KS3 History The Norman Conquest

How did William gain control of England? Castle building.

Use the source booklet ‘Castle Building’.

1. From the text on page 1 and Sources 1-4
2. Why did William decide to start building castles?
3. What methods did he use to build them?
4. From Source 5, if you were William, at what other geographical features (see the key) might you want to build castles to help secure the countryside? Explain your choices.
5. Using Sources 6-8 and 11, draw and carefully label a Motte and Bailey castle. Take a full page, take care over it and use colours!
6. Look at Sources 9 & 10. How far was the Motte and Bailey castle easy to attack? Give a full answer. (You might want to consider your drawing or Source 11 to give you further ideas).
7. From Source 12, which part of the country was most difficult to control do you think and why?
8. Study Source 13.

How did castles help the Normans control the country? Explain clearly in at least two ways.

1. Source 14 shows a square stone keep castle. These replaced motte and bailey castles. In what ways are they similar and different to motte and baileys?

In what ways are they an improvement?

You can answer this with a drawing of the new castle, carefully labelled, if you wish.

Extension work: Did castles become more or less important as places to control the country towards the end of the middle ages? Explain.