



# Knowledge Organiser : What was life like in Medieval England?



## Key Words

## Summary

1.	<b>The Middle Ages</b> – or Medieval period are the years between the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the Tudor period which began in 1485.
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## Key Events

2.	<b>14 October 1066</b> – William defeated Harold Godwinson at the <b>Battle of Hastings</b> .
3.	<b>1095 –The Crusades began</b> . Known as the <b>Wars of the Cross</b> . A series of wars between Christians and Muslims for control of the Holy Land. The Crusaders returned to Europe with new items eg foods such as lemons, apricots, nutmeg and cinnamon; Arabic numbers 1,2, 3 etc; technology such as mirrors, magnifying glasses, maps and compasses; words such as sofa, mattress, algebra, admiral, arsenal; medical knowledge and a new style of castle- concentric castles..
4.	<b>1170: Thomas Becket</b> , the Archbishop of Canterbury was murdered in his cathedral during arguments between <b>King Henry II</b> and the church over who was the more powerful. Four knights heard the king complain about Thomas and murdered him.
5.	<b>1215: The Magna Carta</b> was signed by <b>King John</b> . The king accepted that there were limits on his power- he must obey the law.
6.	<b>1283: Wales was conquered</b> by the English <b>King Edward I</b> . He built a series of castles such as Conway to keep Wales under control.
7.	<b>1348: The Black Death</b> arrived in England from the Far East. About a third of the population died within 3 years. 50 million across Europe are thought to have died. Many people believed it was a punishment from God. Actually, it was carried by black rats and passed onto to humans by fleas. Outbreaks continued roughly every 20 years until 1665.
8.	<b>1381 The Peasant’s Revolt</b> . Thousands of people rebelled against high taxes and limits on their freedom eg no- one was allowed to ask for higher wages, villeins had to work for their lord for free, they couldn’t leave their village without permission. Although <b>King Richard II</b> defeated them , within 50 years peasants no longer had to work for free, became more independent from their Lord’s control & had higher wages
9.	<b>1455: The Wars of the Roses</b> began as two rival families fought for the crown of England.: The Yorkists (symbolized by a white rose) and the Lancastrians (symbolized by a red rose) This was a <b>civil war</b> because Englishmen were fighting each other.
10.	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> August 1485:</b> Henry Tudor, ( Henry VII) a Lancastrian, became King of England when he ended the Wars of the Roses and defeated <b>Richard III</b> at the <b>Battle of Bosworth</b> .

11	Bubonic	One of the two types of plague. Named after the boils or buboes that were symptoms of the disease. <b>Pneumonic plague</b> attacked the lungs, a symptom was coughing
12	Christian	A person who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ. Most people in England in the Middle Ages were Christian. Jews were forced to leave England by <b>King Edward I</b> in 1290.
13	Doom Paintings	A painting in a church to show people images of heaven and hell. They were needed because most people could not read
14	Magna Carta	A document or Great Charter that set out English peoples’ rights. <b>King John</b> was forced to sign it in 1215 agreeing that kings had to obey the law
15	Monarchy	A country ruled by a king or queen. A monarch with total power is an <b>autocrat</b> . Today the UK is a <b>democracy</b> - people elect a Parliament which governs the country.
16	Monks & Nuns	A religious community living in a <b>monastery or nunnery</b> . <b>They provided some education, medical care, help for the poor and a bed for pilgrims</b>
15	Parliament	The first Parliament was called in 1265 during the reign of <b>Henry III</b> . It included not only the Kings council but also two ordinary people from each large town and two knights from each county in England. These new meetings or Parliaments could collect money for the king (taxes) , agree to new laws and give advice to the king. Today the British Parliament controls the country. It is made up of the <b>House of Lords and House of Commons</b>
16	Peasant	A farmer. Most English people were farmers who lived in small villages in the Middle Ages. A <b>villein</b> was a peasant who worked for his lord in return for land.
17	Pilgrim	A person who travels to a holy place on a <b>pilgrimage</b> for religious reasons
18	Plague	A very infectious disease that spreads quickly and kills large numbers of people across the world, also called a pandemic
19	Pope	Head of the Catholic Church. Lived in the <b>Vatican</b> in Rome, Italy. All Christians were Catholic in the Middle Ages. The Pope was helped by Archbishops, Bishops & priests. Everyone believed in God, heaven & hell.
20	Pottage	A thick vegetable soup eaten by peasants , only the rich ate meat.
21	Revolt	A <b>rebellion</b> or uprising because people are angry about something
22	Tithe	A <b>tenth</b> of the food that peasants grew had to be given to the Church.
23	Wattle and daub	A medieval building material made of interwoven sticks covered with mud or clay