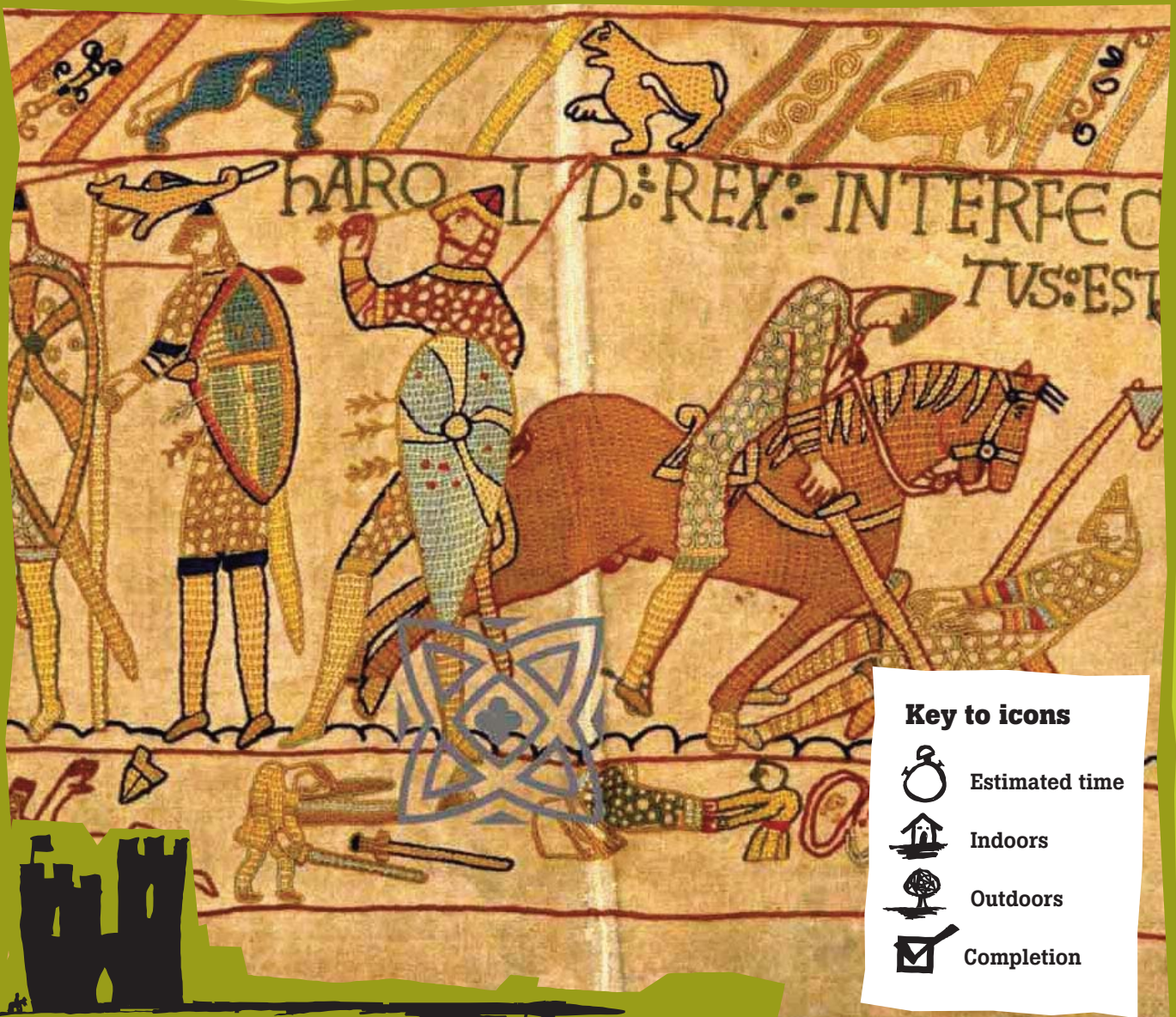


TAPESTRY


Activities

One of the most famous objects from Norman times is the Bayeux Tapestry, showing the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Normans didn't have newspapers or TV news reports, so they used the tapestry to tell the story of the Norman invasion of England – the biggest scoop of the day! Have a go at stitching your own tapestry and telling stories from today in different ways.



