

LO: To be able to understand the significance of the Battle of Hastings.

- **I can discuss the significance of certain historical events.**
- **I can include important and relevant information.**
- **I understand the usefulness of different sources of information.**

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When was the Medieval period in England?

1066 – 1485

Did you know Crime and Punishment changed dramatically after the 1066 Battle of Hastings? But what was the Battle of Hastings?

What happened?

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The Battle of Hastings, 1066



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The Battle of Hastings was between two sides

The Normans

William I

(William the Conqueror)



The Saxons

Harold of Wessex

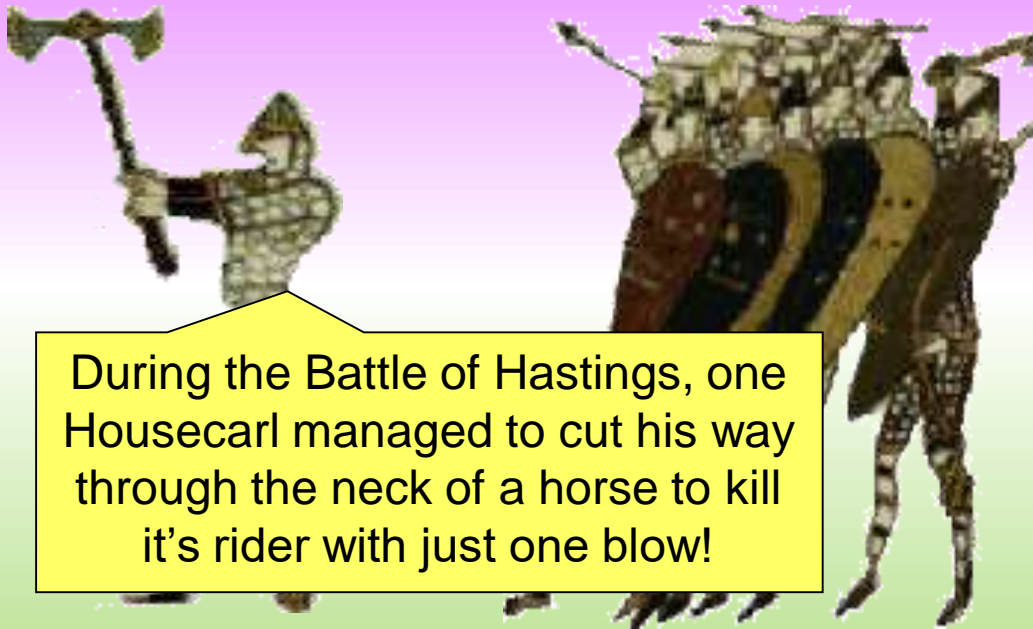


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The Saxon Army

Harold had two types of soldiers in his army:

1. Housecarls



During the Battle of Hastings, one Housecarl managed to cut his way through the neck of a horse to kill it's rider with just one blow!



These were full time professional soldiers who were well trained & paid.

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The Saxon Army

Harold had two types of soldiers in his army:

2. Fyrd



These were part time, unpaid soldiers who were called up when the country was in danger.

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The Norman Army

These were
highly trained,
full time
professional
soldiers!



