

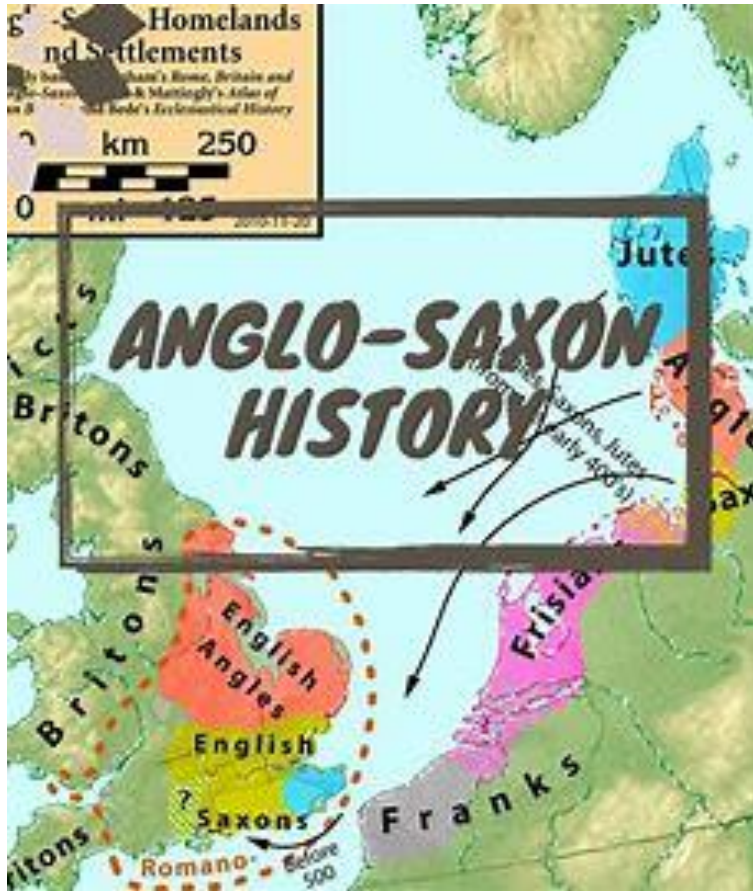
# How good is your Horrid History?

It's a triumph



*Set to rival "Fairbanks" geography this new history guide will quite literally blow you away – it's a literary marvel!*

Remember, your History exam this term is about skills as well as knowledge. This means there will be some questions that involve you doing something – NOT knowing something



Let's tell the story so far. William has been busy fighting the English at the Battle of Hastings and he was victorious. Now he has the huge challenge of **consolidating** his power and ensuring he stays King of England. This is no easy challenge as England is a warzone and we don't have the internet and mobile phones to tell everyone what is happening so William has to come up with some ideas and quickly now that he has been crowned. The first part of this revision guide will talk you through all of these ideas and consider how important it was to his success!



Watch to see the story so far!

# How good is your Horrid History?

So, William was in charge, but he needed to **CONSOLIDATE** his power. This just means he needed to strengthen his power, so he decided to do several different things.

1. Harry the North
2. Build castles
3. Create the Feudal system
4. Create the Domesday book.

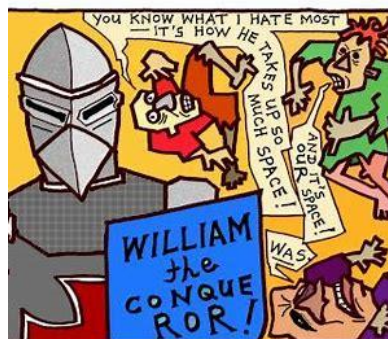
## Harrying the North

A long time ago, in the year 1069, England was a very different place. A new king, William the Conqueror, had recently taken control of the country after winning the Battle of Hastings in 1066. But not everyone in England wanted him as king. In the northern parts of England, especially around Yorkshire, many people rebelled and refused to follow William's rules.