© Reading Museum (Reading Borough Council)

Key to icons

-  Estimated time
-  Indoors
-  Outdoors
-  Completion

Supported by



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Activity 1



MAKE YOUR OWN TAPESTRY

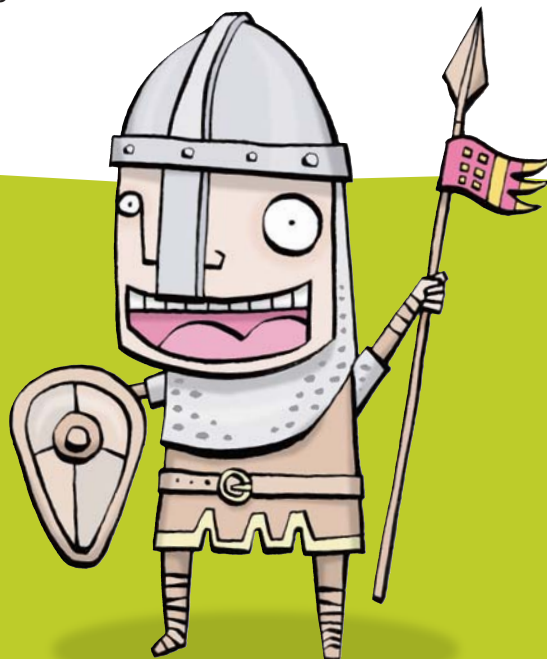
Great for: an individual activity for any member of the family. Children will need adult help as this activity involves a sharp point.

The Bayeux Tapestry isn't a 'tapestry' at all! Today we would call it 'embroidery'. You can try a version of the type of embroidery used to make a sign or picture for your bedroom door or any room in the house.

You will need:

- A piece of card about 15cm wide and 20cm tall. You can decide the exact size to fit the space on your door or wall.
- Coloured paints
- Coloured wool
- A pencil or sharp point
- A plastic chopping board
- A large needle

Get making!!



Activity 1

MAKE YOUR OWN TAPESTRY



Instructions:

- Cut your card to size.
- Paint your favourite colour and leave to dry.
- Sketch out the design for your sign in pencil. It could be:
 - A bold pattern – like a zig-zag or a set of shapes
 - Your own name or a sign for your bedroom door: 'Ben's Room'
 - A warning: 'Keep out!'
- Every 2cm or so along your pencil lines make a hole with the point of some scissors (adult supervision required).
- Put the card onto the plastic chopping board before making the hole to protect the table (and your hands!)
- Choose some coloured wool for the embroidery.
- Start at the first hole in your pattern and use a needle to pass the wool through it. Use sticky tape to secure the end on the back of the card – it doesn't matter how messy this looks as no one will see it.
- After you've made your first stitch, pass your needle through the next hole and loop the wool back on itself to fill the gap.
- Continue weaving the wool in and out of the holes. If you have lots of colours to choose from, you can make each letter a different colour, or alternate between two.
- Once you come to the end of your pattern, secure the end of the wool at the back of the cardboard.
- You can use paint or pens to add extra colour and details around your embroidery.
- Now pin or sticky tack your finished tapestry in place on a door or wall.



You've used the same skills as the people who made the Bayeux Tapestry.



BBC

HANDS ON
HISTORY
THE NORMANS

bbc.co.uk/history

Activity 2



TAPESTRY TALES

Great for: a longer-term project over the school holidays.

The Bayeux Tapestry was created to tell the story of the Norman invasion through images; you can tell your own tale this way.

You will need:

- A long strip of paper
- Pens and paints to decorate

Instructions:

- Take a long, thin piece of paper. Old wallpaper is ideal.
- Cut a length that will fit the wall you are going to hang it on.
- Put it on a floor or outside and weigh it down at the corners to stop it rolling up.
- Decide what story your tapestry will tell. Here are some ideas:
 - A local story: take a look through your local paper and find a story that interests you. It may be the opening of a new shop, or the local football team winning the league.
 - A family story: a great family holiday, your favourite Christmas Day, the birth of a sister or brother or another family event.
 - An important historical event from the past, such as the first moon landing.
 - A graphic diary: you can start the story today and add to it every day or week, just like a diary. This can be great fun during a half-term or throughout a summer holiday.



