

NORMAN BRITAIN

The Norman Conquest (1.5) (1) about profound political, social and cultural changes. It annihilated the English ruling class because many Anglo-Saxon noblemen had died in battle, were exiled or lost their lands. The Anglo-Saxon aristocracy were replaced by William's (2), who built castles to demonstrate and maintain their power. The members of the English clergy were replaced by French or Italian churchmen, and numerous new churches and cathedrals were built across the land.

The Normans also (3) the feudal system. Feudal society had a hierarchical structure based on a chain of loyalty agreements. All the land belonged to the king. The king portioned out the land to the barons in (4) for goods and services. The barons then portioned out the land to knights in exchange for military service. The peasants did all the agricultural work. They were mostly serfs who were bound to their lord and not (5) to leave the land where they had been born. This system enabled a minority to dominate a majority.

William mobilised the largest force ever seen in England, and in 1085 he sent his men all over England to carry (6) a survey. He wanted to know what the land was like and who lived on it. The results of the survey were recorded in the *Domesday Book*, which listed the country's different types of land and their use, the number of people (7) on them, their status and animals. It showed England as a rich and developed agricultural country. This document also enabled the king to calculate how (8) money he could raise in taxes. The English called the book *Domesday* because they felt it was like having their souls weighed up on Judgement Day, or 'doomsday'.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 A took | B came | C carried | D brought |
| 2 A followers | B adversaries | C believers | D opponents |
| 3 A showed | B presented | C introduced | D put |
| 4 A return | B concession | C agreement | D responsibility |
| 5 A could | B let | C capable | D allowed |
| 6 A out | B on | C in | D up |
| 7 A workers | B working | C work | D looked |
| 8 A more | B lot | C much | D many |



LIVEWORKSHEETS