The NORMANS took over England in **1066** after the victory of **WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR in the Battle of Hastings.**

He had defeated the Anglo Saxon King- Harold Godwinson and now controlled a country much bigger than Normandy itself!

His problem was now controlling the population of England! He did this in a number of ways...
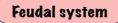
William had to :
1) **Control England** and the English population
2) **Reward** his **supporters** for their help to win power.
3) **Reward the church** who had supported him
4) Be careful not to make his Norman lords too powerful and turn them into potential rivals

William created a system which would divide up England in a way which would help him maintain control. It was called the Feudal system.

Background

The Normans also used a campaign of violence to any who resisted

In **YORKSHIRE** Up to 100,000 were killed through violence and famine caused by Normans burning their crops. This was known as THE **HARRYING OF THE NORTH**

Violence

Feudal system

KING

The King granted significant **LAND** to a number of his trusted top supporters who became powerful **BARONS**
He was careful **not** to put them close together where they could potentially team up against him

The **BARONS** in return would provide the King with finance and military support if he needed it
They swore allegiance (loyalty) to him as King

BARONS

The BARONS granted **LAND** to their **KNIGHTS**
Knights were trained fighters, skilled in fighting

The **KNIGHTS** would **fight** for the baron whenever required. They would also provide the baron with food and servants

KNIGHTS

They would be responsible for **managing their MANOR.** They would have villeins (peasants) on their **LAND** whom they would control

VILLEINS

The VILLEINS are by far the **biggest section** in Norman England. There are over **1 million landless peasants** who are from the English population. This is at a time when the population of England was about 1.5 million.
They provide the knights with both **food from their land and service – servants.**
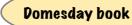
Their lives are **controlled completely** by their masters. They have to use their mills to grind corn ; they cannot leave their lands ; they have to ask for permission to marry.
Their lives are very **poor.**

NORMAN CONTROL OF ENGLAND

The Normans quickly gained control through their castles – these were called **MOTTE AND BAILEYS** to begin with

They were **quickly and easily constructed** using local people.

The built a **MOTTE**- a mound of earth on which a **KEEP** was constructed. A **PALISADE** (fence) was built around this. A **BAILEY** was the lower area which contained workshops and troops quarters. A **MOAT** surrounded it and a **DRAWBRIDGE** could be lowered and raised.

Hundreds of these were built. They helped to control areas quickly. HOWEVER, they were vulnerable to attack by fire and were soon replaced by less numerous but much stronger stone castles.
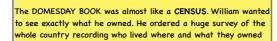
Castles

Domesday book

The DOMESDAY BOOK was almost like a **CENSUS**. William wanted to see exactly what he owned. He ordered a huge survey of the whole country recording who lived where and what they owned

WHY DID HE WANT THE DOMESDAY BOOK?
He wanted it for a few reasons:
1) To find out what he owned
2) To find out who could fight for him
3) To find out what he could TAX people
4) To act as a reference to work out who owned what legally.

HOW WAS IT RECORDED?
Surveyors went around districts accompanied by soldiers
They interviewed
1) The **Priest**
2) **stewards** (important village elders)
3) **Old people** (who knew who had lived in the village for a long time

Lying was punishable by possible death

The book ended up being **TWO** books of well over **1 million words.** It was written by one man!
It was completed in **1087** just as William died!

It was called **DOMESDAY** as people felt it was like Doomsday in the Bible... **Gods day of judgement**! Which can't be argued against.