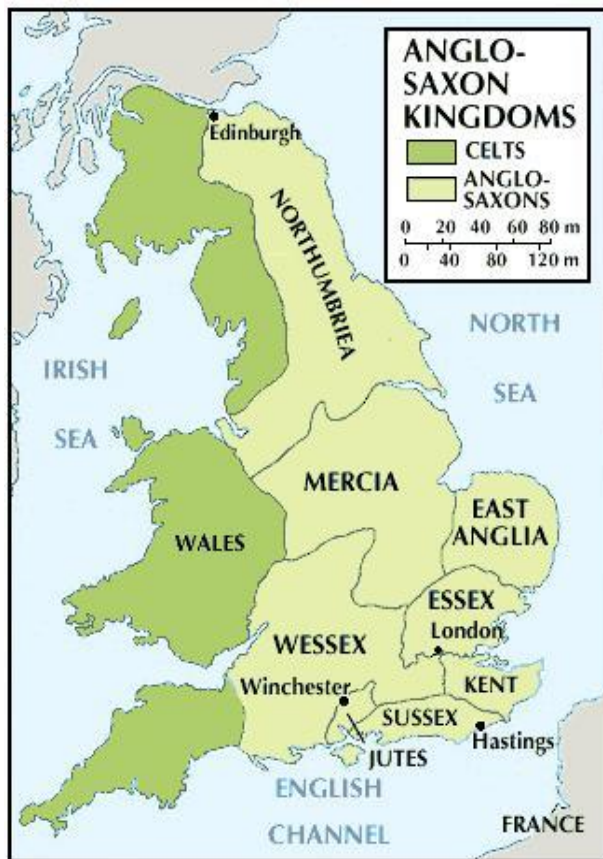


Year 7 Curriculum Overview History 2023-24

	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3
Unit Title	Did the Normans bring a 'truckload of trouble'?	How powerful was the medieval Church?	How did medieval rulers wield their power?	Did rats and rebels change people's lives completely?	A depth study on the Tudors: Why should historians go beyond 'divorced, beheaded, and died'?
Approximate Number of Lessons	8	7	7	7	16
Curriculum Content	The students will study the consequences of the Norman Conquest on England.	The students will study the power of the medieval Church through local, national and international lenses.	The students will study and compare the following medieval rulers: King Richard, King John, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Mansa Musa and Genghis Khan.	The students will study the consequences of the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt.	The students will study the religious Reformation, every-day life in Tudor England, the experiences of black Tudors and how Elizabeth I challenged gender roles.
Links to prior learning	Anglo-Saxons and England pre-1066.	Changes to England after the Norman Conquest.	The rule of William I and Henry II, and the power of religion.	The power of the Medieval Church and what life was like for Medieval peasants.	The power of Medieval rulers and the power of the Medieval Church. Students may have some prior knowledge of Henry VIII and his six wives.
Cultural Capital Opportunities	Potential visits: any medieval castle, cathedral or abbey (Bury St Edmunds) Read or watch Marc Morris' <i>Norman Conquest</i> (book and documentary) Listen to Homeschool History podcast on Battle of Hastings		Listen to Homeschool History podcast on Mansa Musa Listen to You're Dead to Me podcast on Genghis Khan (radio edit)	Read <i>Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England</i> by Ian Mortimer Read <i>Black Death</i> by John Hatcher	Visit Kentwell Hall / Melford Hall in Long Melford; Lavenham village and Guildhall Read <i>Black Tudors</i> by Miranda Kaufmann Read <i>Time Traveller's Guide to Tudor England</i> by Ian Mortimer Watch David Olusoga's <i>Black and British</i> , episode 2
Assessment Focus	Baseline assessment near the start of term Extended factual recall and piece of writing on the power of the Church		Extended factual recall assessment and piece of writing on rats and rebels		End of Year Exam – with a combination of factual recall questions, source analysis and an extended piece of writing.
Name of Knowledge Organiser	<i>01. Norman England</i>	<i>02. Medieval Church</i>	<i>03. Medieval Rulers</i>	<i>04. Rats and Rebels</i>	<i>05. Reformation 06. Tudor Life 07. Queen Elizabeth</i>

Who were the Anglo-Saxons, and what was 'their' England like?

