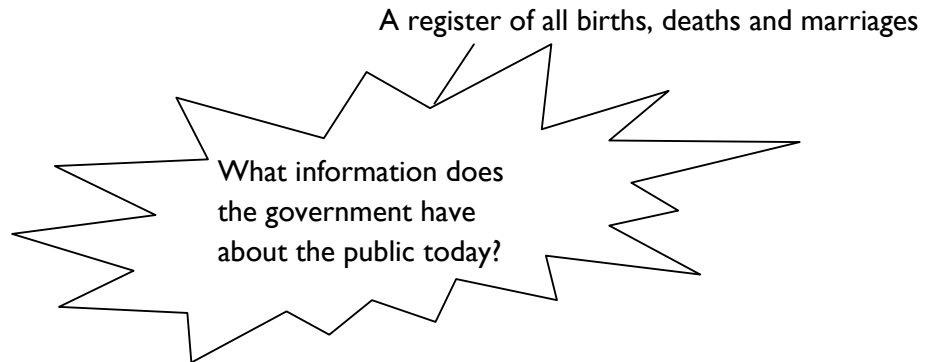


Objectives

- To identify what the Domesday book was
- To describe what was new about the Domesday book
- To explain how the Domesday book helped William to keep control of England

Task 1: Create a mind map of your ideas about the question below. One idea has been added for you.



The Domesday Book



In 1085 William the Conqueror decided to commission a survey which would list all the resources held by people in the various parts of England and how much tax they therefore owed him. He also wanted to know what was owed to him in military service. People to whom he had given land, known as his tenants-in-chief, were expected to repay him by sending knights to fight in his army. To ensure this happened he needed a written record of who owned which land. It was the first time any King in England had attempted to gather all such information into one place. William knew that knowledge was power!

Task 2: Read the source below. Write a list of what the King wanted to know in the box to the right.

From the *Ely Inquiry* c. 1085

The King's official met the priest, the reeve and the six men from each village. They inquired what the manor was called, and who held it in the time of King Edward; who holds it now; how many hides there are, how many ploughs, how many villeins, how many cottars, how many slaves, how many freemen; how much woodland, how much meadow; how many mills, what the estate is worth now. And it was also to be noted whether more could be taken from the estate than is now being taken.

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Conduct your own Domesday survey!

Name	Status	Land	Animals	Ploughs	Buildings

Conduct your own Domesday survey!

Name	Status	Land	Animals	Ploughs	Buildings

Why did William create the Domesday Book?

Name: Jeffrey Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut	Name: William Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut	Name: Francis Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut
Name: John Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut	Name: Edmond Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut	Name: Lord Cornwallis Status: Lord Land: 500 acres Animals: 50 sheep, 10 goats, 20 geese, 50 swine Ploughs: 5 Buildings: Manor
Name: Oliver Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut	Name: Donald Status: Slave Land: 0 Animals: 0 Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Hut	Name: Gregory Status: Knight Land: 50 acres Animals: 20 sheep 15 swine Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Stone house
Name: Peter Status: Knight Land: 60 acres Animals: 20 geese 40 sheep Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Stone house	Name: Lord Crewe Status: Lord Land: 700 acres Animals: 100 swine 50 sheep Ploughs: 3 Buildings: Manor, barn, mill	Name: Frederick Status: Knight Land: 20 acres Animals: 10 sheep, 20 swine Ploughs: 2 Buildings: Stone house

Why did William create the Domesday Book?

Name: Walter Status: Knight Land: 30 acres Animals: 30 geese, 4 goats, 20 sheep Ploughs: 2 Buildings: Stone house	Name: Thomas Status: Peasant Land: 0 Animals: 2 goats, 1 swine Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Arthur Status: Peasant Land: 0 Animals: 1 swine Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling
Name: Bryce Status: Peasant Land: 0 Animals: 4 geese, 1 sheep Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Leofrick Status: Peasant Land: 0 Animals: 2 sheep Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Letholdus Status: Peasant Land: 0 Animals: 1 swine Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling
Name: Lord Montague Status: Lord Land: 100 acres Animals: 100 sheep 40 sone Ploughs: 4 Buildings: Manor, barn	Name: Joseph Status: Villager Land: 2 acres Animals: 2 geese, 3 goats Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Ulric Status: Villager Land: 3 acres Animals: 5 goats, 3 swine Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Dwelling
Name: Tybalt Status: Villager Land: 2 acres Animals: 3 sheep, 4 geese Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Borin Status: Villager Land: 1 acres Animals: 2 swine 5 sheep Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Sadon Status: Villager Land: 2 acres Animals: 3 sheep 2 swine Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling

Why did William create the Domesday Book?

Name: Terrowin Status: Villager Land: 3 acres Animals: 3 swine 6 sheep Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Rowan Status: Villager Land: 4 acres Animals: 5 geese 2 swine Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Forthwind Status: Villager Land: 3 acres Animals: 4 geese, 2 swine Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Dwelling
Name: Althalos Status: Villager Land: 2 acres Animals: 5 sheep Ploughs: 0 Buildings: Dwelling	Name: Fendrel Status: Smallholder Land: 10 acres Animals: 10 swine 4 goats Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Cottage	Name: Brom Status: Smallholder Land: 10 acres Animals: 2 geese 20 sheep Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Cottage, mill
Name: Hadrian Status: Smallholder Land: 10 acres Animals: 5 goats 10 sheep Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Cottage	Name: Benedict Status: Smallholder Land: 10 acres Animals: 10 geese 20 swine Ploughs: 1 Buildings: Cottage	



Teaching notes

As an introduction to the purpose and context of the Domesday Book students can complete the worksheet on p.1 individually or in pairs as works best for your class.

The fun follow-up 'Conduct your own Domesday survey' activity is intended to help students become familiar with the kind of information that was gathered and perhaps to simulate, on a much reduced scale, some of the practical challenges which collecting this information would have posed. It takes around 10-15 minutes. Each student is given one of the character cards from pp.3-6. They then act simultaneously as their own character and as a Domesday official by talking to five other class members to record their details using the table on p.2.

If you want to show students what the book itself looked like, and gain more contextual information, an excellent pack is available from the National Archives here:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/focuson/domesday/PDF/focus-on-domesday.pdf>

The activity can be followed up with some more probing questioning either in discussion or for written responses:

- How would the people being interviewed have felt about giving this information?
- How would having this information help you if you were trying to rule a country?
- In the bible, 'Domesday' means 'Day of Judgement'. Why do you think the book William made might have been given this name?