

# Year 7 History: Shaping England

55 and 54 BC: Julius Caesar unsuccessfully attempts to invade Britain.

43AD: Roman invasion of Britain under Emperor Claudius.

AD 410: Last Roman soldiers ordered to leave Britain.

956: Ketter Ingas Anglo-Saxon village mentioned for the first time in History.

1066: Norman Conquest of England

June 1215: Signing of the Magna Carta

1096-1396: The Crusades

29<sup>th</sup> December 1170 – Murder of Thomas Beckett

1086: Kettering or 'Cateringe' recorded in Domesday book

1070: William the Conqueror orders the building of Rockingham Castle

1348-1350: The Black Death

1381: The Peasant's Revolt

1455: The War of the Roses begins.

1483 – 1485: Richard III is King of England

1485 – 1509: Henry VII is King of England

1558 – 1603: Elizabeth I is Queen of England

1553 – 1558: Mary I is Queen of England

1547 – 1553: Edward VI is King of England

1509 – 1547: Henry VIII is King of England.

1492: Christopher Columbus discovers America.



## Key Questions:

1. How were people ruled?
2. What was life like?
3. What did people believe?
4. What continued and changed?
5. How significant was the period?
6. How do we know about the period?



What was England like pre 1066?



What was the impact of the Norman Conquest on England?



What was life like in Medieval England?



How did life change in the Medieval Period?



How did a family feud shape the direction of a nation?



How significant were the Tudors in shaping England?



**Timeline**

**1154** - Henry II becomes the first '**Plantagenet**' king. He was not only king of England, but also ruled over most of Wales, Normandy, Anjou, Gascony and other parts of France (acquired through his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine).

**1162** - Henry II appoints his friend Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury.

**1170** – Thomas Becket is murdered at Canterbury Cathedral.

**1189** – Henry II dies and is succeeded by his son Richard I 'the Lionheart'.

**1190** – Richard I joins the Third Crusade.

**1199** – Richard I dies and is succeeded by his brother John.

**1206** – John has lost most of the English controlled land in France by this point.

**1215** – The Magna Carta is signed by King John and his barons at Runnymede on the River Thames.

**1227** – Kettering made into a market town.

# Knowledge Organiser: What was life like in Medieval England?

## Key words and definitions

Villein	Very poor peasant who worked for a lord, bound to the land so not able to leave village.	Knights	Men who served their king or lord as a mounted soldier in armour.
Reeve	Supervisor of a landowner’s estate.	Steward	Manage all of the lord’s lands and workers.
Freeman	Peasant not bound to the land so they could leave the village.	Crusade	A war between Christians and Muslims over control of the Holy City of Jerusalem.
Pilgrim	A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons, e.g. Rome or Jerusalem.	Christendom	Countries where Christianity is the main religion and holds great influence.
Guild	Group of craftsmen or merchants that decided the standards for quality and price of goods.	Monarch	King or Queen of a country.
Parish	Small district which had its own church and priest.	Charter	Written document from a monarch which founds the rights and privileges of a place or company.
Democracy	A form of government where the common people have the power to elect officials and vote on key issues.	Shrine	A place believed to be holy due to its connection to a divinity or sacred person.

**Overview**

The monarch’s power within Medieval England was absolute, however the Church provided a strong contest for that power. The struggle for power between Church and Crown is shown in a number of ways; none more than the murder of Thomas Becket. The Middle Ages was also a time of civil unrest and bloody battles. Kings had to battle their predecessor’s reputations as well as rebels in their kingdom. The feudal system began as a solid hierarchy however this system would be tested again and again by those who wanted more than they were given.

Medieval society	
Those who fight	Knight, squire, soldier.
Those who pray	Prioress, nun, priests, monk, friar.
Those who work	Merchant, lawyer, carpenter, weaver, dyer, tapestry weaver, cook, sailor, doctor, ploughman, miller, reeve.

# Knowledge Organiser: What was life like in Medieval England?

## How important was the Church during the Middle Ages?

### Roman Catholics

The only religion that was accepted in Medieval England was Catholicism. The Pope was the head of the Church and ruled from Rome in Italy. The Archbishop of Canterbury represented the Pope in Britain and was very powerful. Though some people may have worshipped a different religion, they had to do so in secret otherwise they would have been persecuted.

