

# WHY DID WILLIAM WIN THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS?



**Analyse** the reasons for William's victory at the Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066. By completing the card sort activity, you'll **identify** and **organise** evidence around four main arguments. This will help you make a well-reasoned argument for William's victory and Harold's defeat.

- 1 Read** the four main arguments for William's victory below.
- 2 Sort** the evidence so that each bit sits underneath one of the main arguments.
- 3 Write** a sentence for each group (argument and evidence) explaining why those things explain William's overall victory.
- 4 Conclude** by deciding which of the four main arguments best explains William's victory and why.



William, Duke of Normandy defeated Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066

## HINT

If you're writing this as an essay, don't forget to include an introduction saying how and why the battle came about and what your essay will cover.

## MAIN ARGUMENTS



William was victorious at the Battle of Hastings due to his excellent leadership skills.

William won the Battle of Hastings because of his superior strategy and tactics.

William was able to defeat Harold and his army because Harold made some mistakes.

William was helped to victory by Harold being unlucky on a number of occasions.



Harold was wounded and killed at the Battle of Hastings.

William used the tactic of a false retreat in an attempt to break the shield wall and lure English troops off the ridge.

Harold took the throne of England after Edward the Confessor died, which meant he had to face two rivals who also wanted the throne.

When Harold heard that William had landed in England he rushed south instead of taking his time to build a big army.

Harold's brother Tostig, joined forces with Harald Hardrada.

William brought an army equipped with 2000 horses by boat to England.

Harold had to rush north to fight Harald Hardrada as his northern armies had not defeated him.

The wind changed direction allowing William to sail to England when Harold was in the north defeating Harald Hardrada.

Harold chose a good position on the ridge which put William at a disadvantage.

Harold fought at Hastings with a weakened army as a result of the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Harold fought the Battle of Hastings with an army tired from marching over 190 miles.

William lifted his helmet and showed his face to his troops to prove he was alive and to encourage them to fight on.