Spearmen



Horsemen /
Cavalry



Archers

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The Battlefield

Harold's Army
forms a shield
Wall



Unsuitable for
horsemen

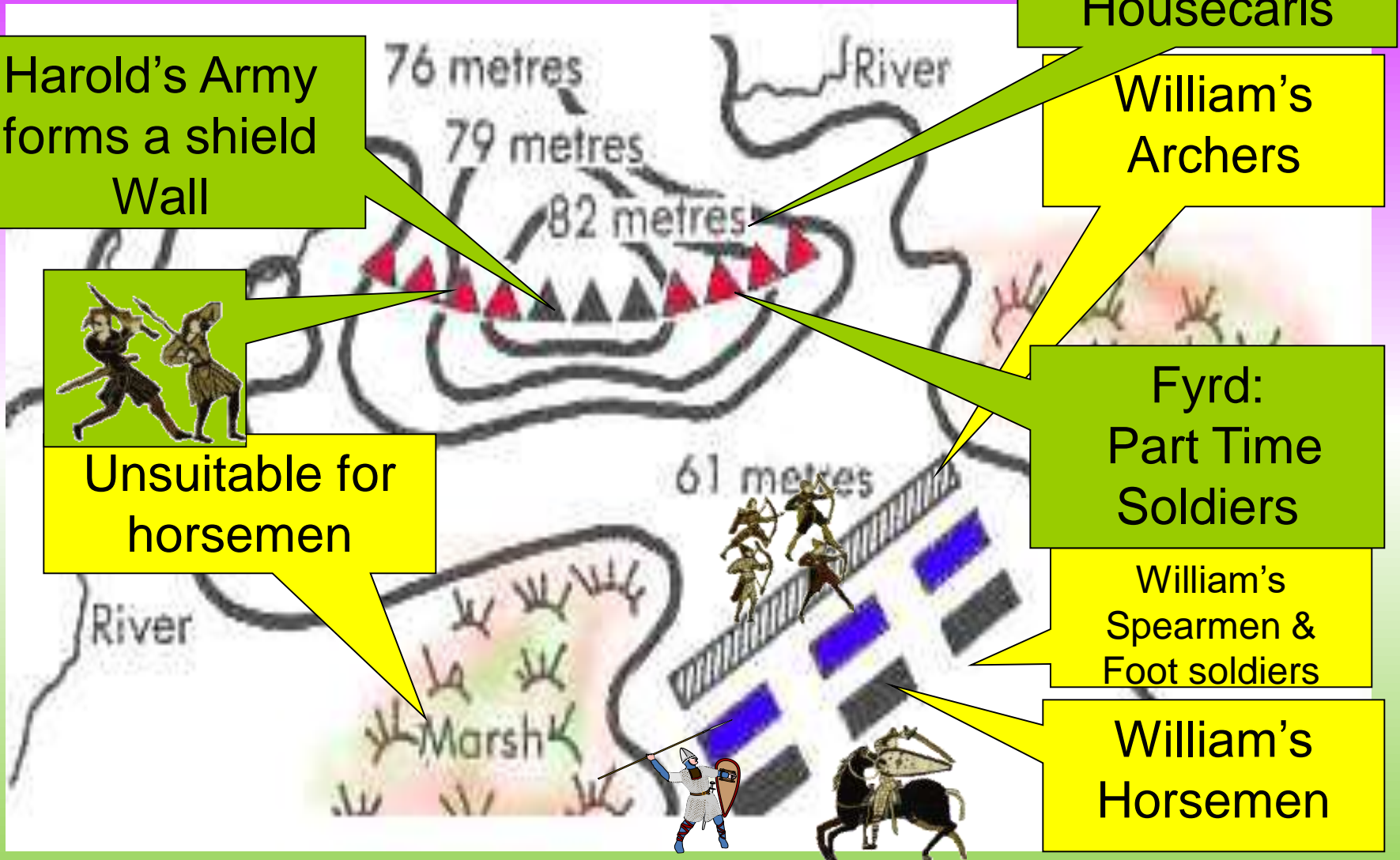
Harold's
Housecarls

William's
Archers

Fyrd:
Part Time
Soldiers

William's
Spearmen &
Foot soldiers

William's
Horsemen



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The Start of the Battle



‘The blowing of trumpets announced the start of the battle on both sides. Eager and brave Normans were the first to attack. The English threw javelins and missiles of all sorts, dealing out savage blows with their axes.’

