



William wins at Hastings!

Read all the details about the battle in this week's issue.

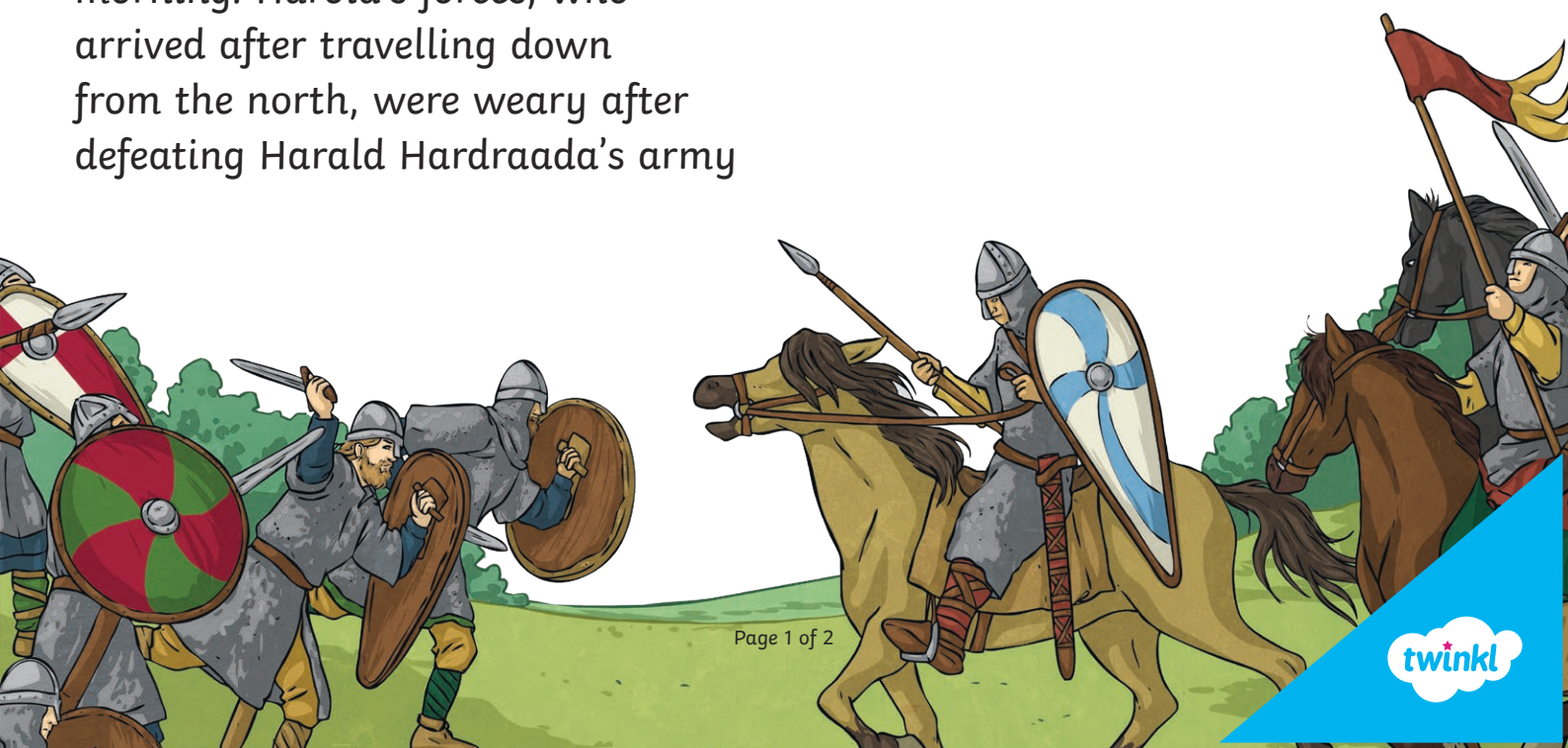
Yesterday, the battle for the English crown came to its conclusion as William, Duke of Normandy was victorious at the Battle of Hastings.

After months of furious fighting between the three claimants of the late King Edward the Confessor's crown, our new monarch was finally decided after a bloody battle at Hastings.

The forces of Harold Godwinson and Duke William met yesterday morning. Harold's forces, who arrived after travelling down from the north, were weary after defeating Harald Hardrada's army

at the Battle of Stamford Bridge last month. William's forces, however, were fresh and prepared after arriving and setting up camp in the south of the country just a couple of weeks ago.

Many witnesses have stated that there were thousands of soldiers in each army, though exact numbers are not known. It is estimated that both armies had around 10,000 men, although William had cavalry forces which Harold did not.



The battle started around 9 a.m. and lasted until dusk. Harold's forces arranged themselves at the top of a hill and William arranged his forces into three groups, with archers arranged at the front and the cavalrymen held behind. The battle was ready to begin.

One witness said, "I saw soldiers with spears, javelin, crossbows and longbows as well as swords and axes. It was a bloodbath!"

The battle waged on throughout the day. Both sides had times when they seemed to be gaining the upper hand in the fight, but were pushed back. William tried to send his cavalry against Harold's shield wall in a desperate hope to break their lines, but this proved unsuccessful.

Exhausted and wounded soldiers on both sides fought on until late in the day, when Harold Godwinson was killed. It is believed that he was struck down with an arrow.

After Harold's death, his forces became disorganised and were quickly defeated by the Norman forces. Many of them fled the battlefield, but some witnesses claim that some of Harold's loyal men surrounded his body and fought until the bitter end.

Now the fighting is over and the future of the country's monarchy has been decided, we can hope for a time of peace. Plans are in motion to crown Duke William as our new king.

