# Castles and Kingdoms

Cornerstones

Engage Develop Innovate Express ®
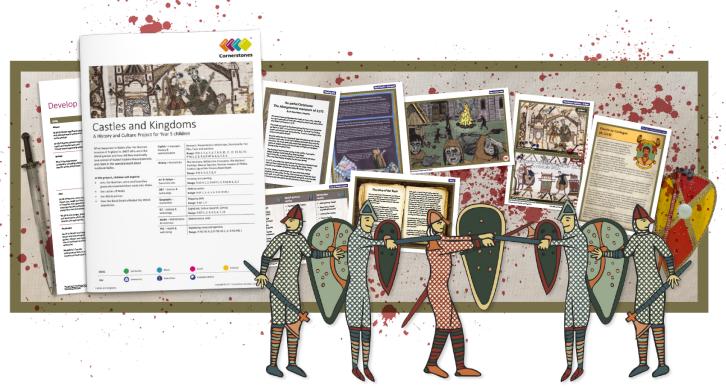
Who were the notorious Normans and what did their invasion of England in 1066 mean for Wales? Let's find out about this turbulent time in history!

During this half term, we'll come face-to-face with William of Normandy, the ruthless ruler of the Normans, and find out about his people and his plans to conquer England. Acting as history detectives, we'll investigate the Bayeux Tapestry. We'll use art materials and ICT to draw sections of the tapestry and create and decorate Norman helmets. After we've explored interactive maps of surviving Norman castles in Wales, we'll create storyboards and timelines of the Norman invasion and make mini castles and fact files about Norman strongholds. Using computer software, we'll create a cartoon version of the story of Ifor Bach, Lord of Senghenydd and we'll invent powerful mottos for Welsh princes from the 12th and 13th centuries. We'll also write news reports about the spread of the Black Death in Wales and eyewitness reports detailing the Edwardian conquest of Wales.

At the end of this project, we'll plan for a lavish Norman feast and set out an itinerary for a visit to a Norman castle.

| Languages, literacy and communication | Mind maps, storyboards, fact files, facts and opinions |
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| Humanities | The Normans, William the Conqueror, Battle of Hastings, Bayeux Tapestry, Norman invasion of Wales, castles, Age of the Princes, Black Death, mapping skills |
| Expressive arts | Drawing and painting |
| Science and technology | Making castles, digital art, online research, comics |
| Mathematics and numeracy | Mathematical skills |
| Health and well-being | Expressing views and opinions |

## Help your child prepare for their project

The Normans were a force to be reckoned with! Why not quiz each other about what you already know about the Battle of Hastings and 1066 and then visit the local library to fill in the gaps in your knowledge? You could also make life-sized soldiers by drawing around your bodies, cutting them out and using collage materials to add a face and armour. Alternatively, design a tapestry to show a story of your choosing, using the Bayeux Tapestry as inspiration.