Promised the English throne by Edward the Confessor, but denied it by Harold II, William brought a Norman army over to England in 1066. After defeating Harold at the Battle of Hastings, William subdued the local population by confiscating Anglo-Saxon estates and giving them to his Norman followers.

**Biography**
- Born: Falaise Castle, Normandy, France, 1027/28, illegitimate son of Robert of Normandy and Adefge of Conches.
- Married: Matilda of Flanders, Cathedral of Notre Dame d’Et, Normandy, 1056/57, 10 children.
- Acceded: 14 Oct 1066.
- Coronated: Westminster Abbey, 28 Dec 1066.
- Died: Roman, Normandy, 9 Sept 1087, aged 59/60.

**Late Likeness**
This portrait of William is unlikely to be realistic as it was not drawn until the 18th century, appearing in a manuscript depicting William at the Battle of Hastings.

**Events of the Reign**
- 1066: William and his Norman army defeat Harold II and the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings. Harold is killed and, after subduing the rest of the country, William is crowned King of England.
- 1068: William punishes a revolt led by Edwin and Morcar and lays waste to the northern counties.
- 1071: William defeats a rebel led by Hereward the Wake in East Anglia, thus putting an end to Saxon resistance to his rule.
- 1071: William invades Scotland and compels Malcolm III to pay homage to him.
- 1079: William begins the construction of a Norman Cathedral at Winchester.
- 1079: Robert, William’s eldest son, leads a rebellion in Normandy but is defeated by his father at the Battle of Gerberoy and his head is sent.
- 1087: William dies of his injuries after falling from his horse while besieging the French city of Nantes.