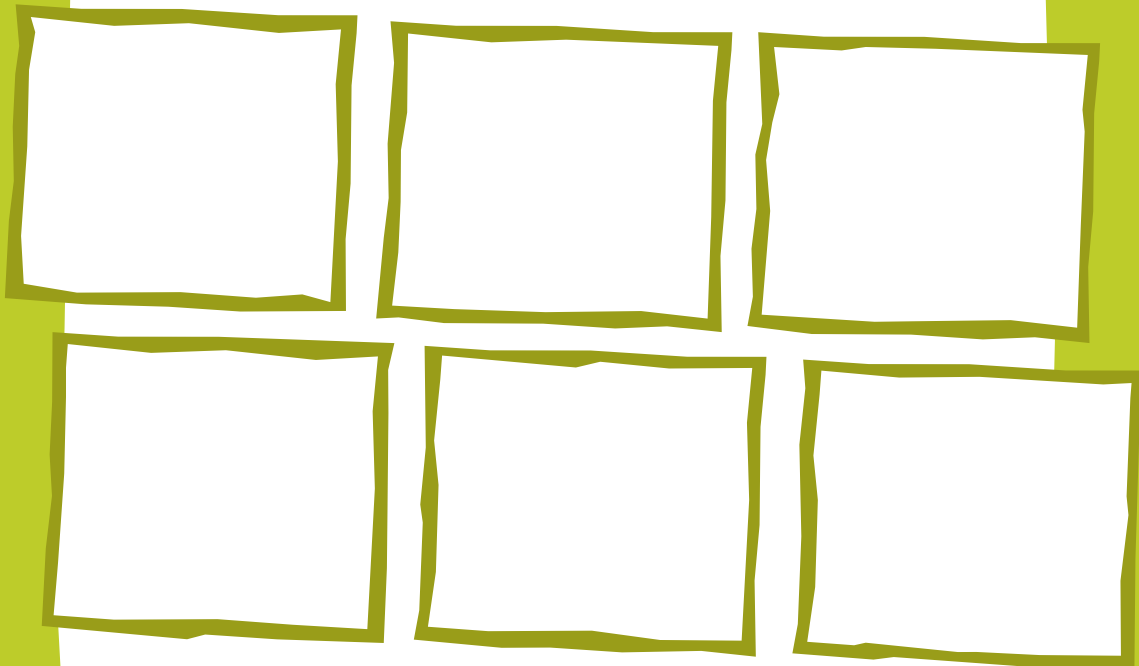
Top tip

To find more sections of the Bayeux Tapestry, take a look at the Reading Museum website. The Museum has a full-scale replica of the tapestry and has many images online: www.bayeuxtapestry.org.uk

Activity 2

TAPESTRY TALES

Now you've decided what story you are going to tell, break it down into the main events. Five or six work well. If you want to prepare your story first, you can create a small cartoon strip in squares and sketch out the main events you want to include before drawing onto your tapestry.



Use a pencil to divide the wallpaper into sections and sketch out a drawing to represent each event. Now use paints or pens to colour in your designs. As with the Bayeux Tapestry, you may want to use some words or people's names within the images.



You've told your own story through a work of art like the Bayeux Tapestry.

Activity 3



SHARING STORIES TODAY

Great for: the whole family. Someone will need to take the photographs or film the report.

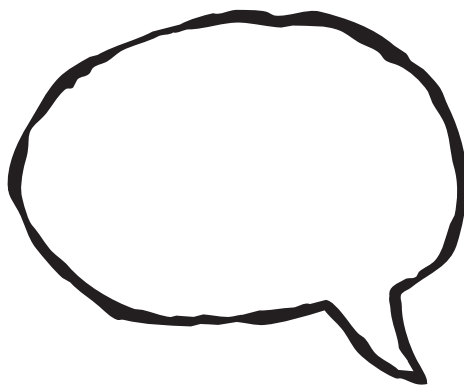
The Bayeux Tapestry recorded the Battle of Hastings so people would know, then and in the future, what happened. These days we have different ways of telling people about important events.

Decide what story you want to tell; there are some ideas in activity 2 to help you get started.

Tell your story with photos:

- Think of the six most important moments in your story – who were the key people involved, where did it happen and what were the effects?
- Think of poses to act out each of the six moments.
- Get someone to take a picture of you in each of your poses.
- Print out the pictures and stick them together side by side (a bit like a cartoon strip) in order.
- Can you see what the story is? You may want to add some speech bubbles to the photos.

Cut this speech bubble out with the help of an adult and add this to your pictures.



Activity 3

SHARING STORIES TODAY

Tell your story as a TV news report:

Plan your report – journalists build their stories around questions: **Who? Where? Why? What? How?**

- Write a short script including the main points of your event.
- Choose who will be the reporter. They need to put on some smart clothes like a real news reporter and find a good location to film, for example sitting behind a desk or table, or 'on location' outside.
- Choose someone to be the camera person to film the report on a video camera or mobile phone.
- Friends or family members could play witnesses or experts for interviews.

The Bayeux Tapestry told the story of the Battle of Hastings from the Normans' point of view. It may have looked very different if the Anglo-Saxons (who lost the battle!) had made it. Think about what point of view you are telling your own story from – is it from your point of view, or someone else's? It can make a real difference.



You've recorded an important story in a modern way.



© Reading Museum (Reading Borough Council)

bbc.co.uk/history

BBC
HANDS ON
HISTORY
THE NORMANS