

## Lesson 8

LO: To understand what Norman life would be like.

How did William  
the Conqueror  
create the  
Domesday book?

### Day Clothes about 1050



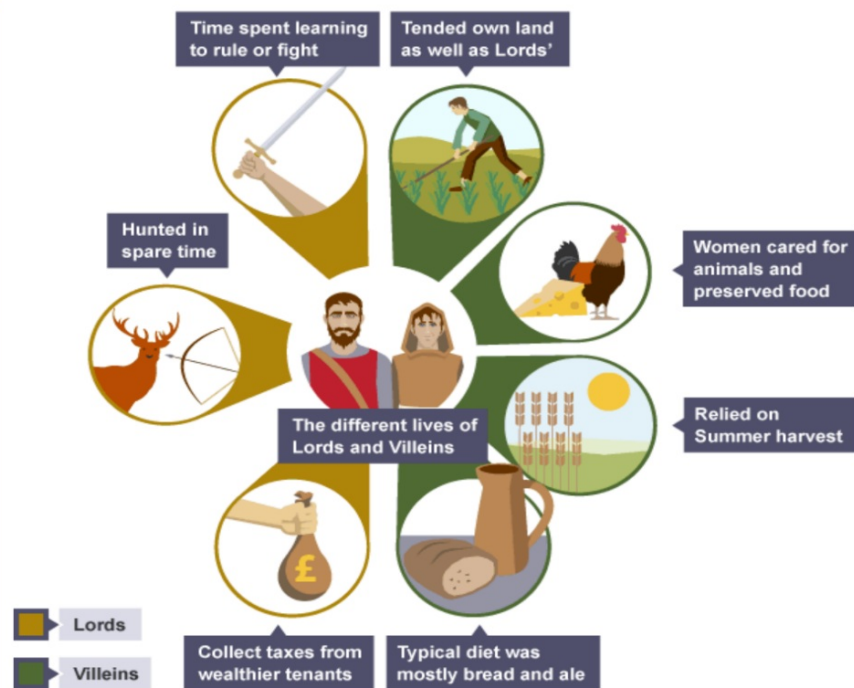
This man and woman (left) date from about 1050, just before the Norman Conquest in 1066. They wear the basic medieval garments: a tunic, probably of wool, slightly fitted with a high neck and long sleeves, usually worn over a linen shirt.

The lady's tunic, similar to the man's but longer, has a semi-circular mantle fastening on the shoulder. The lady covers her long hair with a hood held by a band, and carries a travelling pouch; the man wears loose hose and leather shoes.

The Anglo Saxons were known for their skill in embroidery and braid weaving, like that trimming the man's tunic.

## Village life in Norman England

Most villages in England were not further than a day's walk from a large church and castle. The king and the church dominated people's lives, especially if they were one of the eight in ten people that were tied to the land and could not even get married without their lord's permission.



### What was life like for a villein?

The life of a **villein** was connected to the land and the different seasons. Winter was the most difficult time of year and they relied on food stored from the harvest. Villeins worked hardest during the harvest, as they would have to work on their own small pieces of land as well as working on their lord's. Both men and women worked in the fields during this time of year.

Women were responsible for looking after the animals and preparing and preserving food. The typical diet was bread and ale for breakfast followed by bread, cheese and ale for lunch followed by bread and milk for supper. Most villeins could not afford to eat meat.



A villein

### demesne

An estate or part of an estate occupied and controlled by, and worked for the exclusive use of, the owner.

### What was life like for a wealthy lord?

The lord of a **demesne** could expect to collect taxes from his wealthier tenants and get his poorer tenants to work on his land for a certain number of days.

Because they did not work on the land, they spent most of their time either learning to rule by reading Latin manuscripts or learning to fight. Archery, sword fighting and riding, on giant **destrier** warhorses, were common sights around a lord's manor.

Hunting was the most favoured past-time of any wealthy lord. The more land a lord had, the longer a hunt could go on for. It was a source of meat for the household but it was also a status symbol. King William evicted hundreds of families from villages around Winchester to establish a Royal Forest nearly 30 miles long. If anyone was caught hunting in these private forests, punishment was always brutal - the offender was usually blinded.

### destrier



Type of horse used by soldiers in the Middle Ages.

[Link for this video on the week's timetable](#)



#bbc

A Day In The Life... Of A 10-Year-Old In Norman Times - Hands on History - BBC

If you were in  
Norman times what  
would it have been  
like?

Include:

expanded noun phrases

adverbs

fronted adverbials

5 senses to describe

historical vocab

Create a diary entry of a day in the life of a Norman child

Dear diary,

Today started just like everyday in the castle! At the crack of dawn, I leapt out of my ..... , ..... bed. Quickly,

I grabbed my .....

Edit to ensure you have:

Adventurous  
vocabulary

CL . ,  
? !

Exciting  
description

Is your diary historically correct?



## Lesson 9

LO: To interpret and analyse King William's deathbed confession.

What would your life have been like if you lived in Norman times?

'I have persecuted its native inhabitants beyond all reason. Whether gentle or simple, I have cruelly oppressed them; many I unjustly inherited; innumerable multitudes, especially in the county of York, perished through me by famine or the sword'

**Deathbed confession of William the Conqueror**

## **Highlight unfamiliar words.**

'I have persecuted its native inhabitants beyond all reason. Whether gentle or simple, I have cruelly oppressed them; many I unjustly inherited; innumerable multitudes, especially in the county of York, perished through me by famine or the sword'

Use dictionaries to find the meanings of the words that you have highlighted.

<https://kids.wordsmyth.net/we/>

To continually treat in a cruel or harsh way because of race, religion, political ideas, or some other difference.

I have persecuted its native inhabitants beyond all reason. Whether gentle or simple, I have cruelly oppressed them; many I unjustly inherited; innumerable multitudes, especially in the county of York, perished through me by famine or the sword'

Consider what this quote says about how he felt about invading England.

Write what you think this quote means in your book.

After reading and learning about King William the Conqueror, do you think that he was a good king? Give reasons to help explain your answer.

*Lets watch to find out about King William's funeral.*