William was furious. He wanted to teach the rebels a lesson so no one would dare to rise against him again. He sent his soldiers to the north to punish the people there. This became known as **the Harrying of the North**, and it was a terrible time for everyone living there.

The soldiers burned down entire villages, destroyed crops in the fields, and took or killed livestock like cows and sheep. Without food or shelter, many people struggled to survive through the harsh winter. Thousands of families had to leave their homes, and sadly, many died from hunger and cold.

William's actions made sure that the north wouldn't rebel again, but it came at a huge cost. It left the land in ruins, and it took years for the area to recover. Even today, historians talk about this event as an example of how harsh William the Conqueror could be to keep his power. The Harrying of the North shows us how difficult life could be in medieval times, especially when kings and rebels clashed over who should rule.



## Building castles

William built castles all over England, starting with **motte-and-bailey castles**. These were like super-strong forts, usually built on a big hill (the *motte*) with a wooden or stone tower on top. At the bottom of the hill, there was a flat area called the *bailey*, where soldiers lived and supplies were kept. The whole thing was surrounded by a wooden fence and sometimes a deep ditch filled with water, like a moat!

These castles were important for a few reasons:

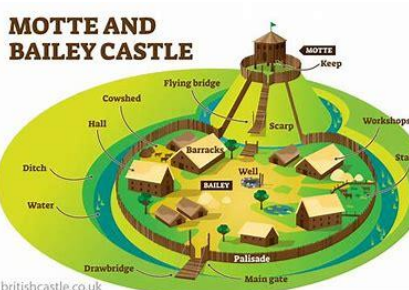
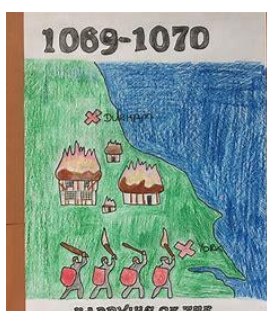
### 1. To Protect William and His Soldiers:

Castles were super strong and hard to attack, so William's soldiers could stay safe inside if there was a rebellion or an invasion.

**2. To Show Power:** When people saw a huge castle towering over their village, they knew William was in charge. Castles were like giant "KEEP OUT" signs, reminding everyone who ruled the land.

**3. To Control the Land:** William built castles in important places, like near rivers, roads, and towns. From these castles, his knights could watch over the area, collect taxes, and stop anyone from causing trouble.

So, William didn't just build castles because they looked cool (even though they did!). He built them to stay in control, keep the peace, and show everyone that he was the king of England—whether they liked it or not!



# Create the Feudal system

The feudal system was like a giant teamwork pyramid, where everyone had a role to play, and it all started with William at the top. Here's how it worked:

**1. William and the Land:** When William became king, he said, "All the land in England belongs to me!" But, of course, he couldn't look after all of it by himself. So, he gave large chunks of land to his most loyal supporters, called **barons** or **lords**, in exchange for their loyalty and help.

**2. The Barons' Job:** The barons didn't get the land for free. They had to promise to provide soldiers, weapons, and money whenever William needed them. They also had to swear an oath of loyalty to him, which meant they would always back him up.

**3. Knights:** The barons then divided their land into smaller pieces and gave those to knights. The knights were like the soldiers of the feudal system. In return for the land, knights promised to fight for the barons (and for William) when called upon.

