

The Bayeux Tapestry: Return to England (July 16, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The Bayeux Tapestry, this 70-meter-long work that tells the story of William the Conqueror's conquest of England in 1066, is returning to England for the first time since it was made.

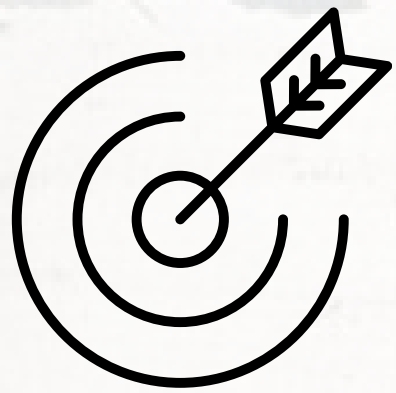
Who? The Bayeux Tapestry, a French embroidery nearly 1,000 years old, is on loan from France to the British Museum in London.

Where? The tapestry has left the town of Bayeux, in Normandy (France), to join the British Museum in London.

When? It arrived discreetly in the middle of the night on July 10, 2026, and will be on public display from September 10, 2026, to July 11, 2027.

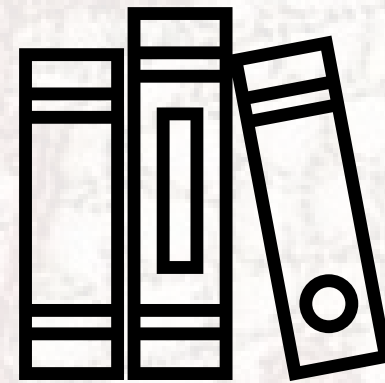
Why is it important? France is lending the tapestry as a sign of friendship with the United Kingdom while the Bayeux Museum is closed for renovations.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about the Bayeux Tapestry.



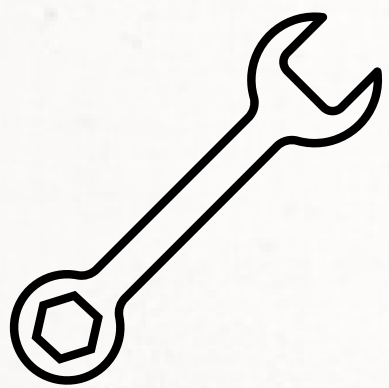
OBJECTIVES

- Discover the Bayeux Tapestry and the story it tells
- Understand why it is considered an ancestor of comic strips
- Observe specific scenes and identify significant details
- Understand the exceptional conditions of transporting a fragile work of art
- Recognize how lending a work of art can bring two countries closer together
- Translate short Latin inscriptions and verify if they accurately describe an image



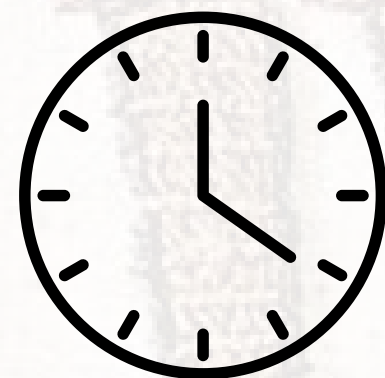
SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies / History**
 - The Conquest of England in 1066
 - The Middle Ages and Medieval Life
 - Reading a Historical Source
- **Arts**
 - Storytelling through Images (the precursor to comics)
 - Preserving a Fragile Heritage Artwork
- **English**
 - Video Comprehension
 - Writing Short Answers
 - Latin Roots in English Words



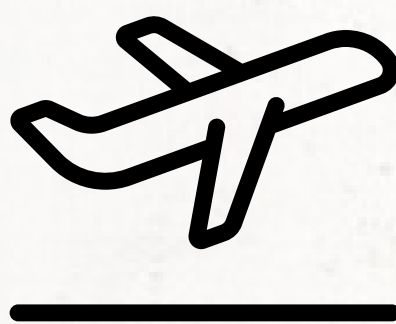
COMPETENCIES

- Search for and interpret information (images, videos, text)
- Observe a work of art and identify specific details
- Understand a news report
- Use an online translation tool
- Produce short and precise answers



DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have ever heard of the Bayeux Tapestry.
- Ask them how stories were told before printing and photography.
- Locate France, Normandy, and the United Kingdom on a map.
- Discuss: How do you move a fragile work of art 70 meters long?
- Gather their hypotheses: Why would one country lend one of its treasures to another country?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — The Ancestor of Comic Strips. Watching of a short video on the history of the tapestry, exploration of the high-definition panorama of the Bayeux Tapestry Museum, and answers to four multiple-choice questions.

Q1 — Edward.

Q2 — A comet.

Q3 — Mont-Saint-Michel.

Q4 — Horses.

STEP 2 — A High-Security Delivery. Watching of a France 24 report on the tapestry's transfer to London and answers to four comprehension questions.

Q5 — For about 1,000 years.

Q6 — About 70 meters.

Q7 — They were taken away by the war.

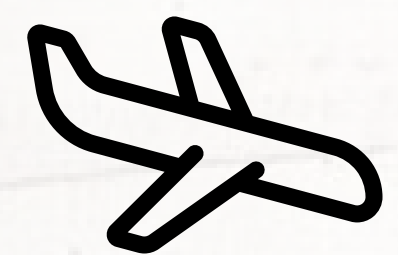
Q8 — Between France and the United Kingdom.

STEP 3 — Do you speak Latin? Translation of three Latin inscriptions embroidered on the tapestry using Google Translate, and verification of their correspondence with the illustrated scene.

Q9 — “Here Duke William ordered ships to be built. » Yes: William sits on the left and gives his order, while trees are felled, planks are cut with an ax and hulls are assembled.

