



# Year 7 History

## Knowledge Organiser

Medieval Realms

Term 3

Name:

Class:

## Medieval Realms 1

### **Big Questions:**

- 1) What was life like in a medieval village?
- 2) What was life like in a medieval town?
- 3) Why was the Church in medieval England so important?
- 4) Who was Thomas Becket and how did he die?
- 5) How did people try to keep law and order in the Middle Ages?
- 6) What was medical care like in the Middle Ages?
- 7) What were the causes of the Crusades?
- 8) What was the impact of the Crusades?

The medieval period is the time between 1066 and 1485. William of Normandy's triumph over King Harold at the Battle of Hastings marked the dawn of a new era. The overthrow of the Saxon kingdom of England was to transform the country the Normans conquered.

Life in medieval England was tough. Peasant homes were small, often just made up of one room. A peasant's hut was made of wattle and daub, with a thatch roof but no windows. Inside the hut, a third of the area was penned off for the animals, which lived in the hut with the family. A fire burned in a hearth in the centre of the hut, so the air was permanently eye-wateringly smoky. Furniture was maybe a couple of stools, a trunk for bedding, and a few cooking pots.

Women in peasant families learnt to spin wool from an early age, using wooden wheels to make clothes.

Children spent most of their time helping their parents with day-to-day activities. Rather than going to school, they worked on jobs in the house, looked after animals and helped grow food.

Peasants also had to pay a tithe to the Church. A tithe was 10% of what they produced on their land. The Church was central to medieval life. People would attend services there every Sunday, and it would host marriages, christenings and funerals.

## Big Question 1

### What was life like in a medieval village?

Life in a medieval village was tough. The peasant villagers (known as Villeins) worked out in the fields from sunrise to sunset whenever there was work to do. Most of the land was owned by someone else (the lord of the manor) who was usually a knight or baron. The lord let the peasants live on his land in return for their obedience, a payment, and several days of work from them per week.

The peasant families lived in wooden huts that they would build themselves. Each had a small garden where they would grow vegetables and fruit. They might also have kept sheep, pigs, goats and chickens.

#### **What were the villagers' homes like?**

The villages varied in size. Some contained fewer than ten houses. Larger ones might have over 50 homes as well as the Lord's Manor, church, a mill, and workshops for a blacksmith or a carpenter.

#### **Where did they live?**

In a one-room hut. The frame is made from wood and the walls are from wattle (sticks woven together) and daub (mud, dung and straw). The windows are holes in the wall covered by shutters and the floor is made of mud mixed with straw and ox-blood to make it hard. There is a hole in the roof to let out smoke from the fire inside. The animals live in the hut too...what a smell! Water for cooking and cleaning comes from a well or river and outside is a hole dug in the ground that is used as a toilet.



## Big Question 2

### What was life like in a medieval town?

#### Overview: What was life like in a town?

- In 1066, there was only around 15 towns with a population of more than 1000 people.
- There were 8 towns that had around 3000 people.
- London was the largest town with 10,000 people, followed by Winchester and Norwich.
- The majority of people lived in small villages rather than towns.
- After 1066, towns began to grow in size.

**Why did towns develop?** After 1066, towns began to grow. Some villages grew in size too – and became towns! Sometimes towns grew where major roads met or near a bridge where people came to buy and sell goods. Others grew near a castle or monastery. The local lord still owned these places, but if the town continued to grow and the townspeople made lots of money, they might join together and buy their land and freedom from the lord or king.

**Town Charters:** A town's freedoms, written down on a special piece of paper known as a charter, gave the townspeople the chance to run the town themselves. In fact, by 1400, about 300 towns had received their charter and freedom. By this time, London's population had grown to over 40,000.

#### **Source D: Medieval trades and their names**

Combiere – prepared wool for cloth making  
Cordwainer – made boots  
Cutler – made knives  
Hosier – made stockings  
Skinner – took skins off animals  
Thatcher – made house roofs from straw or reeds  
Weaver – made cloth



### Big Question 3

#### Why was the Church in medieval England important?

People would confess their sins to the priest and he would forgive them. This meant they were free of sin.	England was divided into about 9,000 parishes. There was a priest in charge of every parish.	Everyone believed in heaven and hell. They knew they had to obey the church to get to heaven.	Rich people paid for collages to be set up where priests did nothing but prayed for their souls.
People went to a church service called mass every Sunday.	Villagers had to give the priest a tithe (one tenth of everything they produced on their land).	People thought God and the Saints controlled every part of their lives.	People believed that nearly everyone went to purgatory when they died. This was not quite as bad as hell; but to leave and get to heaven you had to be sorry for your sins and get people who were still alive to pray for you.
Lots of people went on pilgrimage to a shrine of saint.	The main feasts in every village were on special holy days.	The church played an important role in the important stages of someone's life. There were special services for birth, marriage and death.	Some people devoted their whole lives to God and became monks or nuns.

