



Facts about William the Conqueror

William I of England, better known as William the Conqueror, overcame a difficult childhood to become one of the most influential kings in British history. Here are some facts about the man and his rise to power.

William married Matilda of Flanders in the 1050s The marriage secured the duke a powerful ally in the neighbouring county of Flanders. She would go on to bear him at least nine children who survived into adulthood, including two kings of England.

William was betrayed by Edward On his deathbed in January 1066, the king of England named the powerful English earl Harold Godwinson as his successor. This set into motion the events for which William would become best known hundreds of years later.

The French duke conquered England at the Battle of Hastings Eight months after Edward's death, William arrived on England's Sussex coast with a fleet of hundreds of ships, determined to take the English crown he saw as rightfully his. William led his troops into a [battle against King Harold's forces](#) near to the town of Hastings, eventually proving victorious.

The new king was responsible for the Domesday Book During his subsequent rule of England, William ordered a survey of all land and holdings in the country, the findings of which became known as the Domesday Book.

William left England in 1086 He spent much of the rest of his life engaging in two of his favourite pastimes — hunting and eating.

He died a year later, in 1087 It is believed William died either after falling ill or being injured while riding his horse.