Who Told the Story of 1066?

The Story in Stitches · KS2 History · Years 3 to 6

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

1 Numbers in the film

MATHS LINK

a. Halley's Comet came in spring 1066. It returns about every 76 years. What year is 76 years after 1066?

_____

b. The comet is due back in 2061. How many years is that after 2026? _____ years

c. The cloth is about 70 metres long. A swimming pool is 25 metres long. How many pools laid end to end make 70 metres? _____

d. The cloth was stitched within about ten years of 1066. Imagine it was finished in 1076. How old would it be in 2026? _____ years

2 Put it in order

Number the six events **1** to **6** in the order they happened.

CHRONOLOGY

☐	William's ships sail across and the battle begins.	☐	The cloth is kept in Bayeux Cathedral for hundreds of years.
☐	Harold is crowned king, in January 1066.	☐	Harold is killed, at the end of the battle.
☐	Halley's Comet is seen in the sky in spring 1066.	☐	The cloth is stitched, within about ten years of 1066.

3 Words to know

a. Draw a line to match each word to its meaning.

VOCABULARY

wool	an icy object from space that shines with a long tail
comet	a plant whose roots give a red dye
madder	a plant whose leaves give a blue dye
woad	soft thread spun from a sheep's fleece
weld	a plant that gives a yellow dye
Latin	the old language of the Church

b. Finish these sentences using three of the words above.

- Red came from the roots of a plant called _____.
- In spring 1066, people saw a bright _____ in the sky.
- The words on the cloth are written in _____.

4 Whose story is it?

CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

Write **T** if the sentence is true or **F** if it is false, according to the film.

☐	The cloth was made for William's side.	☐	The cloth was probably stitched in Normandy.
☐	The comet is shown on the cloth.	☐	The end of the cloth still survives.

i. The cloth was made by the winners. Why might that change the way events are shown?

ii. The film says the cloth was probably stitched in England, on the side that lost. Why might English stitchers still have shown the winners' story?

5 Time, place and possibility

ENGLISH LINK

a. A **fronted adverbial** tells you *when* or *where* at the start of a sentence, and a comma follows it. Underline the fronted adverbial in each sentence.

- For more than nine hundred years, it stayed in Bayeux.
- Every summer, for about a week, they hung it around the walls.
- Near the end, the words say this.

b. Circle the word that shows someone is not sure. The last sentence is a made-up example, not from the film.

- The cloth was probably stitched in England.
- The place is most likely Canterbury.
- The cloth might have been finished in Paris.

c. Write your own sentence about 1066 that starts with a time or place, then a comma.

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Answers and teaching notes

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Answers

1 · Numbers in the film.

a. 1066 + 76 = **1142**. The gap is only *about* 76 years; the comet really came back in 1145.

b. 2061 – 2026 = **35 years**.

c. 70 ÷ 25 = **2.8**, a little under 3. That is why the film says "nearly three swimming pools".

d. 2026 – 1076 = **950 years**. 1076 is a number for the sum; nobody knows the exact year the cloth was finished.

2 · Put it in order. 1 Harold is crowned king (January 1066) · **2** Halley's Comet is seen in spring 1066 · **3** William's ships sail across and the battle begins (autumn 1066) · **4** Harold is killed at the end of the battle · **5** The cloth is stitched, within about ten years of 1066 · **6** The cloth is kept in Bayeux Cathedral for hundreds of years.

3 · Words to know. a. wool → soft thread spun from a sheep's fleece · comet → an icy object from space that shines with a long tail (the film calls it "a star with a long tail", as people in 1066 did) · madder → a plant whose roots give a red dye · woad → a plant whose leaves give a blue dye · weld → a plant that gives a yellow dye · Latin → the old language of the Church. **b. madder** · **comet** · **Latin**

4 · Whose story is it? The cloth was made for William's side **T** · The comet is shown on the cloth **T** · The cloth was probably stitched in Normandy **F** (the film says England) · The end of the cloth still survives **F** (it is lost). **i.** Accept any answer that says the winners' view would stress their own side and leave out the other. **ii.** Accept any answer that says the stitchers were working for the winners, or that a story can be told by people who lost the battle but still worked on the cloth.

5 · Time, place and possibility. a. For more than nine hundred years, · Every summer, for about a week, · Near the end, **b. probably** · **most likely** · **might** (the third sentence is a made-up example). **c.** Accept any sentence that begins with a time or place phrase followed by a comma, for example *In 1066, a comet crossed the sky.*

Curriculum links

History. National Curriculum KS2 History: *the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor*. The film uses the Bayeux Tapestry as a source for 1066.

Maths. Question 1: calculating with years and dates, a simple division with a decimal answer (70 ÷ 25), and measuring with metres. **English.** Question 5: fronted adverbials (Year 4 statutory) and words that show possibility, such as *probably*, *most likely* and *might* (Year 5 statutory).

Where each question comes from in the film

Question	Film part	Words in the film (quotes exact; question sentences shortened)
1a, 1b	Eyes on the Sky (1:48)	"That star really appeared in spring 1066" · "It will come back in 2061"
1c	The Winners' Story (0:12)	"It is only about as tall as your arm is long, but it is about seventy metres long"
1d	Stitch by Stitch (3:22)	"The cloth was probably stitched within about ten years of 1066"
2	All three parts	"He comes home and is crowned king" · "That star really appeared in spring 1066" · "William's ships sail across, and the battle begins" · "Here King Harold was killed" · "The cloth was probably stitched within about ten years of 1066" · "it was kept in Bayeux Cathedral"
3	All three parts	"Pictures are stitched onto it in wool" · "the old language of the Church" · "a star with a long tail" · "Red came from madder roots, blue from woad leaves, and yellow from a plant called weld"
4	The Winners' Story (0:12); Stitch by Stitch (3:22)	"The cloth was made for William's side" · "in England, most likely at Canterbury" · "its end is lost" · the star with a long tail is next to Harold on his throne
5	All three parts	"For more than nine hundred years, it stayed in Bayeux" · "Every summer, for about a week, they hung it around the walls" · "Near the end, the words say this" · "probably stitched within about ten years of 1066, in England, most likely at Canterbury" (b shortens these) · the third sentence in b is made up

This sheet is careful about

The cloth is a winners' story. The film says it was made for William's side. Question 4 asks pupils to think about whose view is shown, not to decide who was right.

Uncertain things stay uncertain. The place it was stitched is probably England, most likely Canterbury. The year it was finished is not known, so question 1d asks pupils to imagine 1076. Question 1a is only a sum: the gap is about 76 years, and the comet's real return was 1145. The end of the cloth is lost, so nobody knows what came after the battle.

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