



MEDIEVAL BRITAIN

1066AD – 1485AD



KWL

What do you already KNOW?

What do you WANT to know

Norman Kings of England

1066-1087: King William
the Conqueror

1087-1100: King William
Rufus (son of William)

1100-1135: King Henry I
(William Rufus brother)

1135-1154: King Stephen
(nephew of Henry I)

Timeline of the The Plantagenet Kings of England

1154-1189: King Henry II
(grandson of Henry I)

1189-1199: King Richard I
(third son of Henry II)

1199-1216: King John
(fifth son of Henry II)

1216-1272: King Henry III
(son of John)

1272-1307: King Edward I
(son of Henry III)

1307-1327: King Edward II
(son of Edward I)

1327-1377: King Edward III
(son of Edward II)

Timeline of the Royal Houses of Lancaster and York - Kings of England

1377-1399: King Richard II
(grandson of Edward III, son
of the Black Prince)

1399-1413: King Henry IV
(grandson of Edward III, son
of John of Gaunt)

1413-1422: King Henry V
(son of Henry IV)

1422-1461: King Henry VI
(son of Henry V)

1461-1483: King Edward IV
(youngest son of Edward III)

1483-1485: King Richard III
(uncle of Edward V)

Lesson Four –

To understand the importance of the Domesday Book and the Magna Carter.



What makes something important in History?

1. People at the time thought that it was important
 2. It affected a lot of people
 3. It affected people deeply
 4. It affected people for a long time
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5. It led to other important events
 6. It still affects attitudes and beliefs today

Geoffrey Partington
The Idea of an Historical Education (1980)

The story of Britain...



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/story-of-britain-domesday-book-animation/zm3nvk7>

What Is The Domesday Book?

The Domesday Book was drawn up in 1086, twenty years after the defeat of the Anglo-Saxons by the Normans. It was written up by one man and it is believed it took him 12 months to write.



The Domesday Book is a valuable source of historic information, especially as it shows the regional variations in the social structures and language, for example the various names given to a freeman.

The Domesday Book was commissioned by the then king, William the Conqueror.

However, it is not wholly accurate as it did miss out places and excluded some important towns such as London and Winchester.

England In 1086

1086 was a terrible year in Britain with torrential rain, cold and famine ruining wheat and fruit crops.

People were already living a miserable existence in medieval England and, to many, the appearance of the King's Commissioners asking them to explain what they owned was the final straw. Many people would have dreaded their arrival.



The Domesday Book did not tend to contain surnames as we know them. This was because in small places everyone knew each other and they were identified by their first name or a nickname.

When personal taxation was introduced, people took surnames that meant 'son of', or described their job. Later they took surnames that referred to the place they lived or nicknames.

Norman Surnames and Their Origins

Family names:

Fitzwilliam: son of William
(‘Fitz’ often indicated someone of Norman descent)

Powell: son of Hywell

Place names:

Beaumont, Richmond, Lancaster: Places in England

Welsh and Walsh: A Breton, someone from Brittany in France

Geographical names:

Nash: lived by an ash tree

Moss and Carr: lived near mossy and/or marshy ground

Occupational names:

Fletcher: maker of arrows

Cheeseman: maker of cheese

Position names:

Reeve: the lord of the manor’s representative on an estate of land

Clark: scholar, a person who can read and write

Nicknames:

Dunn or Donne: dark hair or complexion

Armstrong: strong arm

Kidd: behaves like a young goat

Cruickshank: bent legs

Puttock: greedy

Why Was the Domesday Book Commissioned?

William the Conqueror commissioned the Domesday survey for a number of reasons:

To ensure that he was getting as much money as possible from taxes to pay for the expensive management of England, such as ensuring his large army was fully equipped and fed. Although he had conquered England, William still had to defend himself against Welsh and Scottish attackers, as well as threats from the French and Bretons against his land back in Normandy.

