

An illustration of William the Conqueror standing on a stone path. He is wearing a gold crown, a blue tunic, and a red cape. He holds a golden scepter in his right hand. In the background, there is a river, a deer, a line of trees, and rolling green hills under a blue sky.

William the Conqueror

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Who Was He?



William I, is known as William the Conqueror and was the first Norman king of England.

He reigned from 1066 until his death in 1087.

He was the Duke of Normandy before he became king.

He is famous for battling and killing Harold Godwinson for the English throne in the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Claim to the Throne



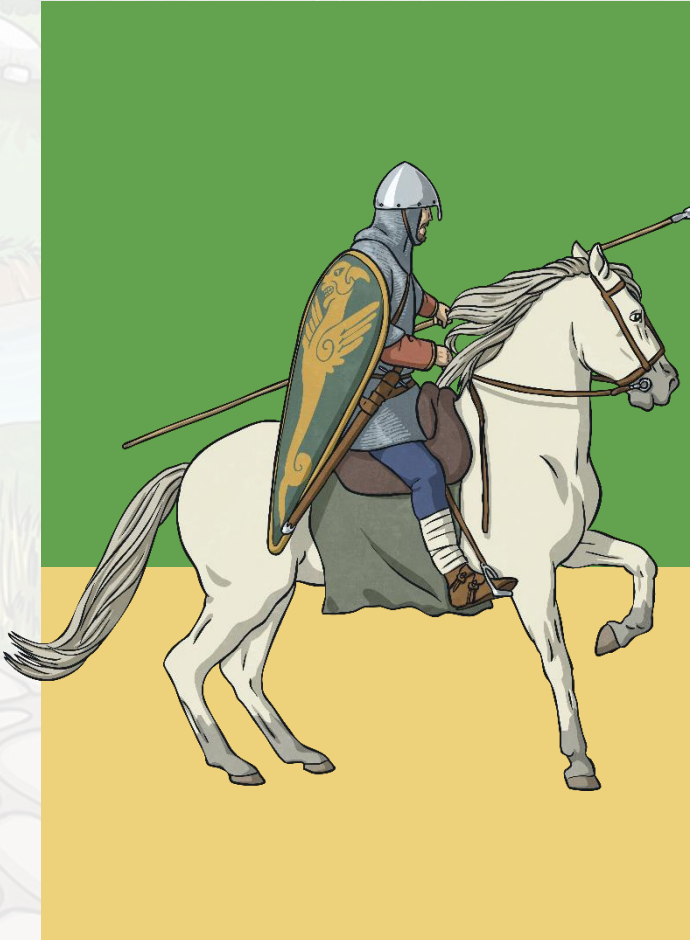
William's claim to the throne was through his cousin, Edward the Confessor, who was king before him.

William was the son of Robert I, the Duke of Normandy and Herleva of Falaise.

There was dispute over his claim to the throne as William's parents were not married. His father was already married to someone else.

He was a Norman and is an ancestor of every English monarch after him, including our queen, Elizabeth II.

Interesting Facts



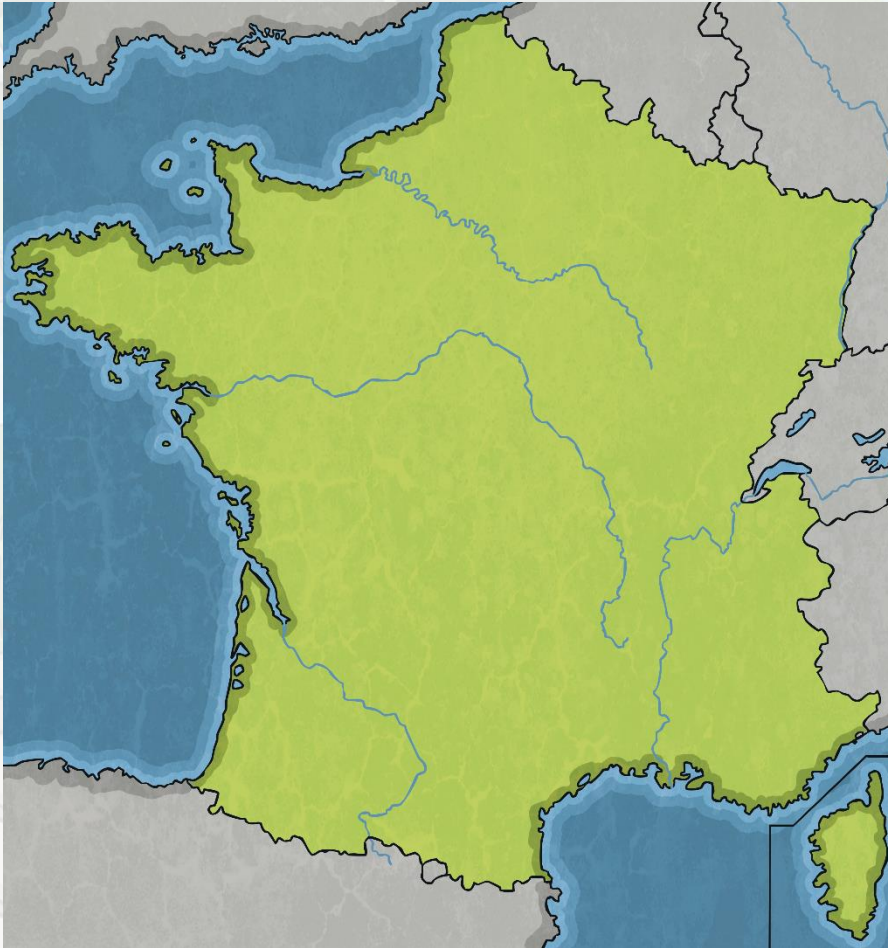
- William and his army defeated Harold Godwinson in the battle of Hastings.
- It is said that Harold was shot in the eye, which is shown in the famous Bayeux Tapestry.
- William was crowned King of England on Christmas Day in 1066.
- It is thought that William was about 5'10, which was quite tall back then.
- He ordered the Domesday book to be created in 1085. This was a survey of all the landholdings in England at the time.

Bayeux Tapestry



This is a section of the Bayeux Tapestry, which recorded the events of the Battle of Hastings.

Interesting Facts



- Like a lot of monarchs back then, William was illiterate and didn't speak English very well. French was spoken at court and as a result, changed the English language.
- William died in 1087 in France.



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