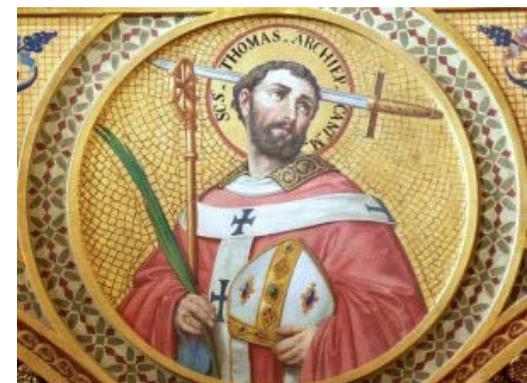
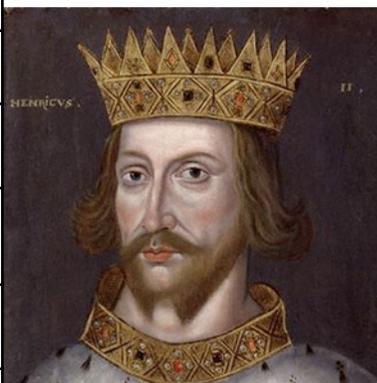


Year 7 Medieval England knowledge organiser

Key terms

King's Courts	Law courts which were controlled by the King and his justice.
Church Courts	These were controlled by the church for religious offences and for any crimes committed by the clergy.
Archbishop of Canterbury	The head of the Church in England. He was appointed by the Pope.
Magna Carta	The document that King John was forced to sign by the barons in 1215 that limited some of his power.
Black Death	The disease that affected England from 1348 onwards. It is estimated that it killed 40% of the population.
Bubonic Plague	The more common Plague that was carried in the bloodstream of rats. Fleas bit the rats and become infected. They then hopped onto humans, bit them and passed on the disease.
Pneumonic Plague	This was more deadly. It was caught by breathing in the germs when an infected person coughed or sneezed. They would cough up blood and their lungs rotted inside them.
Freeman	These people paid rent to the lord to farm their land, but they weren't 'owned' by the Lord, and could come and go as they pleased.
Villein	They were Medieval peasants who were 'tied' to the Lord's land. They had to farm their own land and the land of the Lord, and they had to get the Lord's permission to do things like get married or leave the village.
Statute of Labourers	This Statute (law), passed after the Black Death, said labourers could not earn more than 2 pence per day. It was bitterly resented by the peasants.
Poll tax	Introduced by King Richard II to pay for the Hundred Years War. Everyone had to pay 4p every year – later increased.
Peasant's Revolt	A popular revolt in 1381 against the rule of Richard II, his advisors and taxation led by Wat Tyler.



The conflict between King and Church: Henry II vs. Thomas Becket.

1154	King Henry II appointed Thomas Beckett as his Chancellor. His job was to look after the church and the King's law courts. During this time Henry and Thomas became good friends.
1161	Henry asked Thomas to become the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Beckett was asked to make the church courts fairer, as they favoured the churchmen. Beckett refused and made Henry very angry.
1164	Henry announced that he would be in charge of the church court, and Beckett agreed but then changed his mind. Sensing danger, Beckett fled to France.
June 1170	Henry ordered the Archbishop of York to crown the next king. This was usually the job of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Beckett was furious!!
November 1170	Despite making up, Beckett removed Henry's supporters from the church.
December 1170	Henry found out that Beckett had removed his supporters from the church. Henry was furious and shouted: "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?!"
29 th December 1170	Four knights heard Henry's shout and went to Canterbury Cathedral. They found Beckett and tried to force him to change his mind. Beckett refused and the four knights stabbed him to death in the church.

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How significant was religion in the Middle Ages?

