

The Normans – A-level

Teacher notes

Session Overview

Charting the arrival and impact of the Normans in England this session focuses on the White Tower. Students will examine both the buildings and documentary evidence to suggest what the White Tower reveals about William's post-conquest consolidation of power.

Key themes:

The White Tower will be used as a case study to explore the following:

- William I and the consolidation of power; the establishment of and challenges from a new elite.
- The building of castles in Norman times (motives, techniques, effectiveness) and their impact on Norman control and royal power.
- The defensive, residential, symbolic and ceremonial functions of the castle in Norman times.

Schedule

Your 90 minute session will consist of the following:

- 15 minute introduction to the development of the Tower during which students create a hypothesis to test during their session;
- 60 minute subject specific tour, engaging students through investigation of the built environment and analysis of documentary sources in their historical context;
- 15 minute plenary during which students draw upon what they have learnt to reach their own conclusions about the topic.

Exam board links

This session has been designed to complement the study of the Norman period, and particularly the following exam boards:

- **Edexcel** - 2A.1: Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053–1106
- **OCR** - Y132 Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, 1035–1107

Session Objectives

- To explore, analyse, interpret and cross-reference different types of primary evidence (portraits/ buildings/ written evidence); evaluating the difficulties/ limitations of available evidence
- To gain an understanding of how the Tower developed over time to support explanation of the motives, techniques and effectiveness of Norman castle building
- To analyse and use historical sources in context to test a hypothesis on the effectiveness of Norman castle building as a method of consolidating William's power

Meeting Points

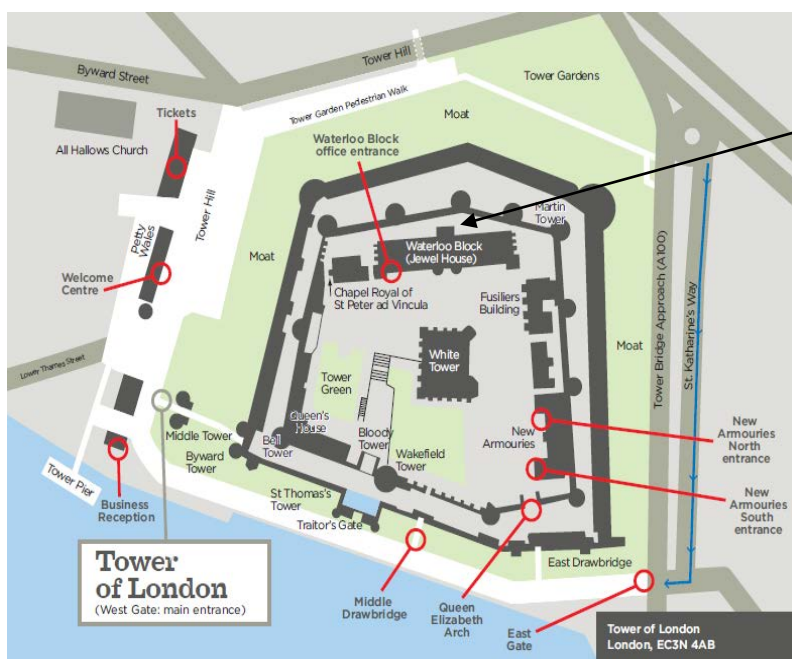
- Your presenter will meet you in the Learning Centre behind the Jewel House.
- Please refer to the map on the next page for details.



Directions to the Learning Centre behind the Jewel House

Allow 15 minutes from the Welcome Centre to the Learning Centre.

1. Collect your admission wristbands from the [Welcome Centre](#).
2. Enter the Tower of London via [Middle Drawbridge](#) ([Groups Entrance](#)). After you have shown your wristband and had your bags checked, make your way to the Jewel House.
3. From the [Middle Drawbridge](#) turn right and walk towards then past the toilet block (on your right) and turn left through the [Queen Elizabeth Arch](#).
4. Keep walking straight ahead past the New Armouries restaurant (on your right) and the White Tower on your left towards the [Jewel House](#).
5. To access the [Learning Centre](#) you will need to go around the back of the Jewel House. Please do this using the **path between the Fusiliers Museum and the Jewel House**.
6. Once around the back of the building you will come across a sign saying ***"No entry, except for booked school parties"***. Pass by this and the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) will be on your left.
7. Your session presenter should be waiting here for you, but if not please use the buzzer on the wall to contact the [Learning Centre](#).



Please make your way to the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) behind the [Jewel House](#)