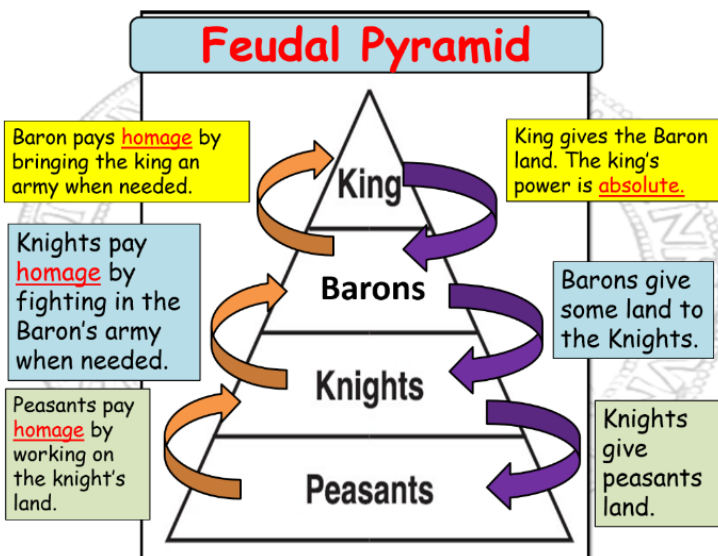
**4. The Peasants:** At the very bottom of the pyramid were the peasants. They worked the land, growing crops and raising animals. In return, they were allowed to live on the land and were protected by the knights. But peasants had to give part of what they grew to their lord as rent. Some peasants, called **serfs**, couldn't even leave the land without permission.

The feudal system worked like a giant chain: the king gave land to the barons, the barons gave land to the knights, and the knights protected the peasants, who worked to provide food for everyone.

This system helped William stay in control because:

- Everyone depended on each other, so it kept people loyal.
- It made sure William always had soldiers to defend his kingdom.
- It spread his power across the country, with barons and knights enforcing his rules everywhere.

So, the feudal system wasn't just about land—it was about loyalty and teamwork (even if it wasn't always fair). It helped William keep control of England and made him one of the most powerful kings in history!



Watch me to remember



# The Domesday book

In 1080, King William the Conqueror ordered a huge survey of England to find out exactly who owned what. His officials traveled across the country, visiting 13,000 towns and villages, asking questions like, “Who owns this land? How much is it worth? What animals live here?” All this information was written down in a book called the **Domesday Book**.

The Domesday Book was made to help William with taxes. By knowing what everyone owned, he could make sure people paid the right amount. It also helped him keep control, as he knew which lords were powerful and how much land they had.

One big discovery was that the Church owned **20% of the land**— nearly a quarter of the whole country!

Today, the Domesday Book is super helpful for historians. It’s like a snapshot of medieval England, showing what life was like almost 1,000 years ago. It’s one of the oldest and most detailed records we have!

Can you answer the following questions to practice what you know?

1. What four things did William do to consolidate his power?
2. Why was building castles so important for his plan?
3. What does the word 'consolidate' mean?
4. What happened when William 'Harried the North'?



A large, blank, lined writing area for students to answer the questions.

## Key terms

Change – when something becomes different over time

Continuity – when something stays the same

Consequence – what happens as a result of something

Cause – what starts something off.

These key words are really important to your exam so you need to make sure you understand them. Let have a think of some simple ideas to start with when we can use them.

Significant – the change from being an okay historian to an amazing historian was **SIGNIFICANT**

Change – as you get older you will **CHANGE** classes

Continuity – Through school you will **CONTINUE** to live with your family

Consequence – Studying your history guide will **CONSEQUENTLY** get you AMAZING grades

Cause – Revisions will **CAUSE** you to be more prepared

### Practice

Read the following statements do they show Cause, continuity, change or consequence



- Edward the Confessor's death in 1066 caused a fight for the throne, leading William to invade England.
- William won the Battle of Hastings because Harold Godwinson's army was tired from fighting another battle.
- After becoming king, William replaced Anglo-Saxon lords with Norman lords to make sure they stayed loyal to him.
- He built castles, like the Tower of London, to protect his soldiers and show his power over England.
- The feudal system was created by William to organize land and make sure people stayed loyal to him.
- The Domesday Book was written in 1086 so William could see who owned land and collect the right amount of taxes.
- Rebellions in the north led William to destroy villages and crops during the Harrying of the North, leaving people starving.
- The Church kept its power under William and owned 25% of the land in England.
- William's rule brought Norman customs, but some Anglo-Saxon traditions, like farming and local laws, stayed the same.
- William's changes to England, like the feudal system and Norman castles, shaped the country for hundreds of years.