To find out exactly how much land his feudal lords owned and how much revenue they had. He wanted to ensure they were not holding money back and that they could not become a threat to his power.

To legalise and record arguments over the ownership of land, as there had been a great deal of unjust seizure of land since 1066.

How Was the Information Collected?

William The Conqueror sent a group of commissioners across the country to collect the information personally.

When the Commissioners in a village or town arrived, they selected a jury which included people such as the village priest and reeve (the Lord of the Manor's trusted official who lived there permanently).

They were selected because the Commissioners spoke French or Latin but the local people spoke Saxon English so they needed people who could understand both languages.

The jury had to decide whether or not the local people were telling the truth about their land and animals.



What Information Was Collected?

A contemporary source: The Ely Inquiry records the questions the Commissioners had to ask:

“The name of the estate: who held it; in the time of King Edward; who holds it now; how many hides; how many ploughs on the demesne (lord’s land); how many among the men; how many villeins; how many cottars; how many serfs; how many free men; how many spokesman; how much wood; how much meadow; how much pasture; how many mills; how many fishponds; how much has been added or taken away; how much, taken altogether, it used to be worth and how much now; how much each freeman or spokesman had or has. All this three times, that is, in the time of King Edward, as it was when King William first gave the estate, and as it is now; also whether it is possible that more could be taken from the estate than is being taken now.”

What would this mean in modern day English?

Extract from the Domesday Book

Cockerington, Aschil and Ulgrin has three **carucates** of land and one **bovate**...

There is land for six teams. Ilbert, the bishop's man, had two teams, there is **demesne** and 7 **villeins**

... and 27 **sokeman**, having 3 teams. There are 80 acres of meadow there, and 60 acres of wood,

and 2 parts of a mill rendering two shillings. Then [in the time of King Edward, the Confessor] it was worth 60 shillings; now the same.

The Magna Carta



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England Develops: The Magna Carta

King John was forced to sign the **Magna Carta** (Great Charter).

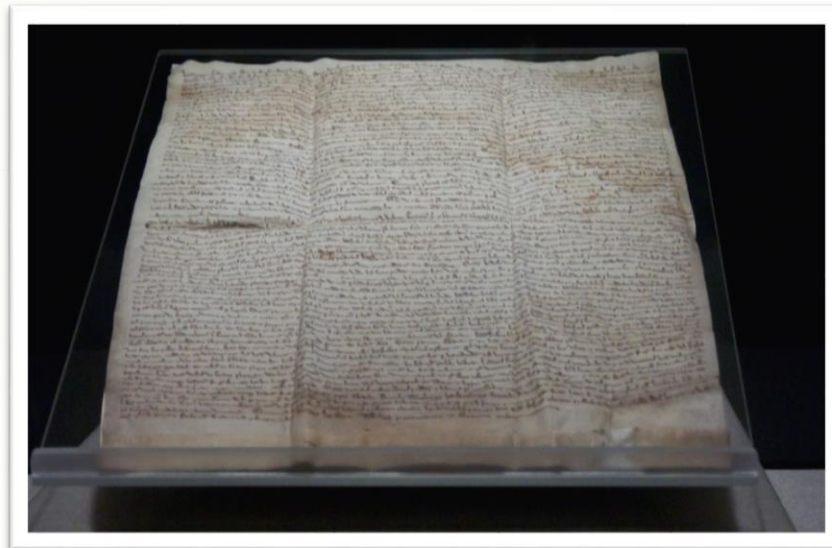
This guaranteed the nobles certain basic political rights and put a limit on the king's powers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWKTy1NIxZE>