The Catholic Church:

- Christianity existed in England before the Norman invasion in 1066. However, the Normans cemented the power of the Catholic Church in England.
- By 1100, most countries in Europe followed **Roman Catholicism**(they were Catholic).
- Other major religions during this period were Muslims (Islam) and Jews (Judaism).
- The Catholic Church worked across countries and it had a very clear **hierarchy**, starting with the Pope and ending with priests in villages and towns.
- There were also Catholic **monks** and **nuns**. These were people who **lived apart** from other people and who **dedicated their lives to God and Catholicism**.
- The Pope was seen as **God's representative on earth**. As a result he **could not be questioned**.
- The Catholic Church was extremely rich. It owned a huge amount of land and received money through the tithe.

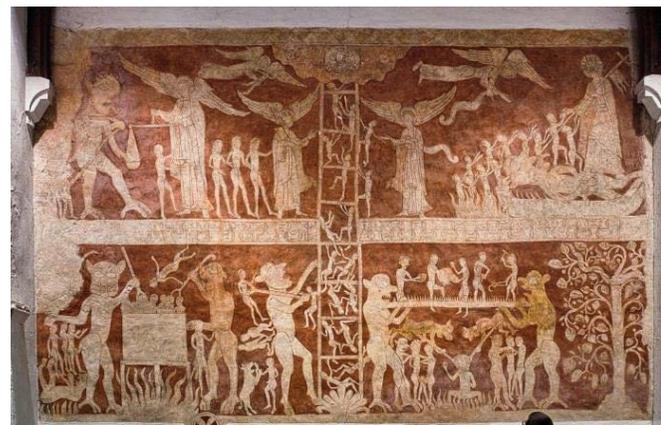


Heaven, Hell and Purgatory:

- Life after death was very important to people during the Middle Ages.
- Christians believed that if you followed the Church's rules and led a good life, you would go to **heaven**.
- If you didn't follow the Church's rules or lead a good life, Christians believed that you would go to **purgatory or hell**.
- Most people during the Middle Ages could not read or understand Church services (they were in Latin).
- Doom Paintings** were used to help people to understand and to show them what would happen if they didn't follow the church's rules.

Key terms

Catholicism	The Christian Church which is followed by Catholics.
Hierarchy	A system in which people are ranked according to their importance.
Tithe:	A 10% tax which people had to pay to the Church. It could be paid in money, seeds or equipment.
Purgatory:	A place which Catholic believe in. This is between heaven and hell and is where people 'burn off' their sins before they can enter heaven.
Doom Painting:	A painting in Medieval churches which showed the joys of heaven and the horrors of hell.
Archbishop of Canterbury	The Head of the Church in England, appointed by the Pope in Rome.
The Pope	The Head of the Catholic Church on Earth.



An example of a medieval doom painting, showing the joys of heaven at the top and the horrors of hell at the bottom.

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The roles of the Church in society

-Historians have argued that the Church affected "every aspect of every member of the population's lives", even if they didn't regularly go to church.

Area	Role of the Church
Education and knowledge	The Church produced and stored books(the printing press would not be invented until the 15thcentury). They copied religious texts and other important books, like medical textbooks. They had control over which knowledge would be preserved. -Most schools in the Middle Ages were run by the church.
People in need	-Monasteries and nunneries would offer basic medical care and prayers for the sick, they would offer somewhere for travellers to stay and would gives alms to poor people.
Everyday life	-1 in every 20people in the Middle Ages worked within the church. -The Church regularly had festivals or "saints' days", when everyday people did not have to work. -Priests would perform ceremonies in people's daily lives, such as baptisms, marriages, hearing confession, burying the dead or giving the last rites to someone who was about to die. -Christians were expected to go on pilgrimages and many church buildings had relics which meant that Christians could make a pilgrimage to them.
Politics	-Many leading members of the Church advised the king. Even today, bishops still sit in the House of Lords! -Kings wanted to please the church. -The church could raise an army in times of war (the Pope supported William!)
Economics	-People were expected to farm the Church's land for free. They believed that God would punish them if they didn't. -The Church owned a huge amount of land and collected a large amount of money and goods through the tithe.

Key Terms:

Printing press:

A device which allows books to be quickly and easily printed.

Alms:

Money, food or similar items which are given to poor people as a form of charity.