# Is that Primary or Secondary sourcing?

**Primary Source:** A primary source is a piece of information that was created during the time you're studying. It's like a first-hand account of an event. For example, if you read a diary written by a soldier during World War II, that's a primary source because it's from someone who lived through it. Other examples include letters, photographs, or official documents.

**Secondary Source:** A secondary source is something that was created later on, after the event happened, by someone who wasn't directly involved. It's like a report or story about the event, not the event itself. For example, a history book that explains what happened in World War II is a secondary source because the author wasn't there. Other examples include articles, documentaries, or essays written about a topic.



Practice the questions below:

- What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source?
- If you were reading a letter written by a soldier during World War I, would that be a primary or secondary source? Why?
- Is a history textbook a primary source or a secondary source? Explain your answer.
- Why might historians prefer to use primary sources when studying a particular event?
- Can an interview with a famous person from the past be considered a primary source? Why or why not?
- If you are looking at a photograph of a battle from the 1800s, what type of source is it?
- Is a newspaper article written the day after a major event a primary or secondary source?
- How can secondary sources help historians understand primary sources better?
- Why would a biography about a famous leader be a secondary source and not a primary source?
- If you were studying the ancient Egyptian pyramids, which would be a primary source: an ancient stone tablet or a modern article?

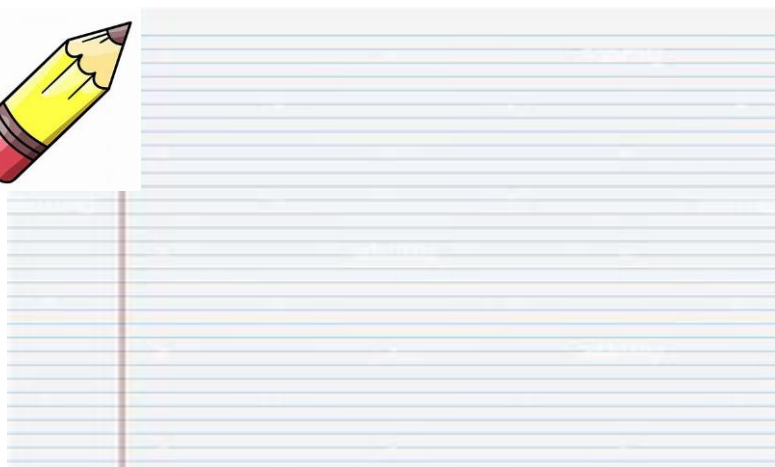
## Can you use your sources?