William of Poitiers

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The Start of the Battle



Bayeux Tapestry, The Normans attack the Saxon Shield Wall

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Early Stages of the Battle

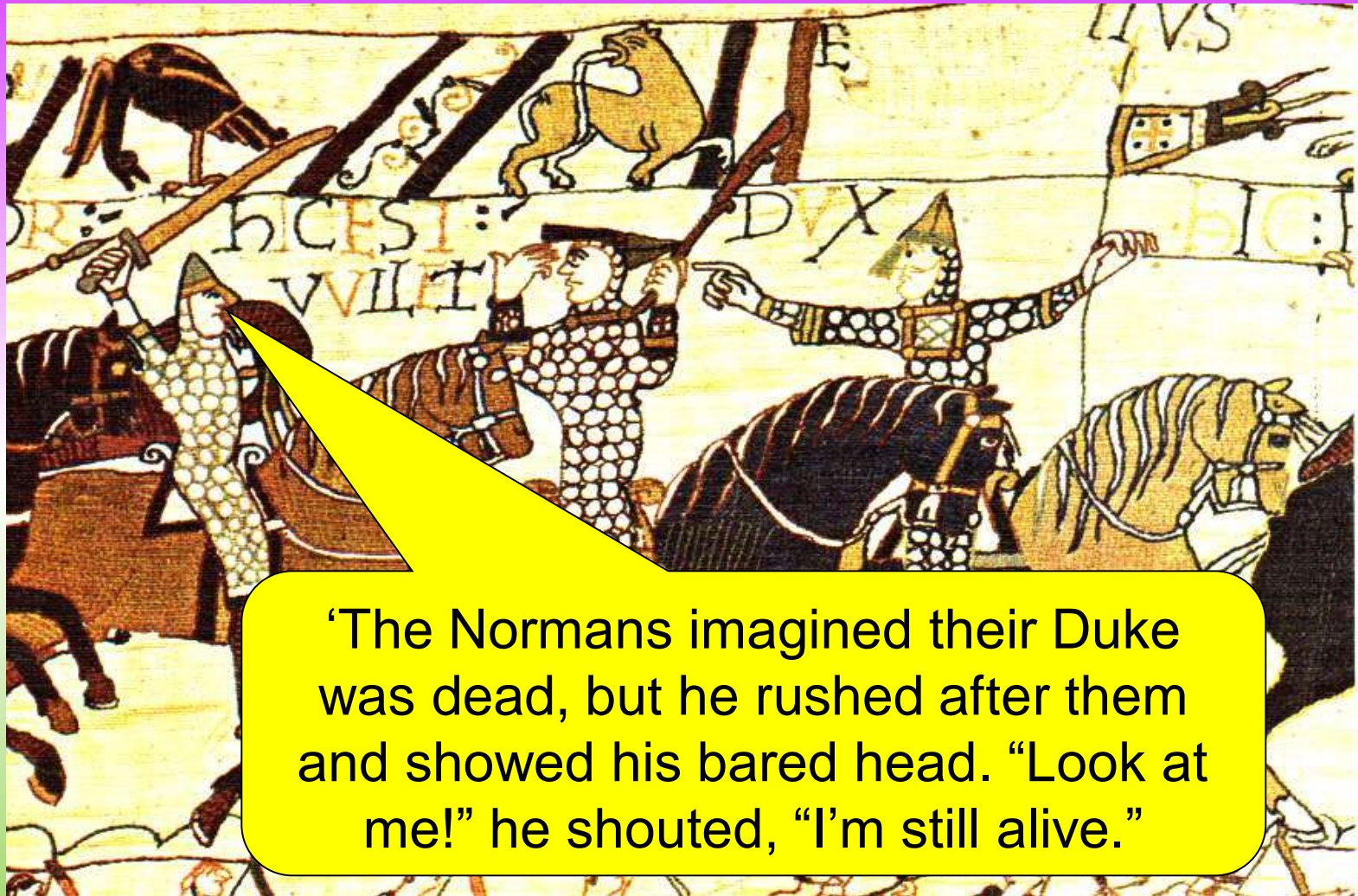


‘The English were helped by the advantage of their high position which, massed tightly together they held without attempting to advance. The weapons which they fought with easily cut through shields and other protective armour.’

William of Poitiers

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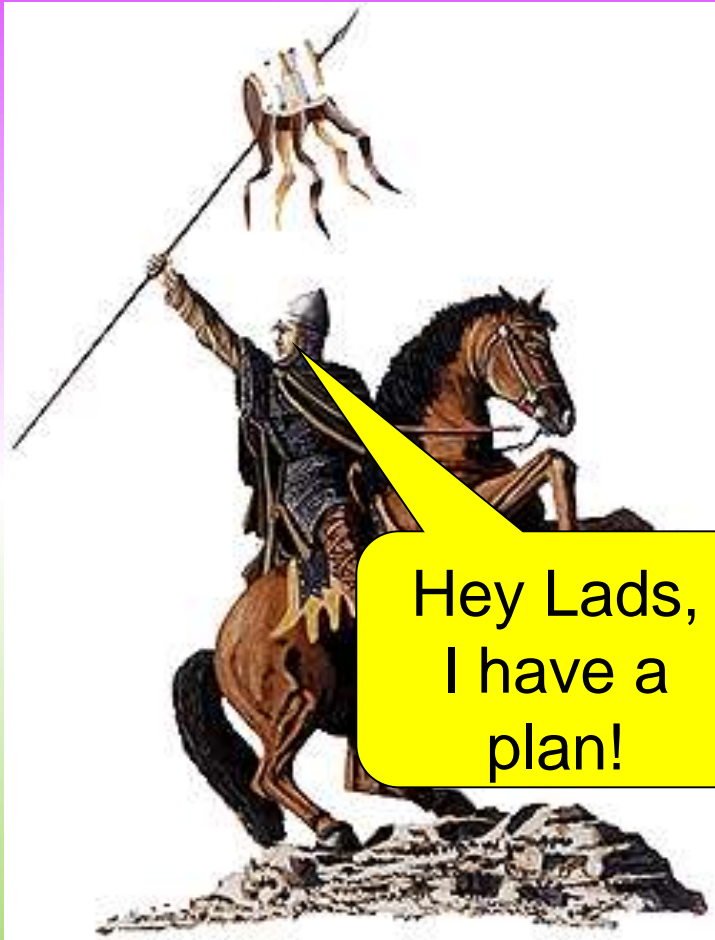
The Normans start running away



‘The Normans imagined their Duke was dead, but he rushed after them and showed his bared head. “Look at me!” he shouted, “I’m still alive.”