## Big Question 4

### Who was Thomas Beckett and how did he die?

#### **Henry II and Thomas Becket**

In 1162, Henry II appointed Thomas Becket to be Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket had worked with the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Theobald, and had been on several visits to see the Pope in Rome. Becket and Henry had been close friends for many years and Henry had appointed Becket as his Chancellor. Henry was confident that Becket would do what he wanted him to and support him in running the country.

#### **Why did Thomas Becket flee to France?**

Later in 1162, Thomas Becket resigned from his position as Chancellor. He wanted to concentrate on increasing the power and influence of the Church. This angered Henry and relations between the two deteriorated. In 1164, Henry tried to pass a set of laws called the Constitutions of Clarendon. The aim of these laws was to limit the power of the Church and increase the king's influence over the bishops and the Church courts. Becket refused to agree to the changes and consequently Henry tried to put Becket on trial for disobeying the king. Their once close relationship had completely broken down. Becket feared for his safety and fled to France.

#### **Thomas Becket's return to England**

In June 1170, Henry II was concerned about who would succeed him as king. Having seen the devastation that can occur when the line of succession is unclear, he had his son, Henry the Young King, crowned to become 'junior king' in a coronation performed by the Archbishop of York. This didn't necessarily give Henry the Young King any extra power, but it angered Becket because coronations were traditionally performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which was still his role despite living in France. Becket appealed to the Pope and eventually Henry and Becket resolved some of their differences. Henry allowed Becket to return to England.

Before returning to England, Becket wrote a letter excommunicating the bishops involved in the coronation from the Church. This move angered Henry greatly.

#### **Why was Thomas Becket murdered?**

Henry was furious at Becket's actions, and was said to have shouted "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?"

There is some doubt as to whether these were Henry's actual words, but regardless, the consequences were terrible. Four knights heard Henry's outburst and rode to Canterbury. They entered the cathedral and are said to have shouted "Where is Thomas Becket, traitor to the king and the kingdom?" They then murdered Becket, striking him three times with their swords before leaving.

## Big Question 5

### How did people try to keep law and order in the Middle Ages?

Most towns employed a **watchman** who made sure people stuck to the curfew. Their role was to prevent crime and catch criminals. They were volunteers or given the duty by the local government, however they were untrained and many saw duty time as an opportunity to drink with their friends.

The **Hue and Cry** was a system for catching criminals after an offence was committed. If anyone spotted a crime they had to raise the alarm, everyone who heard the alarm was then to come and help find the criminal. People who ignored the Hue and Cry were fined for their actions



A **tithing** was a group of 10-12 Freemen. They each promised to prevent each other from committing crime. If one of them did, the others would have to reveal the guilty man or pay a fine. However a lot of the guilty simply escaped and sought sanctuary in the church.



The **Murdrum Fine** was used If a Norman was killed and their murderer wasn't found, the hundred (all the local community) would be fined. The fines were meant to deter Anglo-Saxon hostility to the Normans. However when fines did occur these provided a good source of income for the king.

## Big Question 6

### What was medical care like in the Middle Ages?

#### What did the Barber-surgeon do?

- Would do a lot of bloodletting (bleeding you) to balance your four humours.
- Can pull out rotten teeth.
- Can even have a go at some basic surgery, such as amputating limbs.
- He would use no anaesthetics so surgery would be very painful.



#### What did the wise woman do?

- Would know traditional remedies for things such as sore-throats, stomach aches or a temperature.
- Would also be able to deal with broken bones and with childbirth.
- Sometimes would be called the local 'wise woman'.
- Used some remedies based on herbs and other plants-but wouldn't know why they worked, if they worked.

#### What did the trained physician do?

- Has had training in medical school on The Four Humours and passed exams.
- Will diagnose you using your urine and looking at astrological information (about the planets).
- Gives you treatments based on the idea of balancing your humours; e.g. by bloodletting.
- Can be expensive, you pay for each visit-but he has medical knowledge and believes his treatment is better than anyone else's is.





