Beyond the Battle

Trace how conquest changed power in England

AWH.C.10.2 "Examine how William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings established the French-speaking Normans as rulers of England and brought about a significant cultural, economic and military transformation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details showing how William secured military control, circle two details showing how land or wealth shifted, and put a star beside one cultural change. Use your marks to trace how the conquest reshaped England.

From Hastings to Norman Rule

1. In 1066, William, duke of Normandy, crossed the English Channel to challenge Harold Godwinson's claim to England's throne. At Hastings on October 14, Harold's army held a ridge while Norman cavalry and archers attacked. Fighting lasted much of the day. Harold died, and his army broke; William then advanced toward London and was crowned king on Christmas Day. Victory in one battle did not make every English community obedient. William still had to replace opponents, reward supporters, and make his authority visible across a kingdom whose language and customs differed from those of his French-speaking followers.

2. William confiscated lands from many English nobles and granted estates to Norman followers, binding powerful landholders to the new king. Norman lords built castles, often raised earthworks topped by timber defenses, to house soldiers and command nearby roads and towns. A castle could defend a garrison while warning people that rebellion might be met with force. William also kept some existing English institutions, including the office of sheriff, but placed trusted men in key positions. Thus conquest changed who controlled land and armed force without erasing every practice of English government.

3. Norman rule changed daily life as well as government. French became the language of the royal court and many powerful landowners, while most people continued to speak English. Over time, French words entered English, especially in law and government. Landownership also affected wealth: estates produced rents and food for their lords, giving the king's allies resources to support soldiers. In 1085, William ordered a survey of landholdings and resources. Conducted in 1086, the survey was recorded in the Domesday Book and helped the crown assess property and dues. Military control, income, and cultural influence reinforced one another.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the outcome at Hastings help William become king, and why was victory alone not enough to control England?

2. How did William's land grants strengthen both his rule and his army?

3. Why did Norman castles change the balance of power near roads and towns?

4. How did French-speaking rulers change English culture even though most people kept speaking English?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A student claims that Hastings changed only the king's name. Write a 75 to 100 word reply that connects a military change, an economic change, and a cultural change in a cause-and-effect chain. Include one detail about how William secured his rule after the battle.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing how William secured military control, circle two details showing how land or wealth shifted, and put a star beside one cultural change. Use your marks to trace how the conquest reshaped England. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the outcome at Hastings help William become king, and why was victory alone not enough to control England?	**Harold died and his army broke, allowing William to advance toward London and be crowned. William still had to replace opponents, reward supporters, and establish authority across England.**
2	How did William's land grants strengthen both his rule and his army?	**The grants tied Norman landholders to William. Their estates supplied rents and food that could support soldiers.**
3	Why did Norman castles change the balance of power near roads and towns?	**Castles housed Norman soldiers, helped lords command nearby areas, and made it clear that they could use force against rebellion.**
4	How did French-speaking rulers change English culture even though most people kept speaking English?	**French became the language of the court and many powerful landowners. Over time, French words entered English, especially in law and government.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hastings did more than replace a king. After Harold's defeat, William gave land taken from English nobles to Norman followers, tying their fortunes to his rule. The estates supplied food and rents that could help those lords support soldiers. Castles housed troops and made Norman authority hard to ignore in nearby towns. As Norman landowners and officials gained power, French became common at court and influenced English words for law and government. In this way, a military victory helped shift wealth, strengthen armed control, and reshape language.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect chains that connect military, economic, and cultural changes. For Part 3, check that the reply is 75 to 100 words and includes a specific step William took after Hastings.