


Key things I need to know	
✓	How important was religion in the Middle Ages?
✓	Why were medieval monarchs challenged?
✓	Where did our Parliament come from?

Key Concepts 	
<b>1. Cause</b>	The reason something happens
<b>2. Rights</b>	A moral or legal entitlement to something
<b>3. Interpretation</b>	One person's opinion of an event or person
<b>4. Church</b>	The word used to describe the Christian religion all over the world. In medieval times this meant the Roman Catholic Church.
<b>5. Parliament</b>	Controls the country and is made up of the monarch, Lords and Commons.
<b>6. Crusade</b>	A holy war


**Why was religion so important to people?**

During this time, "the Church" is referring to the Roman Catholic Church.

The Church was a focal point for people in Medieval England, people lived and acted in accordance to the Church because of the beliefs around the impact of not doing so.

People believed that most bad things that happened in the country was because God was unhappy with England and how people were living. For example, if the country had a bad harvest or people came down with an illness, people believed that this was sent by God.

In addition, the use of 'Doom paintings' caused people to become very scared of the idea of going to hell as the paintings showed what horrible things happen to those in hell.



**What was the structure of the Church?**


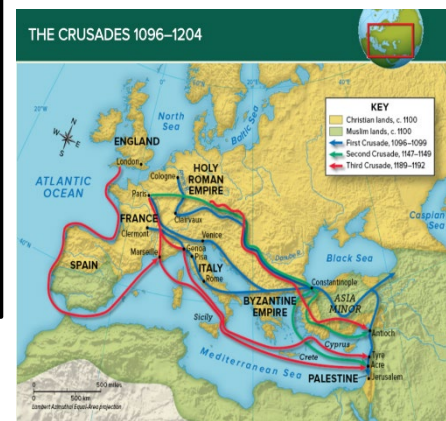
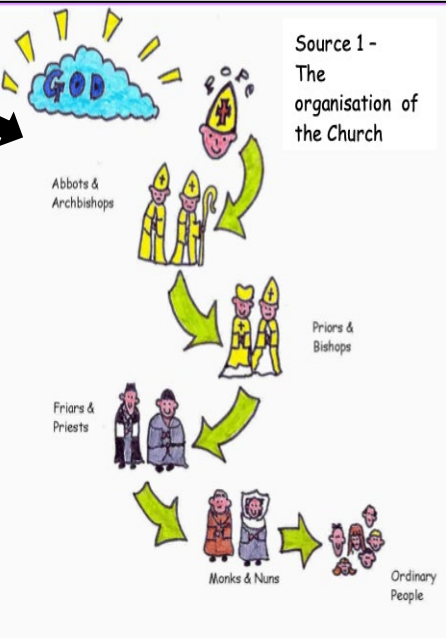
The Church had a strict structure, and the head of the Church was the Pope who lived in Rome.

**The Crusades**

The Crusades were a number of holy wars. Christians from Europe travelled to the Jerusalem to take back the Holy Land from Muslims.

Why did people go?

- The Pope told people it was their Christian duty to take back the Holy Land.
- People thought it would help them to get into Heaven.
- The Pope promised that the sins of Crusaders would be forgiven.
- People wanted to gain wealth and land in the Holy Land.

**What did Europeans get from the Crusades?**

Technology & weapons	New castle designs, a huge catapult called the trebuchet, Greek fire balls and more archers. An improved focus on education, mirrors, surgical tools and compasses.
Knowledge	The numbers system (rather than Roman numerals) making maths easier, chess and new medical treatments.
Products	Foods such as lemons and apricots. Cotton, silk and slippers which became a sign of wealth and power in Europe.

## Thomas Becket and King Henry II

Henry II was angry about the lack of control he had over the Church and the Church courts.



Henry II decided he would make his friend to Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury to help him gain more control



Becket took his religious duties very serious and refused to listen to Henry, putting the Church first.



Becket refused to accept a law that Henry II passed about the Church Courts, so Becket fled to France for 6 years



The Pope encouraged Henry II and Becket to make amends and so Becket returned to England.



When Becket returned, he excommunicated some Bishops that were loyal to Henry II whilst Becket was in France. Henry II found out and was furious.

