

## William the Conqueror AD 1066

A group of Vikings conquered and settled the northwest region of France. They were called Normans, after the Norsemen who settled there, and the region began to be called Normandy.

Britain was settled by two tribes: the Angles and the Saxons. After the death of King Edward the Confessor, Saxon nobles elected Harald of Norway as their king. However, William, the Duke of Normandy, said the crown belonged to him. So, William gathered a large army and sailed across the English Channel to take the throne. King Harold was killed at the Battle of Hastings in AD 1066, and William became King of England. This victory is called the *Norman Conquest*.

King William organized a great survey with records compiled in the *Domesday Book*. Mispronounced as Doomsday, this was the final word in a dispute. The blending of the Anglo-Saxon languages we call Old English with the Latin and French brought by the Normans began to form the modern English language.