Anglo-Saxon England lasted for over 600 years. The **Romans** left in AD410 and the Anglo-Saxons arrived to fight the **Picts** in around AD450. The **Vikings** invaded in the late eighth century. England was not ruled by one king at first, and was divided into seven: a **heptarchy**. In the 9th century, the Vikings had control of all but six of the seven kingdoms. King Alfred of Wessex beat the Vikings and united the seven kingdoms. He made the Vikings live in an area that was under the **Danelaw**. Anglo-Saxon society was organised: **monarch, earls, thegns, peasants** and **slaves**. Religion was very important, and everyone was a Christian.



How did the Normans assert their authority over England?

William, Duke of Normandy led the **Norman** army. The Normans conquered England following a victory against Harold Godwinson and the Saxon army at the **Battle of Hastings** (14 October 1066). William made himself king of England and was crowned on Christmas Day 1066 at Westminster Abbey. The Normans faced many **rebellions** in the early years. One brutal measure the Normans took to stop rebellions was the **Harrying of the North**. Following a rebellion led by two Saxon earls, Edwin and Morcar – and supported by the Vikings and the king of Scotland – in the winter of 1069-70, William marched north with an army. They destroyed crops, killed all adult males and set fire to the city of York and surrounding villages. Corpses rotted on the roads, refugees fled in terror, and disease and **famine** ensued. Fifteen years later, large areas of land in the north remained uninhabited, with villages and farms empty.

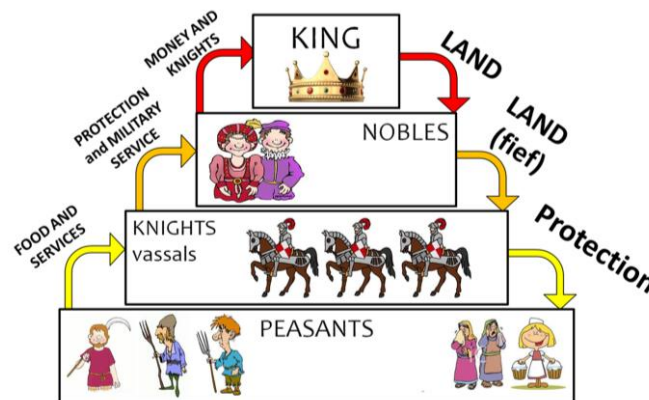
Knowledge organiser: Did the Normans bring a 'truckload of trouble' to England in 1066?

How did the Normans reshape society?

William used the sharing out of land as a way of getting assistance. 'Feudal' is a Latin word for 'land', so because the new system was based on land, it became known as the **feudal system**. William gave land to his loyal Norman **nobles (barons)**.

Changes to Anglo-Saxon England:

Norman taxes forced many freemen to become **villeins**.
The Normans abolished slavery.
English women were forced to marry Norman men.



There are moments when history is unobvious; when change arrives in a violent rush, decisive, bloody, traumatic; as a truck-load of trouble, wiping out everything that gives a culture its bearings - custom, language, law, loyalty. 1066 was one of those moments.

Simon Schama, A History of Britain: At the Edge of the World? 3500 BC-AD 1603



Key terms used in this unit:

Anglo-Saxon: People originally from Germany – the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes – who settled in Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries

Heptarchy: A piece of land divided and ruled by seven different rulers

Danelaw: The part of northern England occupied by Danes

Monarch: A king or queen

Earls/barons: A rich nobleman who rules a section of land on behalf of the monarch

Thegn: A person ranking between an earl and a peasant, holding land of the king or a lord in return for services

Peasant: A person who works on the lord's land

Norman: People from Normandy, France, who invaded Britain in 1066 and were led by William of Normandy

Famine: A shortage of food due to a poor harvest

Feudal system: A system developed by King William where each group of people owed loyalty to the group above

Villein: A peasant who worked for a lord in return for land

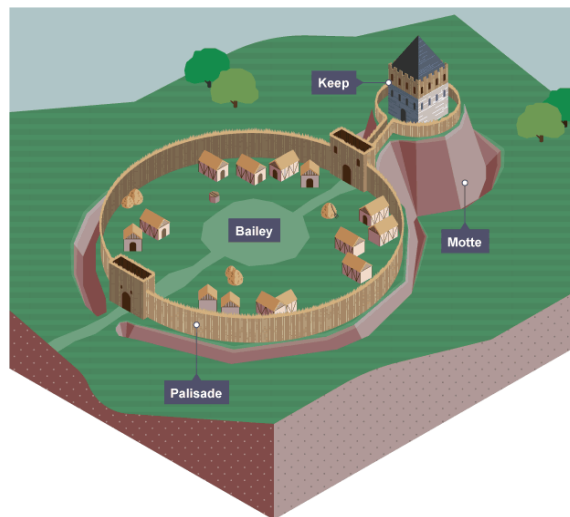
Were Norman castles military fortresses or just status symbols?

