

• [The signatures of William I and Matilda are the first two large crosses on the <u>Accord</u> <u>of Winchester</u> from

William initiated many major changes. He increased the function of the traditional English shires William initiated many major * Complete the state of the sta 10722 ditional English shires (autonomous administrative regions), which he brought under central control; he decreased the power of the <u>earls</u> William initiated many major changes. He increased the function of the traditional English shires (autonomous administrative regions), which he brought under central control; he decreased the power of the earls by restricting them to one shire apiece. All administrative functions of his government remained fixed at specific English towns, except the court itself; they would progressively strengthen, and the English institutions became amongst the most sophisticated in Europe. In 1085, in order to ascertain the extent of his new dominions and to improve taxation, William commissioned all his counselors for the compilation of the <u>Domesday Book</u>William