

### At this time ...

After Cnut's death, two of his sons reigned for short periods. The throne then passed to a Saxon prince, Edward, who had been raised in France. Edward was a religious man and over the next 20 years he managed to keep England peaceful. But change was ahead – a new powerful enemy was ready to invade England. When Edward died, the time had come to attack...



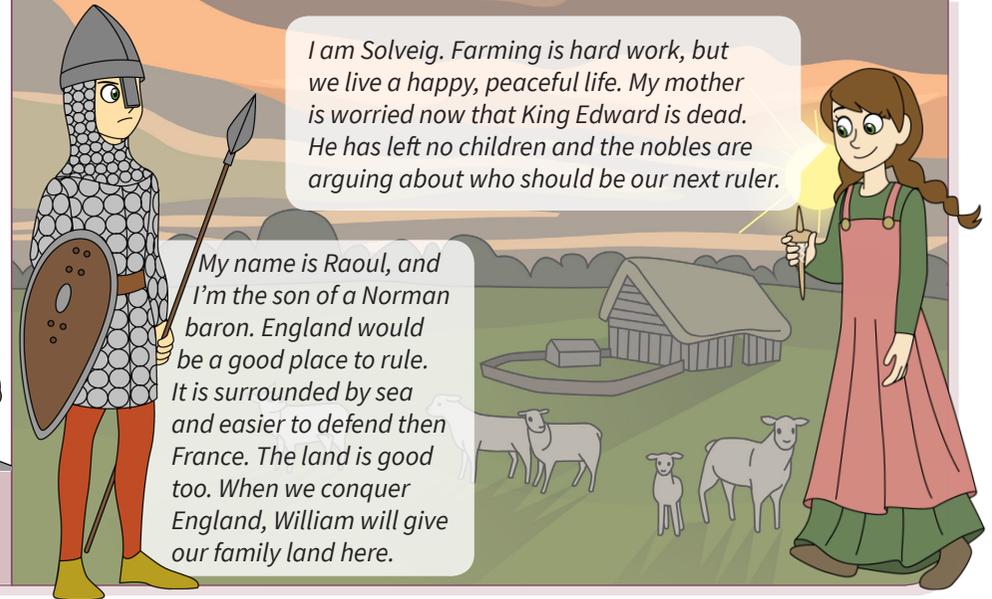
### FACTS

Edward left no children. An English noble, Harold, became king. He was attacked soon after by two different armies. Both the King of Norway and the ruler of Normandy wanted to extend their kingdoms into England.

King Harold, was defeated by the Norman ruler, 'William the Conqueror', at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



The battle was documented in a long, beautiful tapestry. It showed Harold being hit in the eye with an arrow.



*I am Solveig. Farming is hard work, but we live a happy, peaceful life. My mother is worried now that King Edward is dead. He has left no children and the nobles are arguing about who should be our next ruler.*

*My name is Raoul, and I'm the son of a Norman baron. England would be a good place to rule. It is surrounded by sea and easier to defend than France. The land is good too. When we conquer England, William will give our family land here.*

## ON THE FARM

Solveig was happy tending the sheep. She enjoyed her own company and was content to spend the day sitting and spinning while she watched over them – except when it was wet of course. It was lucky she enjoyed her work as her father was dead and her brother hated farming. He had left to be a bowman in the Harold's army.

Solveig and her mother ran the little sheep farm near Pevensey together. It was harder with just two women on their own, and their mother muttered about war coming.

But Solveig ignored her, too busy with crops and animals to bother about what men were doing far away.

Although it was autumn, the sun was rising, and Solveig smiled as she prepared to take the sheep out to pasture. She picked up her spindle, and whistled for Bran, her sheep dog. It would be another quiet day, just the sheep, her spindle and her own thoughts to occupy her.

'Come on, boy,' she called. 'Let's go.' But as Solveig turned and looked down the field towards the beach, she stopped in her tracks. Ships had stolen silently in on the morning tide – Norman ships, with striped sails.



We are here!





Read 'On The Farm' and the facts; then try these tasks:

HISTORY KEY STAGE 2

The Vikings Britain in Viking Times

8b

The Rule of England The French are coming

Find the answers to these questions:

What sort of man was Edward? .....

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Who succeeded Edward? .....

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How did Harold die? .....

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Why do you think it caused problems if a king had no children? Explain your answer.

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Explain what happened after Harold became king:

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List two reasons the Normans wanted to rule England:

1

2

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Something to talk about!  
*How is Britain ruled now?*



Draw a Norman ship approaching the shore, or draw a Norman archer.