Hearing confession:

A ceremony where a Catholic priests listens to the sins of a Catholic and forgives them on behalf of God.

Last Rites:

A ceremony performed before a Catholic dies to help to prepare them for death.

Pilgrimage:

A journey which is extremely important for people of a certain religion to make.

Relic:

A historical object which often has religious important.

House of Lords:

A group of important figures in England who help create laws.



Year 7 Medieval England knowledge organiser

The Black Death (1348-9)

Causes

God deserting mankind/ unusual position of the planets/ impure air from a volcano or earthquake/ the Jews

Treatments

Ask for God's forgiveness/ bleeding/ purging/ strong smelling herbs/ theriaca/ lancing buboes

Prevention

Pray/ Pilgrimage/self-flagellation/ escape!/ carry a posy of flowers/ do joyful things!/ quarantine laws



Consequences of the Black Death

Short term

Half the people in Britain died from the Black death. More died in later outbreaks of the disease.

Food prices went up by 4 times as animals and crops died with no one to look after them.

An estimated 35 million people, two thirds of the world's population, died from the disease.

Landlords made less money as they had less people to charge rent.

Praying to God hadn't saved people from the Black death so some people began to criticise the bishops. This had little impact. Most people remained deeply religious.

As there were less people alive after the Black Death, survivors could charge more for their services. Wages increased.

Long term

The Black death led to some freemen earning higher wages.

The Black Death lasted from 1348-1350. Later outbreaks did occur, but they were less severe.

After the Black Death people demanded freedom but lords refused. This led to the Peasants Revolt in 1381.

The government tried to stop peasants getting higher wages in 1351 with a law called the Statute of Labourers.

It took 300 years for the population to recover to the same level as before the Black Death.

By the mid-1400s everyone was free.

The King vs. The Barons



King John (1199-1216)

Brother of the popular King Richard I, who died shortly after his return from the 3rd Crusade.

John was suspicious and had rebelled against both his father and brother. John inherited the cost of his brother's costly wars, but was a cruel and incompetent king.

Causes of the barons' revolt

John spent ten years raising taxes for a war in Normandy with France. The barons did not support this.

John lost the war and ran up huge debts.

In 1205 the Pope chose Stephen Langton to be the new archbishop of Canterbury. John refused to accept this and so was excommunicated by the Pope.

The Pope supported the French against John. Eventually John was forced to admit Langton as archbishop.

John increased taxes and did not consult the barons on important issues.

John sold justice at court by rewarding nobles who paid him the most.



MAGNA CARTA

The barons were angry with John and no compromise could be agreed. In April/May the barons took up arms against the King, led by Robert FitzWalter. They marched on London, Lincoln and Exeter, which all fell to the barons and the rebellion grew in size.

The barons issued a royal charter of demands which John was forced to accept on the field of Runnymede on 15th June 1215. This became known as the MAGNA CARTA.

Some of the key terms of this were:

- It promised the protection of church rights
- The King could not sell justice.
- Protection from illegal imprisonments
- All people were to be tried by jury.
- new taxation only with the consent of the barons
- The King could not sell justice
- A council of 25 barons would be set up to ensure that the King was respecting the rights and the laws of the charter.

The charter defined that a formal relationship should exist between the monarch and barons. The king was now subject to the law. These were radical ideas.



Consequences

John over-turned the MAGNA CARTA in the Autumn and the battle raged again. John died in 1216 (he died of dysentery, possibly by eating too many mouldy peaches, on his way to fight the barons) and was succeeded by his 9 year old son, King Henry III.

In 1225 Henry III re-issued the MAGNA CARTA to show that he accepted that the King was subject to the law.

It was re-issued in 1265 and 1297 to define the relationship between the monarchs and their subjects.

The MAGNA CARTA showed that the King could not ignore his barons and had to consult. It also made it clear that monarchs could not be a law unto themselves.