William and the Normans brought the first castle with them from Normandy. It was **pre-fabricated** and was quickly assembled at Pevensey in 1066. Once William became king, he ordered wooden **motte-and-bailey** castles to be built quickly all over England: to guard important roads, ports, river crossings and towns. They were used as military bases from which to control the local area. They also became a focus for local trade in the area, which the baron could then tax. By 1086, over 100 castles had been built across England. Over time, the wooden castles were replaced with stone. Historians disagree over the purpose of Norman castles.

How was England ruled?

William recognised that Anglo-Saxon methods of government were more sophisticated than anything in Normandy. Therefore, some aspects of English government remained much the same. They continued to use **writs** to issue orders from the king to the sheriffs and nobility. A new language (**Latin**) was used, however. The **shire courts** continued to be used in local government. Some new laws were passed, such as **forest law**, and the **murdrum fine**. **Corruption** in the church was tackled, and a new Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, Lanfranc made **reforms** to improve this. **Monasteries** became more widespread. The **Domesday Book** made taxation more efficient.

Knowledge organiser: *Did the Normans bring a 'truckload of trouble' to England in 1066?*



Key terms used in this unit:

Pre-fabricated: The wood for the castle was pre-cut and brought on the ship from Normandy

Motte-and-bailey: An early castle that featured a fort on a hill surrounded by a fence or wall (palisade)

Writs: Written orders from the king to the nobility

Shire courts: Public meetings held twice a year, and attended by earls, bishops and free peasants

Forest law: A law William introduced which did not allow people to hunt in his forests

Murdrum fine: The fine imposed on a local community if the murderer of a Norman was not found within five days

Reforms: Changes to improve

Domesday Book: A record of a survey of the lands of England, giving ownership, size and value of properties

Monasteries: Religious buildings where monks or nuns live (holy people who devote themselves to God)

Marc Morris, 'The Norman Conquest', 2012, p.351

"It was not the same English that had been spoken before the conquest, because it was not the same England. Much of it, indeed, was barely recognizable... England's aristocracy, its attitudes and its architecture had all been transformed by the coming of the Normans. The body of the tree, too, had in places been twisted into new forms: the laws of the kingdom, its language, its customs and institutions – these were clearly not the same as they had been before. Even so, anyone looking at these institutions could see in a second that their origins were English... The branches were new but the roots remained ancient. The tree had survived the trauma by becoming a hybrid."



Knowledge organiser: *Who had the power in Medieval England?*

How much power did the medieval church have over people's lives?

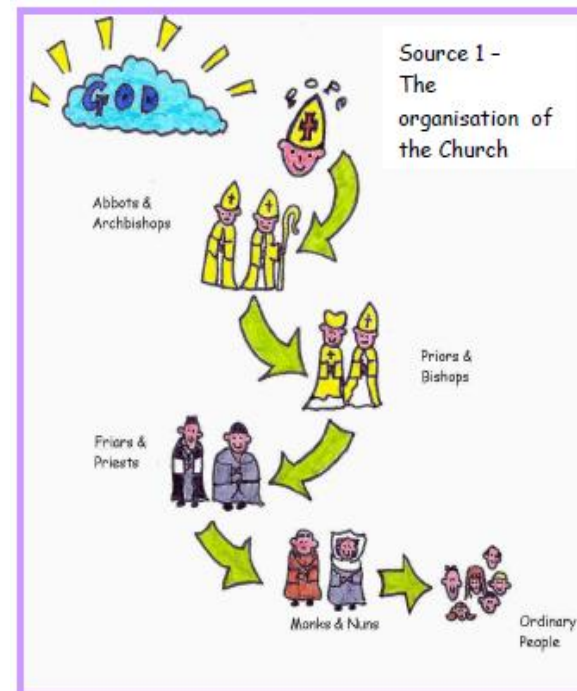
All Christians believed in **Jesus Christ**. The leader of the Christians was the **Pope**. The leader of the Christians lived in **Rome**. The Church was **rich and powerful**. The Church had control over who went to heaven and who went to hell. As medieval people could not read, the church would paint **doom paintings** on the walls of all churches. These showed horrible images of hell. Medieval people were fearful of what would happen to them when they died, and therefore, were very dedicated to following the teachings of the church. Medieval people could also secure their path to heaven through going on a **pilgrimage**. In the medieval times, people might go on a pilgrimage to please God, to find a cure for illness or to seek forgiveness for their sins. They could go to important religious sites in England or abroad. The most important city to Christians was **Jerusalem**.

