

Year 10- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England

Title: Why did William build so many castles in England?

William I was estimated to have built, or had followers build up to 500 castles in England. Anglo-Saxon England did not use castles for defence- they were uncommon in England, despite Edward the Confessor's Norman links.

Watch this to explain William's power through castles. All is useful, but castles start about 2minutes into the clip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGDu-vi8sg>

This clip is aimed at younger students, but may also be an interesting addition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxpTxuPTkIA&t=139s>

TASKS:

1. Think back to Anglo-Saxon burhs. What was their main purpose? How were they used for defence too?
2. Use the map to help answer the question: Why would William cluster some castles close together in certain locations?
3. Then draw your own diagram of a motte and bailey castle. Copy out the key features of the Motte and bailey castles around the outside.
4. Plan your defence- how would you save the castle against Anglo-Saxon rebels?
5. Plan your attack- how would you destroy the Norman castle?



Figure 2.3 This map shows the location of the most important castles built during William's reign.

Extra challenge: Rather than copying out the diagram, try making your own castle. You could use playdoh, cardboard, cake... the possibilities are endless!