The Magna Carta

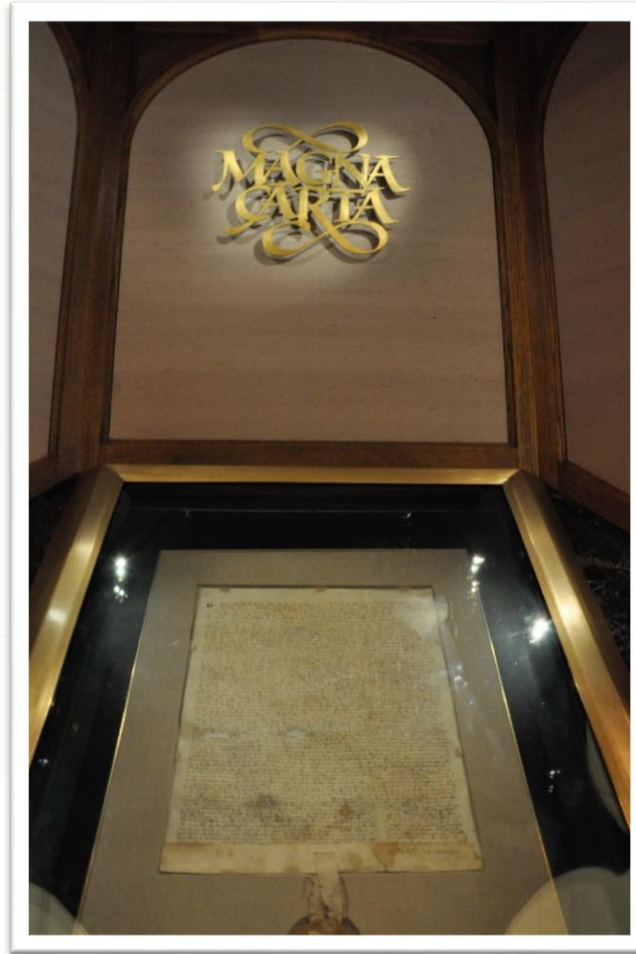
- The Magna Carta is regarded as one of the most important documents from Medieval England (which is the period in history between the 5th and 15th centuries).
- Magna Carta means 'Great Charter' in Latin.
- The Magna Carta was written in June 1215.



The Magna Carta

What is the Magna Carta and what was it for?

