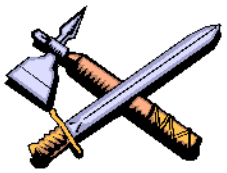
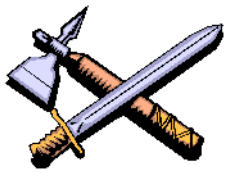
Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex



You want to be King of England.

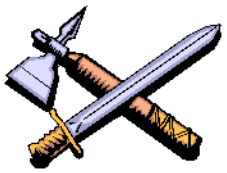
You have been the most powerful man in England for many years and your brothers, Gyrth and Leofwyne, are also very rich and powerful. You are a great soldier and you led the English army in victories against the Welsh. King Edward told you that he would like you to be king when he is dead

King Harald Hardrada of Norway



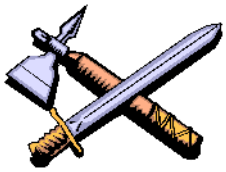
You want to be King of England, one of the richest countries in Europe. You are a great Viking war leader, the most famous soldier in Europe and you have fought many wars successfully. Conquering England will give you even more glory. Only twenty-five years ago, England was ruled by kings from Scandinavia and there are many people descended from the Vikings living in the north of England.

Duke William



You want to be King of England, one of the richest countries in Europe. You have fought many wars in France and now you want to win even more power by becoming King of England. King Edward of England grew up in Normandy and he promised you that you would be the next king.

Earl Edwin

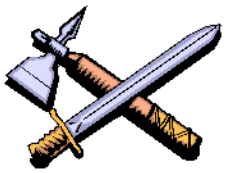


You rule Mercia, a large area in the middle of England.

You want to keep your wealth, whoever is the next king.

Earl Morcar is your brother.

Earl Morcar

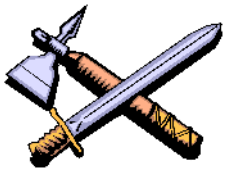


You rule Northumbria, a large area in the north of England.

You want to keep your wealth, whoever is the next king.

Earl Edwin is your brother.

Edgar the Aetheling

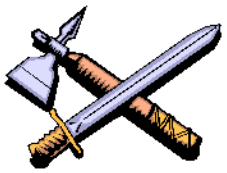


You are fifteen years old.

You are King Edward's closest relative but you have no wealth or experience of leading an army.

You are not likely to be chosen as king because you are too young.

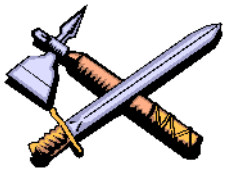
Earl Leofwyne



You are Harold's brother.

You are already wealthy but you will grow richer and more powerful still if your brother becomes king.

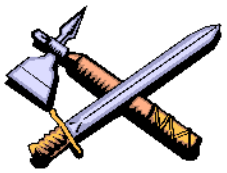
Earl Gyrth



You are Harold's brother.

You are already wealthy but you will grow richer and more powerful still if your brother becomes king.

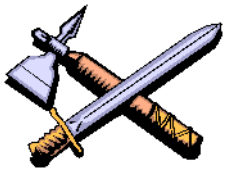
William Paynel



Your father has a small amount of land, given to him by Duke William. You are fighting as one of the Duke's household knights and to win more land for your family.

There is a lot of competition for land in Normandy but here in England there is plenty of land — if you win!

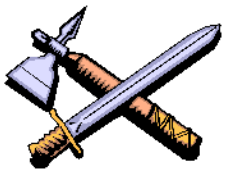
Ralph Fitzwarren



Your father was a tavern-keeper who made you work all day and beat you. So you ran away and found work at William Paynel's castle.

Now you are one of his foot-soldiers, paid to fight for William.

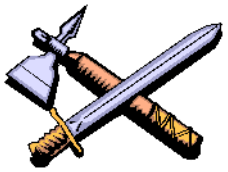
Haakon the Sword Bearer



You are King Harald Hardrada's sword bearer, blood-sworn to live and die with the king.

You have fought together all over Europe and you have grown rich and famous along with King Harald.

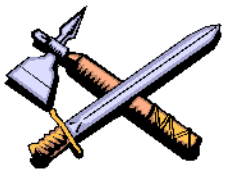
Olaf Olafsson



You are younger son of Olaf the ship builder.

Your older brother will take over from your father, bringing his family to live around the hearth of the big house. You will always be the younger brother, the worker, so you left to win land and riches for yourself in the great king's army.

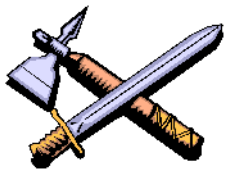
Thorold



You have been summoned by your lord to fight for King Harold. It is your duty in return for the land your lord gives you.

Every year you practice with spear and shield so you are well-trained but you would rather be at home on your farm.

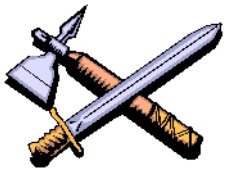
Aelfric



A year ago you were going to be a monk. Your parents sent you to the monastery but you ran away.

You have been working at odd jobs in London. But then you heard the king wanted men for his army so you set off to join him.

Norman Chroniclers



You are monks who live and work at a monastery in Normandy and you keep a chronicle of famous events.

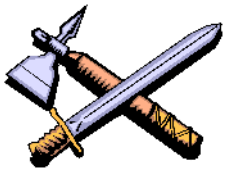
Your task will be to write an account of Duke William's invasion of England but, for now, you just need to jot down ideas and details that will help you.

Make a note of the main events you will include in your chronicle and what role duke William played in them.

Think carefully about the words you will use, especially adjectives, to describe Duke William and the other leaders.

Don't be afraid to be biased or miss out things that are not important in Normandy.

English Chroniclers



You are monks who live and work at a monastery in the south of England and you keep a chronicle of famous events.

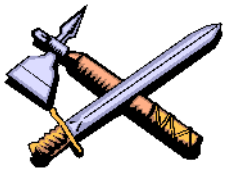
Your task will be to write an account of the events of 1066 but, for now, you just need to jot down ideas and details that will help you.

Make a note of the main events you will include in your chronicle and what role King Harold played in them.

Think carefully about the words you will use, especially adjectives, to describe King Harold and the other leaders.

Don’t be afraid to be biased or miss out things that you do not want to write about.

Norwegian Saga Tellers



You are great story-tellers at the court of the famous soldier, King Harald Hardrada of Norway.

Your task will be to tell a rousing saga of the events of 1066 but, for now, you just need to jot down ideas and details that will help you.

Make a note of the main events you will include in your saga and what role King Harald Hardrada played in them.

Think carefully about the words you will use, especially adjectives, to describe Hardrada and the other leaders.

Don’t be afraid to be biased or miss out things that are not relevant to your audience in Norway.