

TOPIC: Medieval England (1066-1485)

This first unit covers some of the important events in English medieval History, beginning with the most famous one of all - the Battle of Hastings - and the Norman conquest that followed William the Conqueror's victory over King Harold (the last Anglo-Saxon King of England) in 1066. After a brief look at peasant life in medieval times, including the impact of the Black Death in 1349, we will pick-up on the "power" theme again, and the rule of three important English Kings, looking at the troublesome reigns of King Henry II and his struggles with the church, King John with the barons and finally King Richard II who faced down the Peasants Revolt in 1381. We will also look at the power of the medieval Church and end with the First Crusade to the Holy Land.



TIMELINE:		KEY PEOPLE:	WHAT THEY DID?
5 th January 1066	King Edward the Confessor dies without an heir	John Ball	Preacher who helped lead the Peasants Revolt
6 th January 1066	Harold Godwinson is crowned King of England	Thomas Beckett	Archbishop of Canterbury murdered in 1170
25 th Sept' 1066	Battle of Stamford Bridge fought in the North	Edward the Confessor	King of England who died without an heir 1066
14 Oct' 1066	The Battle of Hastings fought in the South	Harold Godwinson	Powerful nobleman who became King after Edward
25 th Dec' 1066	William the Conqueror crowned King of England	Harald Hardrada	Grandson of King Cnut and rival to King Harold
1086	Domesday Book is completed in Old Sarum	King Henry II	Bad tempered king & friend of Thomas Beckett
1095-1099	First Crusade sent to Holy Land by Pope Urban II	King John	Unpopular king - forced to sign Magna Carta
29 th Dec' 1170	Murder of Archbishop Thomas Beckett in Canterbury	King Richard II	Young king who ruled during Peasants Revolt
1199	King John becomes King of England	Pope Urban II	Pope who called for the First Crusade in 1095
15 th June 1215	Magna Carta signed by King John at Runnymede	Simon of Sudbury	Lord Chancellor murdered by peasants in 1381
1348/9	Black Death arrives in England (Lyme Regis)	Wat Tyler	Leader of the Peasants Revolt against Poll tax
1381	The Peasants Revolt over the new Poll Tax	William of Normandy	Victor at Hastings – King William the Conqueror

KEY VOCABULARY:

Archbishop	Very important Bishop second to the King
Archer	Soldier carrying a bow and quiver of arrows
Bailiff	Man who collected tithes from the peasants
Barons	Powerful landowners & advisors to the King
Black Death	Bubonic Plague – killed up to half population
Buboes	Painful swellings – symptom of Black Death
Cavalry (Knights)	Mounted knights on horseback with lances
Crusade	Christian campaign to re-capture Holy Land
Domesday Book	Results of a survey of England to raise tax
Feudal System	Government based on division of land for loyalty

KEY VOCABULARY:

Fyrd	Untrained peasant soldiers armed with farming tools
Housecarls	Saxon bodyguard of King Harold, carried axes
Lord of the Manor	Top man in the medieval village / ruled over peasants
Infantry	Trained soldiers / fought on foot with swords
Magna Carta	Important legal document signed by King John
Peasant	Common farmer, lived as a slave, paid tithes
Poll Tax	Tax raised by Richard II sparking Peasants Revolt
Pope	Man in charge of the Roman Catholic Church
Reeve	Peasant who organised work of other peasants
Tithe	Tax paid by peasants to the Lord of the Manor