The Hundred Years War

1337-1453
In **1077, William, Duke of Normandy** in northern France, invades England, defeats the Saxons and becomes King of England, establishing a Norman ruling class. French becomes in England the language of the ruling classes and commerce.

William strengthened royal power. Surveyed England’s landed property and other wealth and used this information to collect taxes. He compelled all feudal lords to pledge him direct allegiance.

For the next 200 years, the Norman kings of England remained feudal lords over much French territory.
The Norman Invasion of England 1066
Map of France in the 12th Century
Beginning of the War

Over the centuries, France had made consistent advances on French territories claimed by the English Norman kings.

By the 13th century, England still had one small possession in France – Gascony.

King Philip of France seized Gascony in 1337 and Edward III of England declared war on Philip.
Repeated English Victories

War began with a feudal knightly enthusiasm. The French army still relied on heavily armored noble cavalry and the crossbow. The English relied more on large numbers of paid foot soldiers. The English long bow had a larger range and greater speed.

great English victories at Crecy in 1346, Poitiers in 1356 and Agincourt (Henry V) in 1415. These were crushing defeats for the French. At Agincourt, 1,500 French nobles were killed. The English were masters of northern France.
English Gains in France

Learning from Maps  The English defeated the French for control of the English Channel in 1340, at the battle of Sluys. What battle did the French win in the south?
The French Rally

Late in the war, the English lost their military advantage.

They met their final defeat when the French armies, *inspired by Joan of Arc*, ended the English siege of the city of Orleans and after several notable victories drove the English from France.
Joan of Arc

One of the most remarkable figures in history; Illiterate, devout French peasant girl; Claimed visions of saints instructed her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination.

convinced Dauphin (heir to French throne) to let her help lead French forces; several swift victories; boosted French morale; under her inspiration, the French army enjoyed remarkable success;
Joan of Arc cont.

Captured by a French faction allied with England and handed over to English.

Joan is tried and convicted of heresy in a farce of a trial.

She is burned at the stake. Later, she is canonized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

She is a national symbol for the French
Importance of the Hundred Years War

1. The French victory marked the end of a long period of struggle between English and French kings over territories in France. England was left with only Calais on the continent.

2. The war destroyed the English dream of a joint monarchy and led to the rejection in England of all things French (Norman). (But the French language in England left many influences in the English vocabulary.)
Importance cont.

3. National feelings that emerged during the war unified both France and England further.

4. The war accelerated the process of transforming France from a feudal monarchy to a centralized state.
5. Military Significance:
   
a. In 1445, the first regular standing army in western Europe since Roman times was organized in France.
   
b. Rapid Evolution in Weapons and Tactics
   
   • English **longbow** surpassed the crossbow;
   
   • Important to French success was the **cannon**, a new weapon made possible by the invention of gunpowder; (From China to Mongols to Turks to Europe); the use of gunpowder eventually brought drastic changes to European warfare by making castles, city walls and armored knights obsolete.