold swears a solemn oath on holy relics in front of William before sailing back to England in 1064.</p>
<p>King Edward the Confessor lies ill on his death bed talking to Harold and Queen Edith. On the 5 January 1066, Edward dies.</p>	<p>At the end of January 1066, William decides to attack England. He leads his army to the boats and they set sail.</p>

TASK

Cut out the pictures and captions. Match the pictures to the captions. Then place them in the order in which they happened to tell the story of some of the important events told in the Tapestry.

Extension

Look at each scene from the Bayeux Tapestry closely. What extra detail can you see that is not mentioned in the caption?

<p>Picture 1</p>	<p>Picture 2 <i>There are horses shown and these are needed for the battle.</i></p>
<p>Picture 3</p>	<p>Picture 4</p>
<p>Picture 5</p>	<p>Picture 6</p>

EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE

Was William of Normandy promised the throne?

One task of a historian is to find out if evidence is truthful. Evidence can sometimes be biased or one-sided. This can sometimes depend on who wrote it or produced it.

Source	Who produced it and when?	What does it say about who was promised the throne?	Why might you not trust it?

TASKS

1. Read sources 1-4 and complete the table above.
2. According to these sources, who was promised the English throne when Edward the Confessor died?
3. Why do you think that Norman writers include the story about Harold's oath?
4. Why do English sources about 1066 do not mention the oath?

Homework 1 Advanced

What does the evidence say?

Source A

'King Edward sent Harold to William so that Harold could guarantee that Duke William would inherit the English throne. Harold stayed with the Duke and swore loyalty to him with many oaths.' (*From William of Jumieges*)

Source B

'Edward loved William as if he was his brother or his son. He made William his heir and therefore sent Harold to William so that he could confirm this promise with an oath... Many truthful and honourable people who were there say that Harold swore on oath - of his own free will. (*From William of Poitiers*)

TASKS

Read Sources A and B

1. How do they agree about what Harold did?
2. How do the sources agree about what Edward did?
3. Both sources are written by Normans. Does this affect how reliable the evidence is? Explain your answer.
4. What other evidence could we use to have a complete knowledge about these events?
5. Why is it really important whether Harold agreed to the oath or not?

Homework 1 Standard

Draw your own scene from the Bayeux Tapestry

When Harold was captured in France, he was taken to see William in Normandy. Harold goes with William into battle to fight Duke Conan of Brittany. Some soldiers sink into quick sand. Harold shows his bravery by rescuing his soldiers - two at a time!!

TASK

Draw your own sketch similar to the Bayeux Tapestry to illustrate the story above. Remember the Tapestry has pictures and writing to tell the reader what is happening. Give your scene a title.