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A Cunning Plan!



Hey Lads,
I have a
plan!

Duke William

When the Normans
retreated a thousand
Saxon Warriors left
the protection of the
Shield Wall to chase
after the Normans.
They were easily
Killed by the Norman
Horsemen!

What was William's
Cunning Plan?

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Second Stage: Cunning Plan!



They then turn around and splatter the
Normans pretend to run away
Saxons who are chasing after them!

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Second Stage: Cunning Plan!



‘They withdrew, pretending to turn in flight. Some thousand or more of the English rushed forward; suddenly the Normans turned their horses, cut off the force which was pursuing (chasing) them, encircled them and massacred (killed) them to the last man. Twice the Normans used this trick with equal success.’

William of Poitiers

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Third Stage: The Archers



The Shield Wall was weakened but still strong, so William orders his Archers to aim high to distract the Saxons whilst he led another charge.

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Fourth Stage: The Shield Wall Collapses



Harold's
brothers are
killed.

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Final Stage: Death of Harold

Guy of Amain, 1067

William of
Mamesbury, 1125



"Then it was with an arrow which was shot towards the sky, struck Harold above the right eye."

"Receiving the fatal arrow from a distance, he died. One of the Norman soldiers with a sword then cut off his leg as he lay."

William sends in a hit squad of Normans to kill King Harold

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Aftermath



Once King Harold and his brothers are dead
the rest of the Saxon army runaway.

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The Battlefield Today



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zigjVCFzZ38>

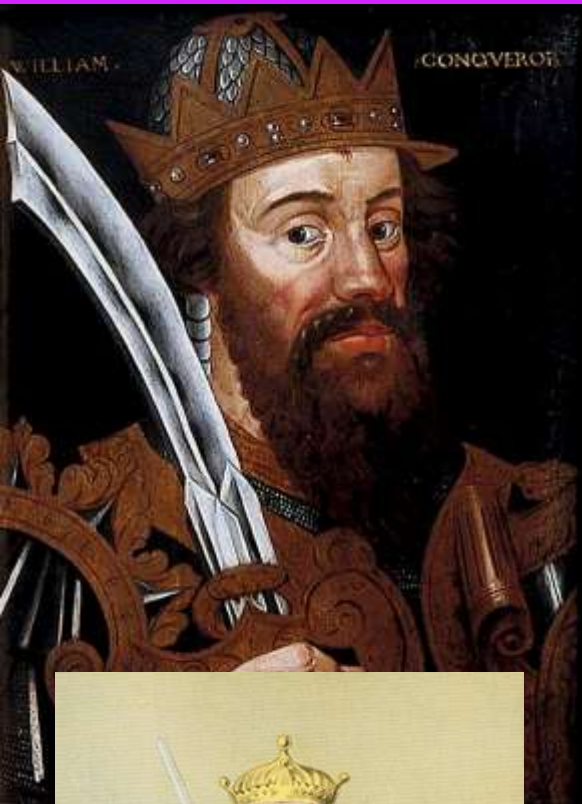


The Bayeux Tapestry an embroidered cloth nearly 70 metres (230 ft) long and 50 centimetres (20 in) tall, which shows the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England concerning William, Duke of Normandy, and Harold, Earl of Wessex. The Bayeux Tapestry is a cartoon-type picture story of the Battle of Hastings - The Norman's Invasion of England, in 1066. The tapestry consists of some fifty scenes



The tapestry was hand sewn in the town of Bayeux. It is a secondary source, which is the only valid source historians have to prove the battle took place and the events happened.

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William the Conqueror

William the Conqueror should strictly be known as William I. William is credited with kick-starting England into the phase known as Medieval England; William was the victor at the Battle of Hastings; he introduced modern castle building techniques into Medieval England and by his death in 1087, he had financially tied down many people with the Domesday Book.

He also kick started a new set of laws across Britain and implemented some gruesome punishments for these crimes.



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Battle of Hastings Research Poster

What was the battle of Hastings?

Who was it against?

Who were in their armies?

How did the King at the time die?

Who then became king?

What did the new king start to build around England?

How do we know so much about it? Describe the source type.

What were the consequences of the battle?