



## Skills / England in 1066 / Claimants

**EVIDENCE:** using primary and secondary sources to learn about a time in history.

**PRIMARY SOURCE:** evidence created at the time being studied.

**SECONDARY SOURCE:** evidence created after the event took place.

**CAUSE & CONSEQUENCE:** when we look at why something happened and the result of it.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** judging how important an event, person or place are.

### ENGLAND IN 1066:

- England was a very rich country due to natural resources like iron, lead, farming land and wool.
- England was always attacked by Vikings.
- The old English royal family escaped the Vikings to Normandy in France.
- England was split into four Earldoms (a territory ruled by a man of noble birth).

## Stamford Bridge / Army Preparation

- The Viking king, Hardrada landed in the North of England.
- Harold Godwinson marched up to fight him.
- One Viking was able to hold off the entire English army killing 40 men until he was killed from below.
- Hardrada had no armour and was defeated when he ran into the oncoming Anglo-Saxon army. He was shot with an arrow to the neck.
- Godwinson had defeated the Vikings.

## The Situation in 1066:

Edward the Confessor died on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1066. He did not have an heir so the Witan had to decide who should be the next king. The trouble was four people believed they had the right to the English throne.

### CLAIMANTS TO THE THRONE:

1. **Edgar Atheling:** a 14 year old English boy with royal connections. He was the great-nephew of Edward the Confessor the previous king of England. However he had no military or leadership experience.
2. **Harold Godwinson:** He was Edward the Confessor's brother-in-law. He was the Earl of Wessex and claimed that Edward had promised him the throne before he died. He had military and leadership experience. He was the favourite of the Witan.
3. **William, Duke of Normandy:** the fierce leader of Normandy, France who claimed Edward the Confessor had named him King of England. He also claimed that Godwinson had promised he could be king before Edward died. He was related to Edward as he was his distant cousin. He had both military and leadership skills.
4. **Harald Hardrada:** a Viking king whose great grandfather had ruled England. He has leadership and military experience but was not related to Edward in any way.