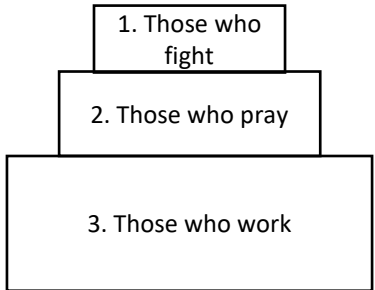
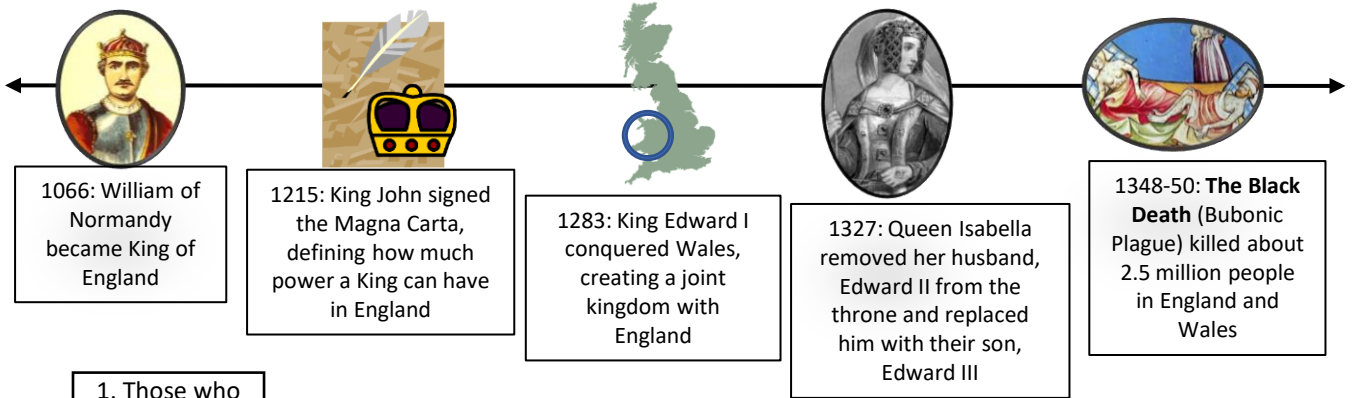


History knowledge organiser: Was life *always* hard for people in the 14th century?



- 1. Dukes, Barons and Knights** all fought for the **King** in wars, and their loyalty meant they earned privileges such as noble titles and land. **Knights** became **Lord of the Manor** and were responsible for giving punishments for those who broke the law on their land.
- 2. Bishops** were powerful spiritual advisors to the King, while **Priests** preached directly to the people in towns and villages.
- 3. Reeves and Yeoman** had some power and status within their village, and the vast majority of the population were **villeins**, who were tied to the land they work on.

Almost all Medieval people in England were religious, and most of those were Christian. They believed the **Devil** would be present in every-day problems, while **God** was responsible for major crises, such as the Black Death or natural disasters.



The **Black Death** spread throughout Europe during the 1340s and 50s. It killed approximately 2.5 million people in England and Wales, and was believed by many to be sent by God as a punishment for human **sin**.

The disease gave victims swellings called **buboes** and attacked their internal organs, killing them in about 5 days.

As a consequence of the Black Death, English **villeins** suddenly had more power to demand better working conditions and higher pay from the Lords of the Manor, as there were fewer workers available to farm and harvest crops. This led to some villeins freeing themselves from the Lord's control, gaining their own land and other privileges.

Some Keywords

The Church: the name of the institution of the entire Christian faith in Europe, run by the Pope, in the city of Rome, Italy.



Status: the place you have by birth or your relationship to someone else in society.



Villein: a peasant who is tied to the land of a particular Lord, and must work for that Lord their entire life. They will need the Lord's permission to marry or move.



Some Key people

The Pope: The head of Christianity in Western Europe in the Middle Ages. In the 14th century, there was a break between parts of the Church, and there ended up being **two Popes** in Europe! One in Rome, and the other in Avignon, France.



Lord of the Manor: Within a Medieval village, the Lord of the Manor has the most power over the other village residents. The Lord sits on the manorial court, hands out punishments or rewards, and takes most of the crops grown on the land for his own use.



a. Quiz Questions:

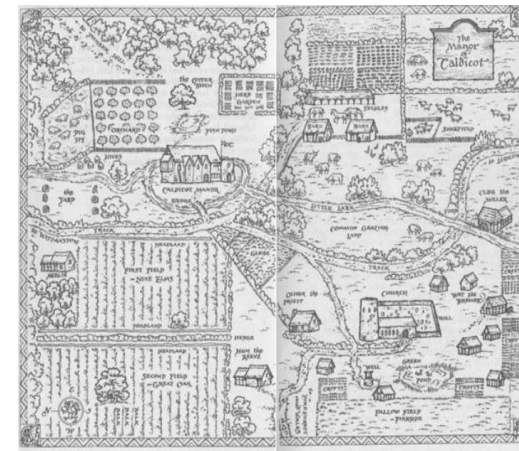
1. What role did the Priest play in a 14th century village?
2. What were two acts people could do which would help them get into heaven?
3. How did the Devil impact Medieval daily life?
4. What were buboes?
5. What did people think caused the Black Death?
6. How did the Black Death change the lives of villeins?
7. What was the relationship between a villein and the Lord of the Manor?
8. Where did people in a 14th century village hear the news from around the country?
9. What were two high status games or sports that Medieval nobility liked to play?
10. What were two low status games or sports that the Medieval poor liked to play?

c. Society line:

Put the following individuals in order of those with the **highest status** down to those with the **lowest status**.

Reeve
Yeoman
Villein
Duke
Knight
Pope
Bishop
King
Priest

b. Topic Focus: Life in 14th Century England



1. Who would have lived in the Manor House?
2. Which other building was also important (other than the Manor House) in a medieval village. How do you know?
3. Where do the villeins work?

d. Individual practice:

1. What was the name of the virus commonly known as the Black Death?
2. What did Dukes, Barons and Knights gain in return for going to war for the king?
3. What sorts of freedoms did a Reeve have that a villein didn't?
4. How would an individual alert the rest of the villagers that a crime was being committed?
5. If a villager had very little extra money to give away, how would they make sure that they would go to Heaven when they died?

Challenge:

In the 14th century, 12% of the year were Saints Days, meaning that there was likely a day off work at least once a week. Use this information, and your knowledge of medieval life to answer our enquiry question: **Was life *always* hard for people in the 14th century?** Examine both sides of the question and write a paragraph to agree and one that disagrees with the question.