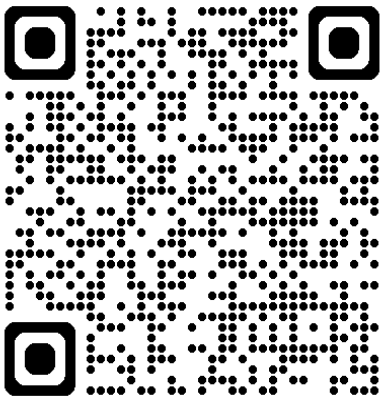
Read the following source

### **The Black Death**

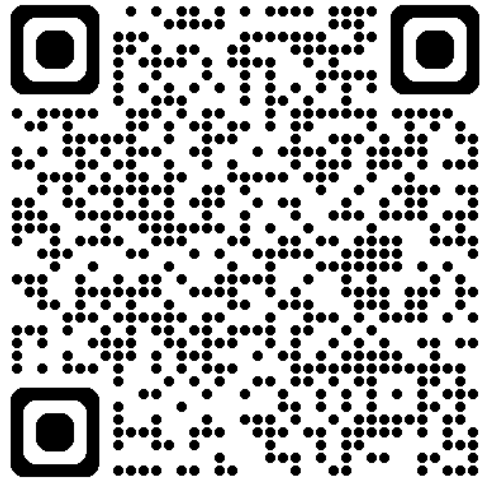
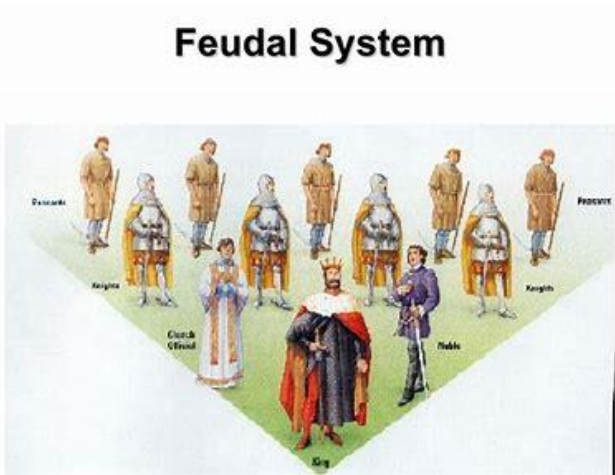
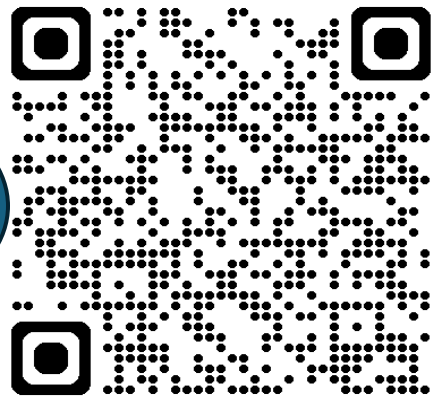
The Black Death was a deadly disease that spread across Europe in the 14th century, killing millions of people. It was caused by bacteria carried by fleas that lived on rats. The disease spread quickly through trade routes and crowded cities. People who caught the Black Death often got a high fever and painful, swollen lumps in their bodies. There was no cure, and many believed it was a punishment from God. The Black Death changed the course of history by causing huge population loss, economic problems, and social changes.

- What caused the Black Death?
- How did the Black Death spread across Europe?
- What were some of the symptoms of the Black Death?
- Why did people think the Black Death happened?
- How did the Black Death affect the population of Europe?
- In what way did the Black Death change history?

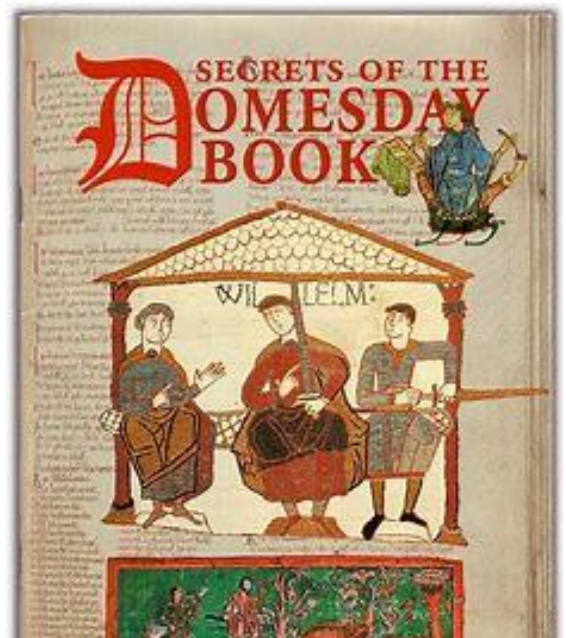
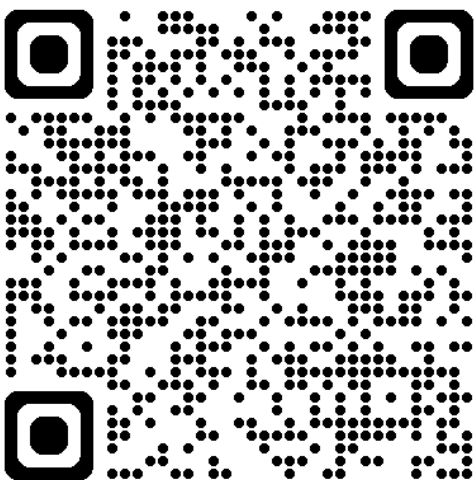




The Harrying of the North



The Feudal System



The Domesday Book