

# Year 7 Knowledge Organiser (2) – The Norman Conquest

## Key Events/Individuals

1.	<b>25<sup>th</sup> December 1066</b> – William is crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey in London
2.	<b>1019</b> – The most famous rebellion against William was led by Earls Edwin and Morcar, who wanted to put Edward the Confessor's 18 year old nephew – Edgar Aetheling - on the throne. Their army was supported by the Scots and Vikings, but was brutally put down by William.
3.	<b>Harrying of the North</b> – As a punishment for supporting Edgar Aetheling's rebellion, William ordered villages and crops in the north of England to be burnt, people and animals killed and the land poisoned so people could not farm there afterwards. It is estimated that 75% of the population of the north was wiped out.
4.	<b>1085</b> – William ordered a huge survey of England. The Domesday book was begun. However, William did not live to see it completed.



## Key concepts

5.	<b>Conquest</b>	Taking control of an area by military force. William's invasion and takeover of England in 1066 is known as the Norman Conquest.
6.	<b>Rebellion</b>	An act of resistance against an established government or leader. There were many rebellions against William in the early years of his rule of England.
7.	<b>Tax</b>	A compulsory fee charged by a government. Taxes contribute to the running of the country. In the Medieval period, a tax could be paid in the form of money or goods.

## Key Words/ Terms

8.	<b>Motte</b>	William built castles as part of his conquest of England. The first ones were made of wood, and were built on a motte. A motte is a mound of earth.
9.	<b>Bailey</b>	This was the area around a castle, which was enclosed by a wooden fence and a ditch to protect it.
10.	<b>Domesday Book</b>	William ordered a survey of England which became known as the Domesday Book. It was full of information about how many people there were in each area, and how much property they owned. This was so William knew how many people he could call up to his army if he needed them, and how much he could tax people.
11.	<b>Feudal System</b>	A system developed by King William where each group of people owed loyalty to the group above, starting with villeins, knights, barons and ending with the king.
12.	<b>Baron</b>	In return for their loyalty, William gave his supporters big chunks of land in England to rule. These powerful landowners were known as barons.
13.	<b>Knight</b>	Smaller landowners who would get land from the barons. They ranked below the barons in the feudal system, but were much higher ranking than the peasants.
14.	<b>Villein</b>	Peasants who farmed the land. They were part of the property of the baron or knight who owned the land they lived and worked on.
15.	<b>Murdrum Fines</b>	If a Norman was killed, the English people living in the area where the crime happened would be taxed heavily.