The Peasants Revolt

Causes

- The Black Death had killed many people. Those that survived could demand higher wages for their work. But in 1351, King Edward III reduced wages. A new law called the Statute of Labourers said people couldn't earn more than they did before the Black Death.
- In 1380 the young king Richard II introduced the Poll Tax as he needed money for his wars with France. Everyone over the age of 15 had to pay 5p, regardless of how wealthy or poor they were. In previous years this had only been 1p.
- Peasants were forced to be 'serfs' and work for the local lord without getting paid, in return for the land that they were given to grow crops on.
- Many peasants had to work for free on church land, sometimes up to two days in the week. This meant that they could not work on their own land which made it difficult to grow enough food for their families. Peasants wanted to be free of this burden that made the church rich but them poor. They were supported in what they wanted by a priest called **John Ball** from Kent. Ball was a Lollard priest and began preaching about the peasants' rights to freedom.

Key people

Wat Tyler

Tyler was born in about 1340 and lived in Kent. He was possibly a follower of the teachings of the Lollard priest John Ball. He became the leader of the revolt. He was killed by the King's forces at the meeting at Smithfield in 1381.



Richard II

Richard became king at the age of only 10 years old in 1376 on the death of his grandfather Edward III and his father Edward 'the Black Prince'. The country was largely ruled by his uncle, John of Gaunt. Many of Richard's advisors were unpopular and blamed for the ills of the country. Richard was only 14 in 1381 when he faced the crisis of the Peasants Revolt. Richard faced serious rebellions later in his life, which saw him being imprisoned and probably murdered by his relative, Henry Bolingbroke, later known as Henry IV.



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Timeline of the peasants revolt

Mid May 1381	A Tax Collector attempts to take tax from the people of Fobbing, Kent. The collector, Thomas Bampton, was dismissed by the villagers, led by Thomas Baker. The argument that followed became a riot. The Revolt had begun. Other villages followed. John Ball, who had been imprisoned in April 1381 was freed from prison by rebels at some point after the initial riots.
7th June 1381	Wat Tyler is appointed leader of the rebels in Kent.
7th to 12th June 1381	The Peasants Revolt was a march through Kent and from Suffolk towards London.
12th June 1381	The Peasants arrive outside the City of London. It is believed that there were around 30000 people following Wat Tyler by this point, with riots taking place elsewhere.
14th June 1381	Richard II meets Wat Tyler at Mile End. Tyler tells Richard II what the Peasants demands are. Richard agrees and signs charters granting the peasants the freedoms that they had demanded. Most of the Peasants leave once Tyler has received the Kings charter.
14 th June 1381	A group of armed Peasants enter the Tower of London. They find and execute the Kings Treasurer, The Archbishop of Canterbury and another senior official. They find the young Henry of Lancaster but spare him due to his age: he later becomes King.
15th June 1381	Richard II sends a message to Tyler asking for a further meeting, at Smithfield. Tyler and his men meet Richard. Tyler makes more demands. The Mayor of London gets involved in an argument with Tyler. Tyler appears to wave something in the direction of the King and the Mayor stabs him, as do guards. With Tyler dead, Richard asks the rebels to leave London. He personally leads them away from the scene to diffuse the situation.

Consequences of the Peasants Revolt

- 23rd June 1381 Richard II withdraws all of the charters that were agreed with Wat Tyler.
- 5th July 1381 The rebels from Fobbing are executed. In the weeks that follow some 1500 rebels are executed.
- 13th July 1381 John Ball is captured. He is tried for treason the following day. Found guilty he was hung, drawn and quartered on 15th July 1381.
- All the unpopular taxes were abolished and the King stopped fighting with the French.
- Within 50 years many of the Peasants were allowed to buy their freedom and so could move about the country without restriction



Thinking Questions

1. Why did Henry II fall out with Thomas Becket?
2. Who was to blame for the murder?
3. What do medieval beliefs about the cause and cure of the Black Death tell us about Medieval society?
4. How significant was the Black Death?
5. What caused the Peasants Revolt?
6. Was Wat Tyler a hero or a villain?