## Big Question 7

### What were the causes of the Crusades?

In 1095, Pope Urban II promised the knights of Europe forgiveness of their sins if they went on a Crusade to win back Jerusalem for Christianity. Many responded by taking the cross and showed this act by cutting out red crosses before sewing them into their tunics.

The First Crusade began in 1096. Christians, known as the Franks, from France, Germany and Italy set out on the long journey to the Holy Land, led by nobles and knights. Around 10,000 people gathered at Constantinople, before taking control of Edessa and Antioch.

After a long siege they captured Jerusalem in 1099. The attack was brutal, with thousands killed. A Christian source from the time claimed that The slaughter was so great that our men waded in blood up to their ankles.

The following passage comes from Pope Urban II in 1095

“Brothers, I speak as a messenger from God. Your fellow Christians in the east desperately need help. The Saracens have attacked them and have pushed deep into Christian land. They are killing great numbers of Christians. They are destroying churches and land. In the name of God, I beg you all to drive out these foul creatures.

Your own land has too many people. There is not much wealth here. The soil hardly grows enough to support you. Set out for Jerusalem. Take that land from the wicked infidel and make it your own.

If you die on the journey or if you are killed in a battle against these Saracens all your sins will be forgiven at once. God Himself has given me the power to tell you this.

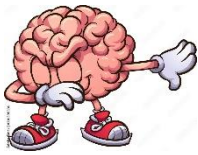
Some of you have spent too much time fighting against your fellow Christians. But now you must fight the Saracens. Let bandits become soldiers. Soldiers who have been fighting for money must now fight for heavenly riches.

”

## Big Question 8

### What was the impact of the Crusades?

**New products:** Crusaders brought back many things from the Holy Land. These included foods such as lemons, melons, apricots, sugar, syrup and spices like nutmeg and cinnamon. Cotton, silk and slippers changed the way people dressed. Muslims used pigeons to carry messages too – something that was copied by Europeans.



**Knowledge:** Muslims used the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on. When Europeans saw this, and learned how these numbers worked, they realised it was more straightforward than their system of Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV...) Arabic numbers made complicated mathematics far easier and the Crusaders learned the game of chess from Muslims. In addition, books from Ancient Greeks, which had been lost in Europe, had been translated by Muslims. This meant the ideas of Plato and Europeans could rediscover Socrates – this would have a major impact on European arts and culture for centuries after. Many Muslims also had greater knowledge of diseases and medical treatment. In many Muslim countries there were famous medical schools and highly skilled doctors and surgeons.



**Technology:** Muslims thought that study and education were very important. As a result, they had made advances in science and technology that amazed the Christians. These included mirrors, the magnifying glass, and a tool that could measure the distance between stars. They also had made advances in sailing and had improved surgical tools. Muslims had better maps and used compasses to help them navigate – which meant that European sailors could use these ideas to explore the world and find new opportunities to trade.



**Warfare:** Muslims used archers in their armies. European armies, especially the English, started to use archers much more. They also copied Muslim castle designs and a weapon used to attack castles called a **trebuchet**, which was like a huge catapult.

## Glossary

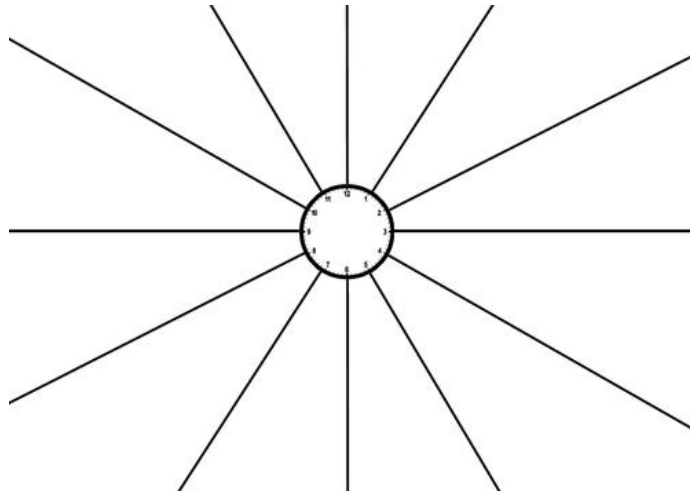
<b>Apothecary</b>	A person who prepared and sold medicines.
<b>Barber-Surgeon</b>	Men who performed surgery and dentistry as well as cutting hair.
<b>Crusades</b>	A series of journey's made by Europeans to take the Holy Land back from Muslims in the Middle Ages.
<b>Doom painting</b>	A painting in a church designed to show people images of Heaven and Hell.
<b>Evidence</b>	The facts or information that we have about a particular event, person or place.
<b>Excommunicated</b>	When someone has been officially excluded from the Christian Church.
<b>Hue and cry</b>	A loud cry calling for people to pursue and capture a criminal.
<b>Invasion</b>	Coming into another country, normally with an armed force, with the intention to take over.
<b>Jury</b>	A group of people who decide whether someone is innocent or guilty of a crime.
<b>Leeches</b>	Blood-sucking creatures used in medieval medicine.
<b>Parliament</b>	Is involved in controlling the country and is made up of the Monarch, the House of Lords and the House of Commons.
<b>Tithing</b>	A group of ten people who were responsible for each other's behaviour.
<b>Trebuchet</b>	A machine used in siege of warfare that could throw large stones or other objects.
<b>Trepanning</b>	Drilling a hole in a patients head in the belief that this would cure their headache.
<b>Trial by Ordeal</b>	A way of letting God decide whether someone is innocent or guilty; common trials were fire, water and combat.
<b>Wattle and daub</b>	A medieval building material made on interwoven sticks covered with mud or clay.