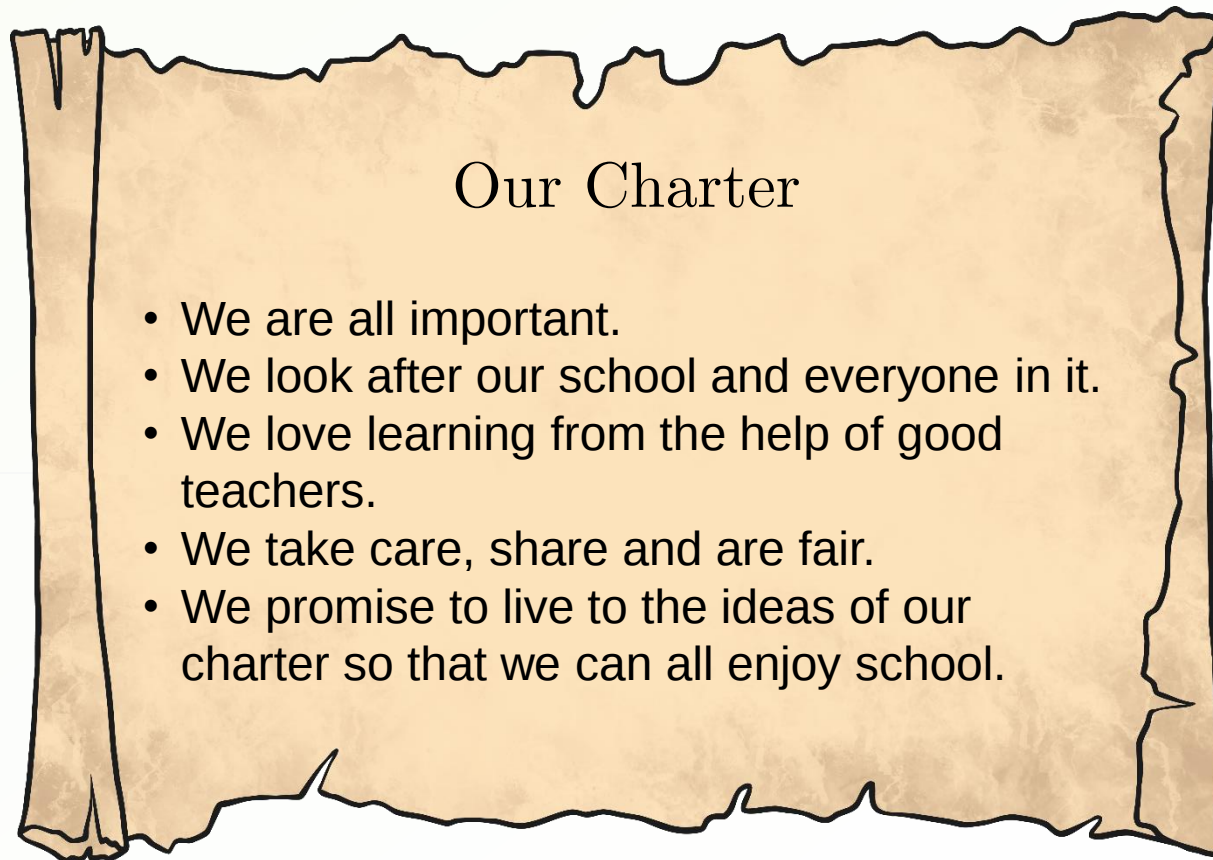
- The Magna Carta is a charter that King John of England agreed on with the Feudal Barons.
- The Magna Carta states that King John should recognise that his people deserve certain rights and that he should treat them fairly.
- King John put his royal seal of approval on the Magna Carta at Runnymede Castle, near Windsor, on 15 June 1215.