### Why was the Church so important in the Middle Ages?

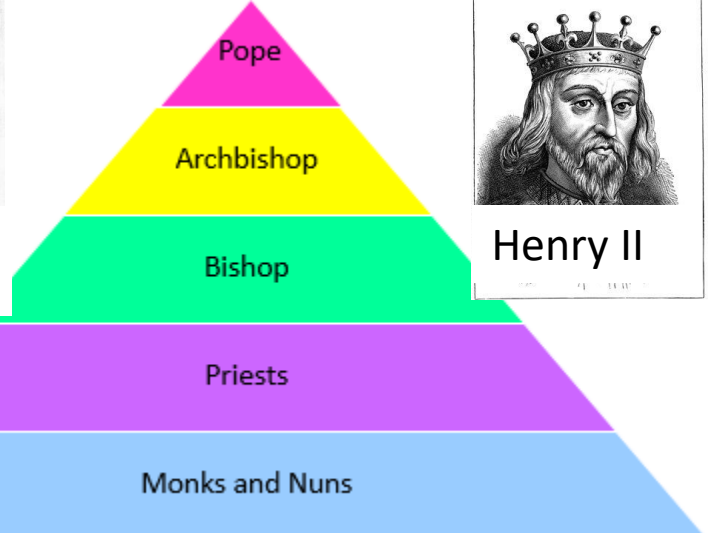
Everyone believed in heaven and hell. People knew that they had to obey the teachings of the Church to go to heaven. People took lessons with Priests and Monks. The Holy men would teach children to read and write as there were no schools.

People paid a tax (a tithe) to the Church as well as to the King. This paid for new churches to be built. Villagers could pay this in money or in crops if they didn't have money.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was chosen by the King but the Pope had the final decision. The Archbishop had the power to excommunicate people. This meant they were cut off from religion, and banned from Heaven.



Thomas Becket



Henry II



Richard I and Saladin



King John and the Barons

## Key event: Murder of Thomas Becket 29/12/1170

The courts system was very different during the Middle Ages. Church courts tried only religious people and as they were known to be less strict than the King's Court, many people pretended to be religious to get away with crimes.

King Henry II wanted to stop this as he thought this was unfair. He introduced the Constitutions of Clarendon which would limit the Churches power and make sure anyone found guilty in the Church Court would be handed over to the King's Court.

When Henry II asked Thomas Becket to sign this, he refused which caused a terrible argument between the two old friends. Becket was found guilty of treason in 1164 and escaped to France. In 1170, the Pope threatened to excommunicate Henry so Becket was allowed to return to England.

Becket then excommunicated three bishops who had supported Henry. Four knights were with Henry when he shouted "Will no one rid me of this troublesome Priest?!". The four knights rode to Canterbury where they stabbed Thomas Becket.

## Key event: Signing of the Magna Carta by King John 12/6/1215

King John had upset the Barons and Nobles of England due to the high taxes introduced when he became king and the bad relationship he had with the Pope. They decided to raise an army to send to London to fight the King. All of the knights of the country were under the control of the Barons so King John could not raise his own army without them. He had no choice but to negotiate with the Barons.

The Barons had made a list of 63 promises that they wanted King John to keep which was called the 'Magna Carta', which is latin for 'Great Charter'. King John met the Barons at Runnymede where he signed the Magna Carta. He only agreed to this in order to stop the Barons from rebelling and quickly backed out of the agreement after the fighting had stopped; however the Magna Carta was still significant for the balance of power in society.

This was the first formal document that gave the King rules to follow; they could no longer just do what they wanted. It was also the first document that gave people rights. For example, people could not be arrested, imprisoned or have their belongings taken away without a fair trial by a jury.

# Knowledge Organiser: How did life change in the Medieval period?



Prevention	Stopping something from happening.	Plague	Contagious bacterial disease usually accompanied by fever.
Symptom	An indication of a particular illness/disease.	Population	All the inhabitants of a particular place.
Disease	Medical condition/illness with specific symptoms, usually highly contagious.	Epidemic	A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at one time.
Quarantine	A period of time spent in isolation to try and stop the spread of disease.	Hygiene	Practices or conditions which help to maintain health and prevent disease.
Impact	Something which has an effect or influence.	Significant	Something important and worthy of attention.
Consequence	A result or effect of something or an event.	Poll tax	A tax applied to every adult regardless of how much they earn.
Pardon	Being forgiven for an error or offence.	Serfdom	Being a serf or feudal farmer/labourer.