### Why did the Barons rebel against King John?

King John is often called 'the worst of all our kings.' He did a lot of things to make his barons unhappy including:

- He lost land in France including Normandy, Maine and Anjou.
- He demanded money and soldiers from his barons to regain the land he had lost.
- He imposed taxes more often than other kings and he punished barons with heavy fines as a way of making money.
- He argued with the Pope leading the Pope to close all churches in England, putting his people's souls in danger.



### Magna Carta 1215

As a result of King John being so unpopular he was forced to sign a document called the Magna Carta in an attempt to make him a better king.

At the time, some **people thought that the Magna Carta was not significant** because:

- It did not really limit the power of medieval kings very much.
- It only applied to rich men like barons. It did not apply to peasants.

**BUT Magna Carta was significant** in some ways:

- The Magna Carta introduced the idea that there are laws that the king must accept.
- The Magna Carta meant that the king had to ask for the advice of the barons and the bishops.
- The clause which says we cannot be punished without a fair trial still applies today.



### The Siege of Rochester Castle

- Rochester is an important strategic spot for defense and communication.
- With its great keep, square and massive and one of the tallest in the country, made of stone, measuring 35m high, the tallest in England, and is 22m square.
- The walls of the Castle are between 3.5-4m thick.

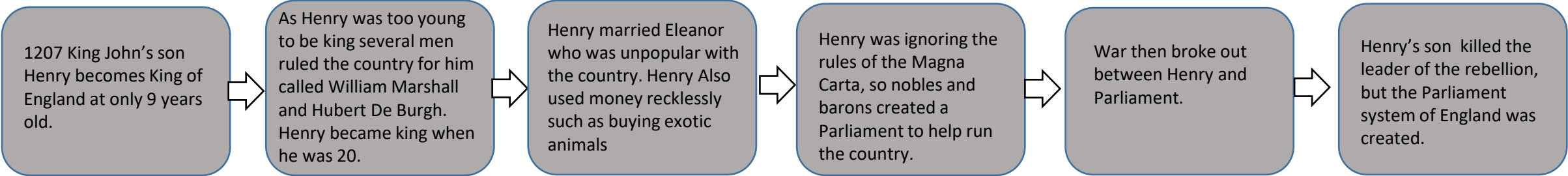
#### What happened?

- In October 1215, some Barons who were extremely unhappy with King John due to him frequently requesting higher taxes to pay for his unsuccessful wars decided to capture Rochester Castle along with 100 well armed knights.
- Rochester Castle was one of King John's favourite castles. Due to the thick and tall walls John could not break through.
- John then decided to dig a tunnel underneath the castle and put 40 pigs in there.
- As pig fat is extremely flammable, he set fire to the pigs and due to the heat it brought down one of the towers of Rochester Castle.
- Knowing that King John had now broken through the castle the Barons surrendered.






### Where did our Parliament come from?

The British parliament consists of the King and two houses, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The purpose of the parliament are to pass laws, to provide taxes and to control the actions of the government.



### Why did the Peasants' Revolt happen in 1381

Category	Changes
Black Death & jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the Black Death peasants got better wages, but Then the lords tried to lower wages again. They even created a new law called the Statute of Labourers to force wages down to what they had been before the Black Death.</li> </ul>
Poll Tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• England had been at war since 1369, so the Poll Tax kept going up to pay for the war. Poll Tax is a tax everyone has to pay, even the poorest people.</li> <li>• Many peasants could not afford to pay it. In March 1381, the government demanded the third Poll Tax in four years and appointed commissioners to make everyone pay.</li> <li>• In May 1381, peasants' attacked tax collectors in Essex when they tried to collect the poll tax. These attacks soon spread.</li> </ul>
John Ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Ball was a radical preacher who spoke out against the Feudal System and the Church.</li> <li>• He had been excommunicated in 1366, for suggested that society should not be organised by a class system and instead people should be equal.</li> <li>• Medieval society regarded the monarchy and nobility as more important than the peasants, yet Ball preached that God saw everyone as equal, and that peasants were unfairly treated.</li> <li>• His ideas encouraged peasants to demand changes.</li> </ul>