

Key Words

Crusades	Wars fought in the Middle Ages between Christian and Muslim armies, mainly over control of the Holy Land.
Saracens	A medieval European word used for Muslims, especially those living in the Middle East.
Tithes	A payment people gave to the Church, usually one tenth of what they earned or grew.
Serfs	Poor peasants who worked on a lord's land and were not free to leave without permission.
Divine judgement	The belief that God would decide if someone was guilty or innocent.
Parish	A local church area, looked after by a priest
Ordeal	A painful or dangerous test used to decide if someone was guilty, based on the belief that God would protect the innocent.
Monastery	A religious building where monks lived, worked, and prayed.
Papacy	The system of leadership of the Roman Catholic Church by the Pope.

Year 7 History - Summer term 3B: Medieval society

Key Knowledge:

1. Religion & the role of the Church	The Church was very powerful and affected people's everyday lives. Monasteries were important places for worship, learning and caring for the sick. The Church had its own courts, laws and money, which came from payments such as tithes and indulgences. Doom paintings reminded people about Heaven, Hell and how they should behave.
2. The Crusades	The Crusades were religious wars between Christians and Muslims over the Holy Land. People joined the Crusades for many reasons, including religion, adventure, land, wealth and glory. During the Third Crusade, Richard the Lionheart fought against Saladin, but the Christians did not win back Jerusalem. The Crusades changed England by increasing trade, spreading new ideas and affecting relations between Christians and Muslims.
3. What was it like living in the countryside?	Most people lived in the countryside and worked as peasants. Many used strip farming and some were serfs, meaning they were not free to leave the lord's land.
4. What was it like living in the towns?	Towns were busy and growing, but they were often dirty, crowded and unhealthy. People worked in trades and markets, and some laws were introduced to try to improve town life.
5. The Black Death	The Black Death was a deadly disease spread by fleas on rats. People at the time did not understand this and blamed causes such as bad air, the planets, unbalanced humours or God's punishment. Symptoms included buboes, fever, vomiting and black patches on the skin. People tried cures such as prayer, flagellation, superstition and herbal remedies. The Black Death killed many people and led to major changes, including higher wages and more freedom for some peasants.
6. Peasant's Revolt	The Peasants' Revolt happened because peasants were angry about taxes, low wages and unfair treatment. Important figures included John of Gaunt, Simon Sudbury, John Ball and Wat Tyler. Rebels from places such as Kent and Essex marched to London. Although Richard II stopped the revolt, it helped lead to long-term changes, including better wages and a weakening of serfdom.
7. Crime & punishment	Crime and punishment in medieval England was very different from today. Guilt could be decided by trial by combat, trial by ordeal or a jury. Ordinary people helped catch criminals using the hue and cry. Punishments were often harsh, public and humiliating, and were meant to fit the crime and warn others not to break the law.

Throughout the medieval period- The Church was very powerful and influenced daily life through monasteries, tithes, church courts and religious teachings.

1095- The Crusades began. Christians travelled to fight for control of the Holy Land.

1189-1192- The Third Crusade took place. Richard the Lionheart fought Saladin but did not win back Jerusalem.

1348-1349- The Black Death reached England, killing many people and changing society.

After 1349- Labour shortages meant some peasants could demand higher wages and better conditions.

1381: The Peasants' Revolt broke out because of taxes, unfair treatment and anger over wages.

Important people

Richard the Lionheart	King of England from 1189 to 1199. He led Christian forces during the Third Crusade and fought against Saladin.
Saladin	Muslim leader and Sultan of Egypt and Syria. He fought Richard the Lionheart during the Third Crusade and controlled Jerusalem.
Flagellants	Religious people who whipped themselves during the Black Death because they believed God was punishing them for sin.
John of Gaunt	A powerful nobleman and uncle of King Richard II. Many peasants disliked him because they blamed him for high taxes and bad government.
Wat Tyler	One of the main leaders of the Peasants' Revolt in 1381. He led rebels to London and met King Richard II.
John Ball	A priest who supported the Peasants' Revolt. He argued that peasants should be treated more equally.
Simon Sudbury	Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor. He helped introduce the poll tax and was killed by rebels during the Peasants' Revolt.

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Video/podcast links

Horrible Histories- Middle Ages	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1zICtqftRo
The Crusades	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LZOXYwRVq4
Medieval towns	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZimXhjGshI
What was the Black Death?	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhsPPBGtquo
The Peasant's revolt	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsML7hiTnsY https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3EzLF2rOKY

Homework

For this unit your homework will be to revise for your **end of year History exam**.

You should use:

- Your **knowledge organisers**
- Your **exercise books**
- Any class worksheets or notes

You can revise by creating:

- Mind maps**
- Flash cards**
- Revision clocks**



Focus on:

- Key people
- Important events
- Dates
- Key words and definitions

Please make sure your revision is neat and organised.

Wider reading ideas:



Horrible Histories: Measly Middle Ages by Terry Deary
 Crusade by Elizabeth Laird
 Catherine, called Birdy by Karen Cushman
 The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli
 Fire, Bed & Bone by Henrietta Branford