## The Black Death symptoms

Day 1: Painful buboes in the armpits and groin.  
Day 2: Vomiting and fever.  
Day 3: Dark blotches all over the body.  
Day 4: Spasms and terrible pain.  
Day 5: Buboes burst and black liquid oozes. Could mean survival, but most died a painful death.

## Timeline

**1327** – Edward III becomes King.  
**June 1348** – The plague arrived at Melcombe Regis in Dorset and it spread throughout the south of England.  
**1349** – The plague reached Wales, Ireland and the north of England.  
**1350** – The plague had made it to Scotland.  
**1377** – Edward III dies and is succeeded by his grandson Richard II.  
**1381** – Peasant’s Revolt.

Medieval beliefs for the causes of the Black Death	Why did it spread so quickly?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The movements of the planets</li><li>• A punishment from God</li><li>• Bad smells</li><li>• Enemies poisoning the wells</li><li>• Staring at a victim</li><li>• Wearing pointed shoes</li><li>• Strangers to villages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poor Medical knowledge on prevention and cure of disease</li><li>• Dirty conditions in medieval towns encouraged rats with fleas carrying to live in Medieval settlements</li><li>• Global trade routes helped the disease move easily between countries.</li><li>• Previously bad harvests may have meant people were already not as fit and healthy when the plague hit.</li><li>• The plague lived in fleas which lived on black rats. They gave the disease to the rats. When the rats died, the fleas hopped off onto humans.</li></ul>

**Key skill:**  
Assessing the **significance** of an event. What were the **short and long term impacts**? Was it an important event?



# Knowledge Organiser: How did life change in the Medieval period?



Impact of the Black Death	
Social Impact	Political Impact
Whole villages were wiped out.	Demands for higher wages contributed to the Peasants Revolt (1381) and the weakening of the <b>feudal system</b> .
Religious Impact	Economic Impact
Damage to Catholic Church because experienced priests died; others had run away.	Plague created food shortages: so the price of food went up, creating more hardship for the poor. Landowners switched to sheep farming as this needed fewer workers. Farm workers demanded higher wages and were less willing to be tied to the land and work for the feudal landlord.

Causes of the Peasants Revolt	
England had been at war with France for nearly 50 years. The war was costing a lot of money, leading to an increase in taxes and the extremely unpopular poll taxes.	The King's commissioners were sent to the villages to make sure everyone was paying the new taxes.
Lollard priests were telling the peasants that everyone should be treated equally. One priest, John Ball, was put in prison for spreading this idea.	Since the Black Death in 1348 wages had gone up. In 1351 there was a new law which said that no peasant could ever be paid more than he was before the Black Death.
Since the Black Death in 1348 some peasants had been able to buy their freedom from the lords. But many peasants were still villeins and were not free.	When Richard II came to the throne in 1377 he was only a boy of 10. His advisers were not trusted by the peasants, especially his uncle John of Gaunt.

### Impact of the Peasant's Revolt

- The poll tax was never repeated and taxes never grew as high again.
- Worker's wages began to rise and Parliament eventually stopped trying to control the Peasant's wages.
- The landowners began to pay the peasants for the work they were doing and treating them more fairly.
- Peasants began to own their own land as so much was unused after the Black Death. This allowed them to become freemen. They had got what they wanted.

**Significance:** This was the first working-class rebellion in history; previously it had been barons and nobles who led protests.

### Timeline of Peasant's Revolt

- The rebels marched on London. The leader of the men of Essex was called Jack Straw.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1381, the Kentish rebels asked an ex-soldier names Wat Tyler to be their leader.
- The rebels freed the priest John Ball and he preached to them, saying that God intended people to be equal.
- The rebels were joined by others.
- On 13th June, someone opened the gates of London to the rebels.
- The rebels entered the city and attacked the houses of Richard's advisers, including John of Gaunt and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- On 14th June, Richard (who was only 14 years old) bravely went to Mile End and met a group of rebels led by Richard Wallingford. They demanded that he dismiss some of his advisers and abolish serfdom. Richard agreed. Some of the rebels went home. While this was happening, a group of rebels broke into the Tower of London and beheaded the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- On 15th June, Richard went to Smithfield to meet Wat Tyler, who had refused to accept the deal with Wallingford. Tyler demanded that the law should be less harsh, the Church's wealth be given to the poor, there should be no lords and all men should be free and equal.
- William Walworth, the Lord Mayor of London, attacked Tyler.
- As he died, Tyler ordered his army to attack, but Richard stepped forward and said: I will be your king and leader. He promised to abolish serfdom. The peasants trusted him and went home.