## How do I revise for end of topic assessments?

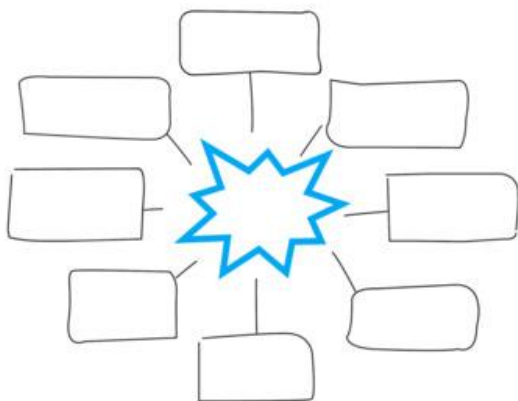


**Flashcards** – Use flashcards to practice key dates, terms and people. You could write a key date on one side, and turn it over and put the event. Alternatively, you could do match-ups, where a key person is written/drawn and then on another card what they have done is written down. You could then match-up the cards. Flashcards are also great for writing out knowledge questions on one side, and writing the answer on the other side.

### Revision clocks –



Take an A3/A4 bit of paper and divide it into 12 sections. In each section write a big question and write 3 or 4 bullet points of the key knowledge for that question in the clock. Make your clocks colourful and highlight key words/dates/people.



**Mind-maps** – Write a topic in the middle and have 5-6 branches coming off around it with the key ideas. For example, you could have a mind-map on the Battle of Hastings, and your branches could include the key events, information about the different fighting techniques and the reasons why William won.

**Brain dump** – Get a blank piece of paper, and write down everything you know about the topic being studied. Give yourself 4-5 minutes to do this. When the time is up, in a different coloured pen, use your workbook and knowledge organiser to fill in any missing details.

## Homework 1– Medieval Life

Read each statement and decide whether it is true or false. Correct any false statements in the space provided.

Statement	True/false	Corrected statement
Peasants would work in factories all day.		
A Cordwainer is someone who makes shoes.		
The Church controlled all aspects of society including education.		
Towns were granted freedom through an alliance with another town.		
Women would work on the farms with their husbands all day.		
Peasant homes were made from Wattle and Daub.		
Peasants kept lots of animals.		

## Homework 2 – Key Definitions

Below you have some key terms, fill out the definition of each of these key words you will need for this topic.

1. Constable =

2. Export =

3. Guild =

4. Hue and cry =

5. Humours =

6. Magna Carta =

7. Parliament =

8. Rebellion =

9. Tithing =

10. Trial by Ordeal =

## Homework 3 – Revision

Task – Complete a revision activity to revise for your end of unit assessment. Use page 13 of the knowledge organiser to give you some ideas of how you could revise.

## Wider Reading/Resources

BBC Bitesize King John and Magna Carta

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/zqgqtfr/revision/1>

The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century by Ian Mortimer.

Chaucer's People: Everyday Lives in Medieval England by Lisa Picard.

Medieval England by Edmund King

A Brief History of Life in the Middle Ages( Brief Histories) by Martyn Whittock.

Measly Middle Ages (Horrible Histories) by Terry Deary

