Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Year 7
Subject: History
Topic/Unit: How Far did the Normans Bring a Truckload of Trouble to England?
When: Autumn Half Term 1

Overview: This unit explores the transformation of England following the events of 1066. It investigates how a small Norman elite successfully consolidated power over a resistant population.

Why this? Why now? By examining this period, students understand the roots of the English power and legal system, land ownership, religious changes and the social hierarchies that shaped the nation for centuries.

Building on...building to: This unit builds on prior knowledge of Anglo-Saxon social structures and the 1066 succession crisis. It serves as a foundation for studying the development of the medieval monarchy, the evolution of the English Church which they will study in Year 7. It also gives context for how power will shift and change in their study of the Industrial period in Year 8.

Sequence Summary:

1. **Anglo-Saxon Society:** Analysing life in 1066 through the village of Bourn, focusing on social hierarchy (earls, the Witan, churls, and slaves) and the open-field farming system.
2. **1066: The Conquest and Consolidation:** Examining William's immediate actions after Hastings, including the submission of London and his coronation at Westminster Abbey.
3. **Changes to Power:** Evaluating the use of castles (e.g., Cambridge and Bourn), the redistribution of land to Norman barons, and the use of royal charters.
4. **Changes to Society:** Investigating the 1085 Domesday Book as a tool for taxation and establishing the King as the ultimate owner of all land.
5. **Changes to Religion:** Assessing the impact of Archbishop Lanfranc's reforms, including the shift to Latin services and the construction of imposing stone cathedrals.
6. **Writing Practice:** Comparing "change versus continuity" for ordinary people, such as the loss of freedom for free peasants and the gradual decline of slavery.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Conquest, Succession, Crisis, Harrying, Rebellion, Witan, Fyrd, Churl, Barons, Archbishop, Laws**

Assessments: Practice writing tasks, whiteboard tasks and checks. Knowledge from this unit will be used and assessed in History assessment 1.

Able and Interested: Students could visit the local sites which are attached to this story such as Clifford's Tower. Students could research into the impact of the Harrying of the North on our local area. Students could also access the only Domesday Book database to find out more about Norman England.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: The unit promotes critical thinking by evaluating conflicting historical perspectives. It encourages empathy by exploring the loss of freedom and the harsh realities of medieval justice.