**Role-play cards**

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| **Roger, Earl of Hereford**   * You are a Norman, the son of William’s old friend, William FitzOsbern, who died in 1071. You inherited his earldom. * Your sister is Emma, who married Ralph of Norfolk. It is at their wedding that you plotted the revolt with Ralph and Waltheof. * Although you inherited the earldom of Hereford, William gave you less power and land than your father had. * Your plot was to defeat William, with the help of the Danes and the English, and take over England. You then wanted to split England into three parts: you would get the West, Ralph would get the East and Waltheof the North. * One of you was supposed to take the crown (but historians are not sure who). * William was in Normandy at this point, giving you all the opportunity to act. * It is probable that you talked Waltheof into joining the revolt – he probably did not want to be involved! * Lanfranc wrote you a letter after the revolt got under way trying to persuade you to give up, appealing to your father’s memory. Instead you and Ralph marched south with your armies. * However, before you could join up with Waltheof, Lanfranc’s forces stopped you. * When William found out about the revolt, you were captured and your lands were confiscated. You were imprisoned for the rest of your life, dying some time after William. |

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| **Ralph, Earl of Norfolk**   * You are a Norman, but your family comes from Brittany and you and your father fought for William at Hastings. * Your father died in 1069 and you inherited most, but not all, of his land and titles. * In 1069 you defended Norwich against a Danish raid. * You probably resent that William did not give you everything your father had. * Your plot was to defeat William, with the help of the Danes and the English, and take over England. You then wanted to split England into three parts: you would get the East, Roger would get the West and Waltheof the North. * One of you was supposed to take the crown (but historians are not sure who). * William was in Normandy at this point, giving you all the opportunity to act. * It is probable that you talked Waltheof into joining the revolt – he probably did not want to be involved! * Although Lanfranc tried to persuade you otherwise, you and Roger marched south with your armies. * However, before you could join up with Waltheof, Lanfranc’s forces stopped you. * When William found out about the revolt, your army was cornered. Some of your men were captured and suffered blinding and mutilation as a warning to others. * You escaped to Norwich and then overseas back to Brittany. * You left your new wife Emma behind in Norwich to defend the castle! She had to surrender eventually but negotiated safe passage back to Brittany. * Surprisingly, Emma still wanted to know you! You both stayed in Brittany for 20 years before joining the First Crusade to Jerusalem. |

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| **Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria**   * Unlike your fellow plotters Roger and Ralph, you are a Saxon and the last English earl. * You submitted to William along with the other earls in 1066 when you were 16. * You joined the 1069 rebellions but were pardoned when you submitted again. * You married William’s niece, Judith and were given lands in the south of England and made Earl of Northumbria in 1072. In reality you only got the northern part and probably resented being less powerful than Norman earls. * Your plot was to defeat William, with the help of the Danes and the English, and take over England. You then wanted to split England into three parts: you would get the North, Roger would get the West and Ralph the East. * One of you was supposed to take the crown (but historians are not sure who). * William was in Normandy at this point, giving you all the opportunity to act. * It is probable that you were talked into joining the revolt – you probably did not want to be involved after being so lucky to get off lightly in 1069! * You were supposed to march south and get your armies to join up with Roger and Ralph’s troops, but Lanfranc sent two royal armies and stopped you. * When William found out about the revolt, you were put on trial. For months though, William could not decide what to do with you. * Suddenly, in May 1076 you were taken out of your prison and beheaded. At first your body was thrown in a ditch, but later your wife Judith was allowed to have your body buried in a monastery. |

**The plotters**

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|  | **Roger, Earl of Hereford** | **Ralph, Earl of Norfolk** | | **Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria** | |
| Background |  | |  | |  |
| Motivations for rebelling |  | |  | |  |

**Plan for the revolt**

How firm were the plans?

Who did they want to support them?

What was their ultimate goal?

How would England be divided up?

Where was William?

Who had been left in charge?

**What happened next?**

**The defeat of the revolt**

Who did Lanfranc write to and why?

How did Roger and Ralph respond?

What was Lanfranc’s next move?

What did the Danes do?

**The aftermath of the revolt**

What happened to Ralph?

To his new wife Emma?

To their men who had been captured?

What happened to Roger?

What happened to Waltheof?