



# Why William the Conqueror Invaded England in 1066

KS3 Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

## A Disputed Crown

In **1066**, **King Edward the Confessor** of **England** died. He had no children, which meant there was no clear person to be the next king. This created a problem because several powerful people thought *they* should rule **England** instead. One of those people was **William**, the **Duke of Normandy** (a region in what is now **France**).

## William's Claim to the Throne

**William** believed he had a right to become king because **King Edward** had supposedly promised him the throne years earlier. **William** said that **Edward** had visited **Normandy** when he was younger and had made a deal with **William's father**. **William** also claimed that **Harold Godwinson**, the man who actually became king after **Edward** died, had once promised to support **William's** claim.

Think of it like if your friend promised to let you borrow their favourite toy, but then gave it to someone else instead. You'd feel cheated and angry!

## Power and Ambition

However, **William's** reasons for invading weren't just about keeping promises. He was an ambitious and powerful leader who wanted to expand his lands and increase his power. Winning **England** would make **William** incredibly wealthy and influential. It would also give him control of a large, rich kingdom across the sea from **Normandy**.

## The Invasion

**William** gathered a massive army and built ships to carry his soldiers across the **English Channel**. On **October 14th, 1066**, **William's** forces fought **Harold's** army at the **Battle of Hastings**. **Harold** was killed in the battle, and **William** won. This victory changed **England** forever. **William** became known as **William the Conqueror**, and he became king of **England**.

## Why It Mattered

**William's** invasion brought **Norman** culture, language, and ideas to **England**. It changed how **England** was governed and influenced everything from food to architecture. Today, many English words come from **French**, thanks to **William** and the **Normans** who settled in **England** after the invasion.