**1066**

The year 1066 is widely known as the year of the Battle of Hastings, but in fact, there were 3 battles in this year, connected mainly with the Norman Conquest.

The death of the English king Edward the Confessor brought **unrest to England**. William of Normandy wanted the throne because of his familial relationship with the childless King Edward the Confessor. But in the end Harold Godwinson claimed the throne and he became Harold, King of England. (he was from the most powerful family in England)

The Vikings started to attack from the north. The first battle was **the battle of Fulford**. The Vikings were successful and they conquered the north of England.

The second battle was **the battle at the Stamford Bridge**. Harold, King of England, defeated his namesake Harold, King of Norway at Stamford Bridge in the north of England. Meanwhile, William of Normandy was attacking the south coast of England.

After hearing that the William's forces (so called Orcs) had landed, Harold rushed south to meet the invaders, but was defeated and killed at **the Battle of Hastings** on 14 October 1066. It took place at Senlac Hill. It has become the most important battle in British history.

When **William of Normandy** (or William the Conqueror) became the King of England, feudalism and the French language became the dominant influence. Moreover, he gave power and land to other Normans, built many castles and French words got into English language. According to the **tapestry**, Harold - King of England was hit in his eye by an arrow and killed.

(William – Duke of Normandy; Harold Godwinson, = Harold II = King of England; Harald Hardrada - King of Norway)