The Magna Carta

What is a charter?

- A charter is a document that grants certain rights and authorities.



The Magna Carta

Who were the Feudal Barons?

- The Feudal Barons were noblemen who held land granted by the king. The barons collected taxes and recruited soldiers for the king.

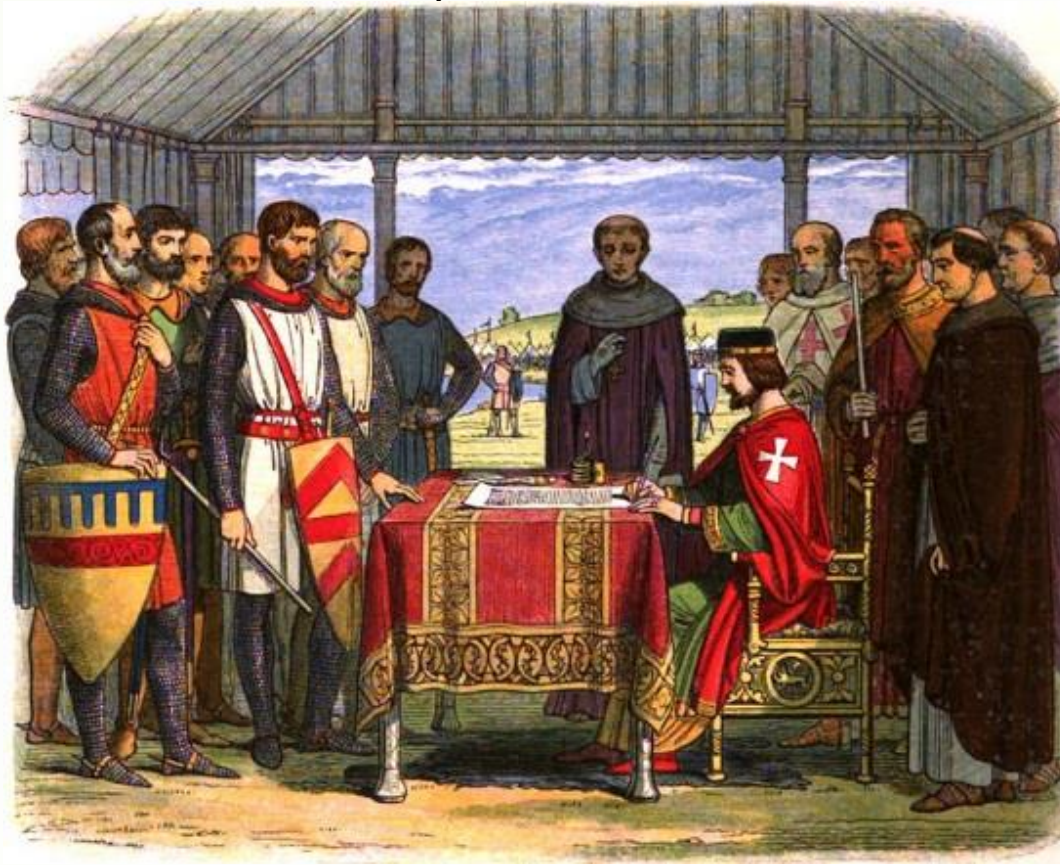


Why Did We Need The Magna Carta?

- King John was not a very popular or successful king. He had lost land in France and his military campaigns to win more land were not working very well.
- The barons were angry that King John kept putting up taxes and asking them to provide more soldiers. They did not think this was fair on the people.
- King John was also disliked by the church and the pope stopped all church services in 1207. The people and barons were upset because this meant that they could not show their love to God and they worried they might not be able to get into Heaven when they died.
- In 1214 the barons rebelled against King John. They took over London and refused to work for him.
- In the end King John gave the church more power and agreed with the barons to be fairer and kinder to his people. The Magna Carta outlined his promises.

Sealing the Magna Carta

King John puts his royal seal on the Magna Carta to cement his promises.



What is in the Magna Carta?

The Magna Carta has 63 different clauses which described:

- The powers and position the Catholic Church would have in England.
- How the barons would be treated more fairly.
- That the legal system would be fair and laws would protect people and ensure justice.
- How the Magna Carta principles would be carried out.

However, it was not actually divided into sections but written as one continuous text.

You can read a full transcript of the Magna Carta on the British Library's website.



Did you know...?

- The first Magna Carta did not work! This was because the king and barons did not keep their promises!
- Over the following years it was revised and reissued and in 1227 the Magna Carta finally became part of the law.
- Four copies of the Magna Carta remain. Two are at the British Library, one at Lincoln Castle and one at Salisbury Cathedral (picture, right).



My Modern Magna Carta

1. Women should have the right to be educated
2. Men shouldn't be more respected than women
3. If you are speeding you will have a fine and points will be put on your driving license
4. If you litter you will have to pay a fine
5. If the law is broken you will immediately face a prison sentence
6. The Queen should be fair and treat everyone equally
7. Don't fine too heavily if someone commits a minor crime
8. Everyone should have the freedom to do what they want
9. Child abuse should not be allowed otherwise you will face a prison sentence
10. Being on the phone while driving is banned

Halleimah year 8



England Develops: The Law

The royal courts of justice sent royal judges to every part of England at least once a year. They collected taxes, settled lawsuits and punished crimes.

There was the introduction of the use of the jury in English courts. A jury in medieval Europe was a group of loyal people (usually 12 neighbours of the accused), who answered a royal judge's questions about the facts of a case.

Jury trials became a popular means of settling disputes. Only the king's court was allowed to conduct them.



England Develops: Parliament

Two groups gradually formed in Parliament:

- House of Commons (Knights & Burgesses).
- House of Lords (Nobles & Bishops).

At first, Parliament was meant to be a tool to weaken the great lords. As time went by, however, Parliament became strong. Like the Magna Carta, it provided a check on royal power.

