

How did William keep control?

It took William several years but eventually he put down all the rebellions against him. However, he still had some long term problems which he needed to solve to stay in control. On pages 26-29 you are going to investigate how he solved these problems.

ACTIVITY

Divide a page of your book into two columns, as below. Fill in these columns as you read this section. In the left-hand column, explain each problem briefly using William's thought bubbles below (one has been done for you). In the right-hand column, say briefly how he solved it using the 'solution' boxes on pages 27-28. Be careful - you will have one of William's problems left over.

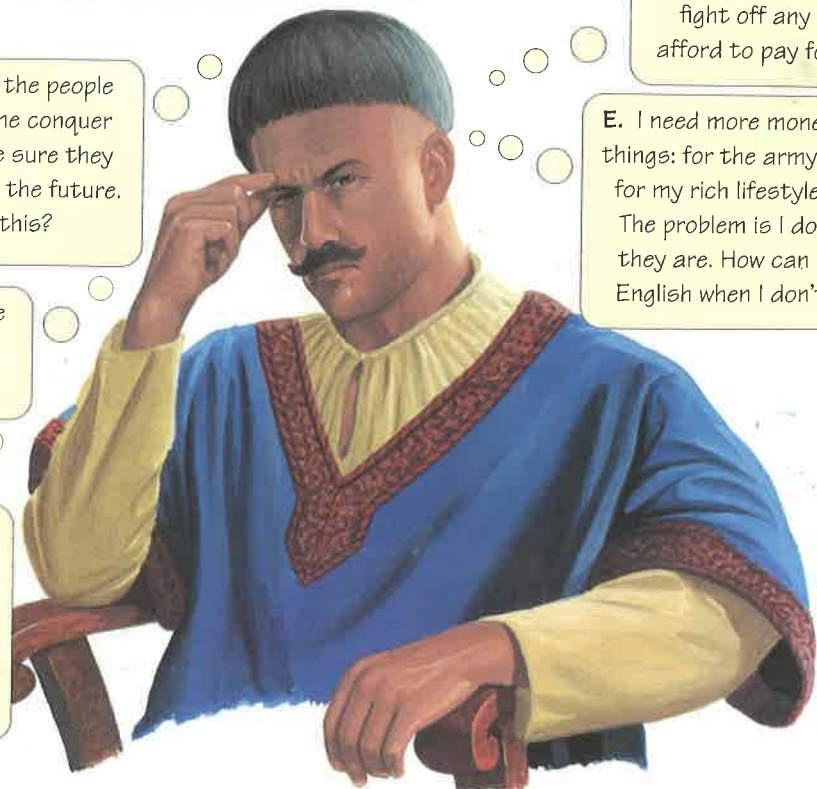
Problem	How William solved it
Rewarding his followers and keeping them loyal	

Problems

A. I must reward the people who have helped me conquer England and make sure they stay loyal to me in the future. How do I do this?

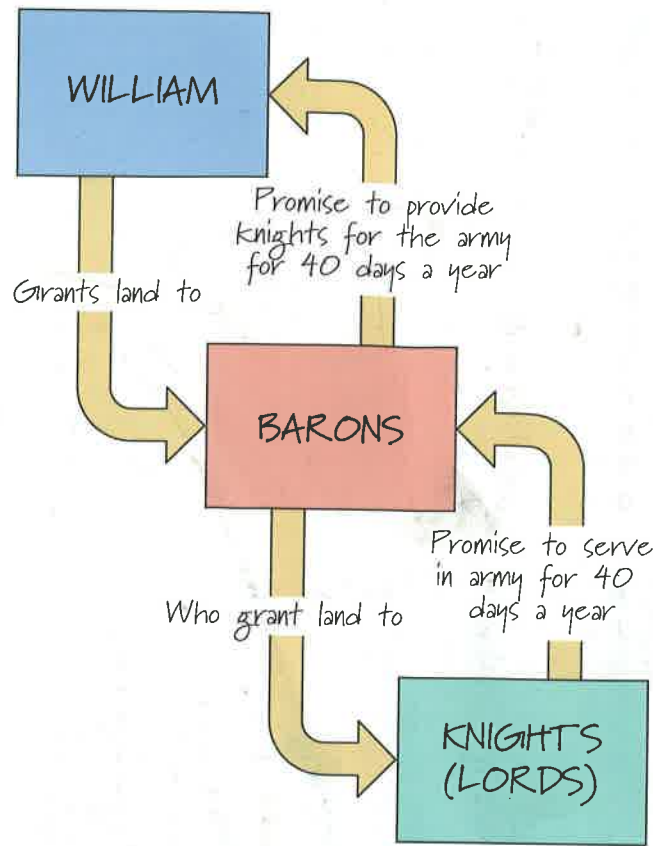
B. How can I make sure the English obey my laws?

