

## Year 7 History Knowledge organiser: Medieval England

### Henry II and Thomas Becket

1. 1154- Henry II made Becket his Chancellor.
2. Henry decided to use him to take control of the church, which had powers Henry wanted to limit.
3. When the Archbishop of Canterbury died in 1161, Henry asked Thomas to take on the role.
4. Becket became very religious and did not do as the king expected
5. October 1164- Becket was found guilty of treason. Becket fled to France.
6. May 1166, the Pope threatened to excommunicate Henry, so Henry let Becket return to England.
7. March 1170: Henry has his son crowned without Thomas Becket conducting the ceremony.
8. Becket excommunicated three bishops who supported Henry. In rage, Henry is said to have shouted: Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest
9. Four knights heard this, rode to Canterbury, and murdered Becket in the Cathedral on 29 December.

### The Crusades

- A series of **Wars** where Christians and Muslims fought to control the Holy Land.
- The Crusades dragged on and off for about **200** years.
- English knights and soldiers mainly fought in the Third Crusade between 1189 and 1192 under **Richard I**.
- The Third Crusade was planned after Saladin captured Jerusalem in 1187.
- Several mighty kings, including Richard I of England, Phillip II of France and Guy of Jerusalem, joined forces to defeat Saladin. The city of Acre surrendered to King Richard after an 18-month siege.

### King John

- John ruled England from 1199 to 1216.
- By 1215, the barons were fed up with John.
- The barons wanted a charter (a written agreement), which would guarantee certain rights and freedoms.
- 19 June 1215 King John met the barons at Runnymede. He signed their charter (Magna Carta). In return, the barons agreed to be loyal.

### Black Death

The Black Death appeared in Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It was a deadly disease carried by fleas on rats. Almost everyone who caught the Black Death died quickly. The Black Death stayed in England until the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### *Stages of the Black Death*

1. Bubo (big spots) in the armpit and groin
2. Feeling cold and tired
3. Blisters all over the body/ bleeding under the skin
4. High Fever
5. Unconsciousness/Coma
6. DEATH

Sometimes the buboes burst and a foul smelling liquid oozed out. If this happened the victim normally lived.

#### *Effects of the Black Death*

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
The feudal system collapsed. Peasants could leave their village to find work, land and freedom elsewhere.	About 33% of Wales and England's population died. It took 250 years for the population to recover.
Peasants' attitude towards authority changed. They believed they could stand up to authority because God had spared them.	Many Churches closed down. It was hard to find enough people to take over the jobs of priests.
Poor people's diets and clothing improved.	Lords saw the value of their land decrease. They lost a lot of money.
Wages increased by up to 400%. Workers could demand more.	Harsh laws tried to stop the freedom and improvements of peasants' lives.
Medical knowledge improved. People began to understand how the human body worked.	Some villages never recovered from the disease, and were left abandoned.

### Peasants' Revolt- 1381

#### *Why did the Peasants revolt?*

- The Poll tax (everyone- rich or poor- paid the same).
- Low wages
- They were worried that the king was too young (14) and was being advised by evil men.
- Having to do unpaid labour for their lord
- They listened to John Ball preaching that the lords should give their money to the poor.

#### *Foreign wars*

#### *What happened?*

- 30 May Thomas Bampton was collecting taxes in Essex. He treated the villagers badly. He was attacked by Thomas Baker and 100 villagers.
- 20,000 peasants rebelled. They asked Wat Tyler to be their leader on 7 June.
- 13 June- John Ball preached to the rebels.
- The rebels went to London, burnt the houses of the rich and killed the Archbishop of Canterbury (the king's advisor).
- King Richard II met Wat Tyler at Smithfield. Wat Tyler insulted the king and was killed.
- The king spoke to the rebels and promised to listen and be their king and leader.
- The rebels went home: many were later hung.

### Crime and Punishment in Medieval England

- If you saw someone committing a crime you had to raise the hue and cry (shout as loudly as you could and everyone within earshot would have to help to hunt for the criminal.)
- Everyone believed in God in medieval times. They believed that God helped good people and punished bad people. Trial by ordeal was a way of allowing God to decide on someone's guilt. This included ordeal by fire, ordeal by boiling water, ordeal by cold water and ordeal by hot iron.
- There was also ordeal by combat where the accused and the accuser would fight.