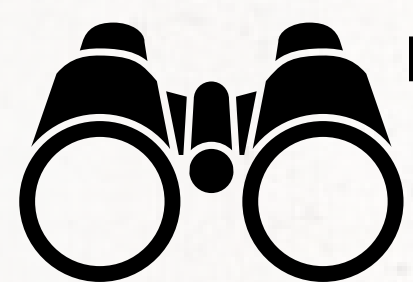
Q10 — “Here sits Harold, King of the English. » Yes: Harold is seated on his throne, crown on his head, scepter and globe in hand, with Archbishop Stigand at his side.

Q11 — “Here a house is on fire. » Yes: a house is burning in the center, two men set it on fire with torches, and a woman and a child flee in front of the flames.



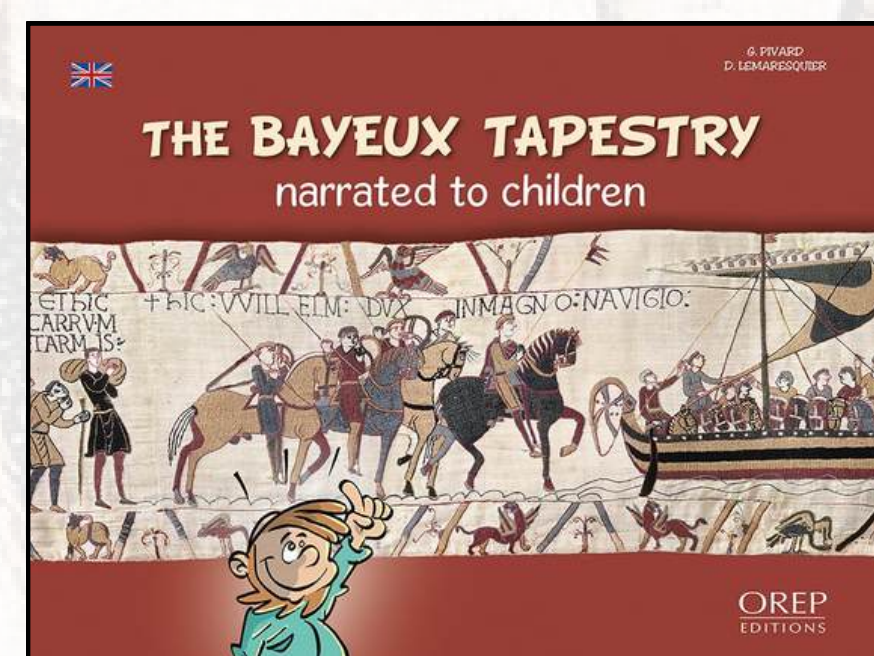
WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (the length of the work, the night journey, the embroidered Latin).
- Ask: Why does a 1,000-year-old work still interest so many people?
- Connect to today: What images do we use to tell stories now?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 David Lemareshquier & Gilles Pivard. *The Bayeux Tapestry Narrated to Children*. OREP Editor



The Bayeux Tapestry: 1066

The Adoration of the Magi: 1301

Photograph and newspaper article: 1910

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A tapestry... and a comet!



Did you notice this in Scene 32? What is it?

ISTI MIRANT STELLA... They are admiring the star...

Actually, it's not a star, but the famous Halley's Comet!



Edmond Halley
(1656-1742)

Halley's Comet crosses the sky approximately every 76 years. It is named after the English astronomer who realized long ago that it was always the same celestial body.

Look at the documents below. Each document relates to one of its passages. It's up to you to find out which one! Carefully observe the clues, then choose a date from the list. The internet can help you.

Passages of Halley's Comet

- 912
- 989
- 1066
- 1145
- 1222
- 1301
- 1378
- 1456
- 1531
- 1607
- 1682
- 1758
- 1835
- 1910
- 1986

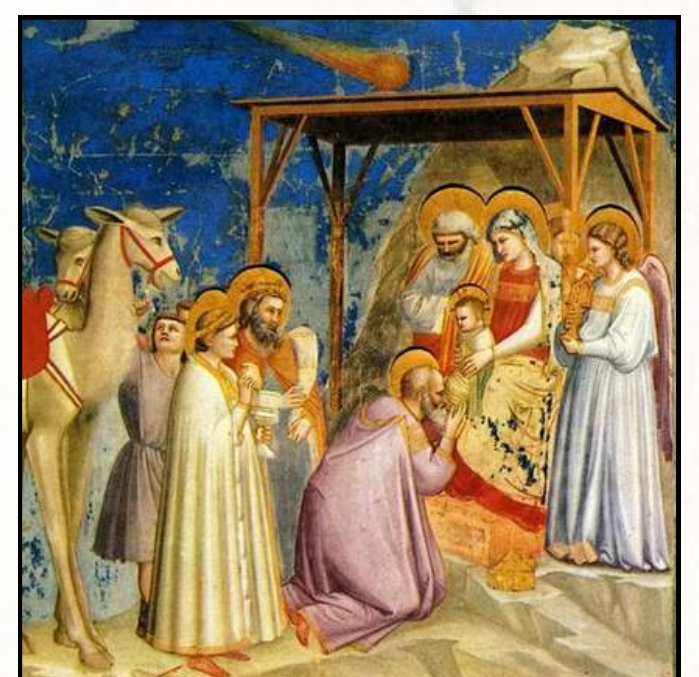


The Bayeux
Tapestry



Photograph and newspaper article

When will Halley's Comet next pass by?
Will you be able to see it?



The Adoration of the Magi
(Giotto)

Look at the very end of the tapestry: it stops abruptly, right in the middle of the battle. The true ending was lost a long time ago.

According to historians, it depicted the coronation of William, who became king of England, at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066.

Now it's your turn to embroider the rest! Draw this missing scene in the style of the tapestry, with its borders and a short sentence (in Latin!) to describe it.

