



### ***How does the battle begin?***

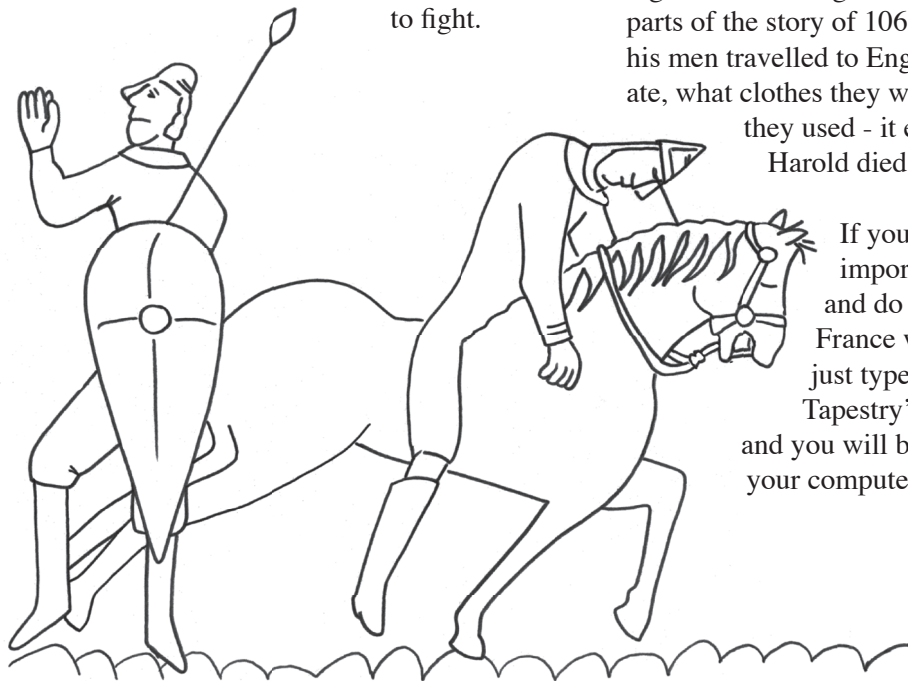
The year is 1066 and William, Duke of Normandy, sets sail from France with a great army. The Normans are heading for England and finally land at Pevensey in Sussex. William and his men now travel along the south coast to the town of Hastings where the battle will take place.

England's King Harold hurries from the north with his much smaller army of around 7000 men, many of whom are peasants. They are poorly armed and poorly trained in how to fight a war.

On the 14th of October 1066 the two armies meet and the battle begins!

### ***Why does King Harold lose?***

It has been a long march and Harold's men are tired. The Normans, however, are well-rested and ready to fight.



Legend has it that King Harold is killed when he is shot through the eye by a Frenchman's arrow. With their king now dead, the English flee for their lives and William wins the battle! Even today the French king is known as 'William the Conqueror'.

On Christmas day, William is crowned the new king of England and a new chapter in England's history is opened.

### ***Why do we still remember this battle?***

Such a big loss is something we will always remember – it is not often a Frenchman becomes king of England.

To celebrate his victory, King William has a tapestry made in Bayeux, France. It takes nearly three years to finish and measures 50cm high and 70m long. It shows us the different parts of the story of 1066: how William and his men travelled to England, what food they ate, what clothes they wore and what weapons they used - it even shows us how Harold died.

If you want to see this important piece of history and do not want to travel to France where it hangs today, just type the words 'Bayeux Tapestry' into a search engine and you will be able to look at it on your computer screen instead.