C. What's the best way to keep the English under control and stop them attacking my soldiers?



D. I need to have an army ready to fight off any attacks but I can't afford to pay for this day after day.

E. I need more money to pay for all sorts of things: for the army, for great buildings and for my rich lifestyle - after all I am a king! The problem is I do not know how wealthy they are. How can I get money out of the English when I don't know what they own?



SOURCE 1 How William granted land in return for service in his army

Solution 1: Grant land

I took most of the land from the English landowners and gave it to Norman barons (powerful lords) who were loyal to me. I gave my brother Odo around 400 ESTATES. The barons could not run all the estates so they shared out their land with the knights who fought with them during the conquest of England.



Solution 3: Appoint sheriffs

I made some of my barons into SHERIFFS. Their job is to collect my taxes and keep law and order. I understand that some of the sheriffs have been hard on the English but I don't care. The English people must obey my laws. Some people have said that England is a safer place now because of my strict laws.



Solution 2: Demand soldiers

In return for the land I gave them, I made the barons promise to send me knights for 40 days each year. If I work this out carefully, I will always have an army of nearly 4000 men in case anybody attacks me.



Solution 4: Collect information

I sent out my officials all over the country - to every village - to collect information about what people owned. The English didn't like it and there were some riots. But I told them I would kill anybody who was not honest about what they owned.

How much land does the manor have?



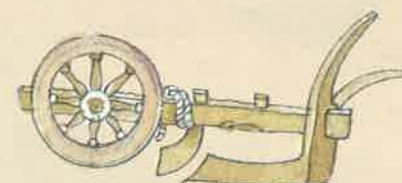
Answer: 10 hides (=1200 acres)

What is the manor called?

Answer:



How many ploughs were there?



Answer: The Lord has 4 ploughs. The villagers have 20 ploughs.

How many mills are there?



Answer: 2 mills

How much meadow is there?



Answer: 170 acres

How many villagers are there?



Answer: 28 villagers and a priest

SOURCE 2 William's officials went to over 13,000 villages. This source shows the questions asked and the answers given in the village of Elton in Cambridgeshire. All the information was written down in a great book called the **Domesday Book**

HOW DID WILLIAM KEEP CONTROL?

Solution 5: Build castles

Oh yes, I nearly forgot – castles! Castles were one of **the main reasons** we were able to control the English. We built castles throughout the country. At the start these were just wooden castles on mounds of earth like the one in Source 3. It only took us two or three weeks to build each one. Later, when we had more time, we turned some of these into stone castles, which were much stronger.

Castles provided protection for my soldiers. The English found it almost impossible to capture castles. Also, we used castles as bases. One Norman baron and his soldiers could control quite a large area of countryside around his castle. About fifty soldiers in a castle could hold off an army of thousands of English.



▲ **SOURCE 3** The early castles William built were called motte and bailey castles. The motte was a large mound with a wooden tower on top of it. The bailey was a large fenced area surrounding the motte. This is a modern drawing of the building of the motte and bailey castle at Pickering in Yorkshire