How did Bury get its' St Edmund?

The story of the **martyr St Edmund**, who ruled East Anglia from AD 855 to 869, tells of the brave King Edmund who was killed by Danish invaders on 20 November 869 after refusing to give up his beliefs in Christianity. The story goes that after being tied to a tree and shot full of arrows King Edmund was then beheaded. The king's body was found but his head was missing. His supporters heard a wolf call to them and they found the wolf guarding the king's head, which was then reunited with his body and body and head fused back together. This was the first of many **miracles**. In 1020, King Canute had a stone church built for Edmund's body and the first abbots arrived. This was the beginning of the Abbey of St Edmund and it became a site of great **pilgrimage** as people from all over Europe came to visit St Edmund's **shrine**. When the great **Abbey Church** was built in 1095 St Edmund's body was moved there in a silver and gold shrine. The shrine became one of the most famous and wealthy pilgrimage locations in England. For centuries the shrine was visited by various kings of England, many of whom gave generously to the abbey.

What was Bury St Edmunds like in the Middle Ages?

Medieval Bury St Edmunds was controlled by St Edmunds Abbey. The town was designed by the **monks** in a grid pattern. The monks charged **tariffs** on every economic activity, including the collecting of horse droppings in the streets. The Abbey even ran the **Royal Mint** where coins were made. St Edmunds Abbey was one of the richest and largest **monasteries** in England. It received many gifts from pilgrims and royalty as it was such a **sacred** place. It was built in the 11th and 12th centuries in the shape of a cross. Abbey Gate, opening onto the Great Courtyard, was the **secular** [non-religious] entrance which was used by the Abbey's servants. Over time the people of Bury St Edmunds began to become angry at how much money the abbey was making from them. In 1327, it was destroyed during the Great Riot by the local people, who were angry at the power of the monastery. They were forced to rebuild it.



Key terms used in this unit:

Pope – the leader of the Christian Church.

Archbishop – very important leaders of the Church. They helped the Pope to control the Church.

Bishops / Abbots – the leader of a monastery or abbey.

Parish priest – they looked after local churches and carried out the weekly services.

Monks / nuns – they worked in abbeys, monasteries and convents; they dedicated their lives to serving God.

Heaven and hell – where Christians believed you went after death.

Doom paintings – a painting in a church designed to show people images of heaven and hell.

Pilgrimage – a religious journey to a holy place.

Martyr – someone who is willing to die for their beliefs.

Shrine – a holy place for pilgrims to visit.

Miracles – an act of God that is extraordinary (it may be considered impossible).

Secular – non-religious or not relating to the Church.

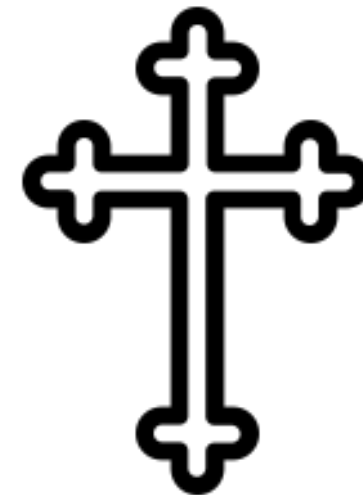
Knowledge organiser: *Who had the power in Medieval England?*

What does the murder of Thomas Becket reveal about the power of the church in 1170?

The story of Henry II and Archbishop Thomas Becket reveals that medieval kings could not always get their own way. In 1154, Henry II became king of England. One of his best friends was called Thomas Becket. Henry promoted Becket to Chancellor, which meant that Becket would rule England when Henry was away. Despite being king, Henry could not punish everyone as people who worked for the church were tried in Church courts instead. In 1162 Henry made Becket the Archbishop of Canterbury - placing him in charge of religion in England. Henry thought he could control the church using Becket. Unfortunately for Henry, Becket took his job very seriously. He spent his hours praying, and when Henry asked him to change the Church courts (to give Henry more control), Becket refused. They argued so much that Becket was sent into exile in France. In 1170 Becket returned to England and the two men agreed to work together again. The friendship very quickly turned sour. Becket excommunicated all of the Bishops who had helped Henry run the Church in his absence. (This means they were sacked and would go to Hell when they died). When Henry found out what Becket had done he was furious. In a temper he shouted 'Who will rid me of this turbulent Priest?' Four knights overheard and decided they could help. They murdered Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. When Henry found out he was horrified. He knew that he would get the blame so decided to apologise publicly. He walked the streets of Canterbury with no shoes on and, when his feet were cut and bleeding, he went to the cathedral and prayed at Becket's tomb. He spent the night on the stone floor. It worked, and the Pope forgave Henry. The four knights were sent on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. None of them survived the journey. In 1173 Becket was made a saint by the Pope, and it wasn't long before his tomb became a popular site of pilgrimage.

What were the 'Wars of the Cross'?

For Christians, Jerusalem was the most important city in the world. Jesus had lived there, and was crucified and buried there. Some pilgrims made the journey to Jerusalem and other important places nearby, such as Bethlehem. This area of the world was known as the Holy Land. Jerusalem, however, was also important for Muslims and Jews. The Prophet Muhammed is said to have visited the city and ascended from there to heaven. By the early Middle Ages, Arab Muslims had control of Jerusalem, and allowed Christians and Jews to visit. In 1079, a tribe from the east, called the Turks, took over. These Turks were Muslim and thought that only Muslims should be allowed to go there. Christian pilgrims were treated badly, and some were killed. In 1095 Pope Urban II urged all Christian kings, lords, soldiers, and ordinary people to go and fight the Muslim Turks in the Holy Land. He promised that anyone who died fighting would go straight to heaven. Thousands of people decided to go, and these journeys became known as the Crusades, which means 'wars of the cross'. Between 1096 and 1250 there were many crusades against the Muslim Turks. Reasons for going ranged from religious, to a desire for political power, to financial gain.



Key terms used in this unit:

Excommunicated – when someone has been officially excluded from the Christian Church.

Crusades – a series of journeys made by Europeans to take the Holy Land back from Muslims in the Middle Ages.

The Holy Land – Jerusalem. This is an important place for many religions.

Muslims – those that follow the religion of Islam.

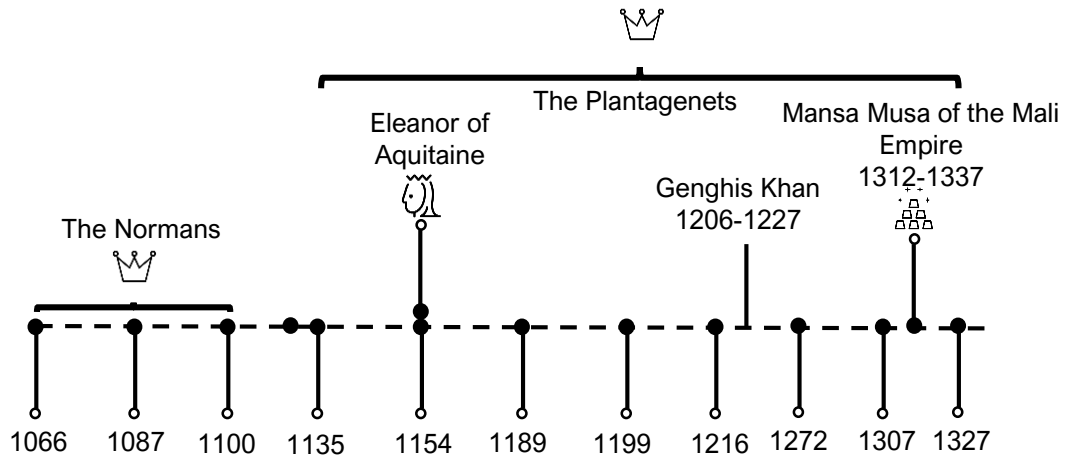
Arabs – people that live in the Middle East.

Turks – people from Turkey.

Jews – those that follow the Jewish religion.

Saracens – a name for a Muslim at the time of the Crusades.

Infidels – A person who has no religion or whose religion is not the same as that of another group of people.



What makes an effective medieval ruler?

- Can effectively defend their people and lands from enemies
- Uphold law and justice to protect their people
- Consult the advice of barons and parliaments
 - Support the church
- Look the part of a monarch to show off the country's power and wealth
 - Ensure they have an heir

How successfully did medieval rulers wield their power?

Key words:

Excommunicated – when someone has been officially excluded from the Christian Church.

Crusades – a series of journeys made by Europeans to take the Holy Land back from Muslims in the Middle Ages.

Pilgrimage – a religious journey to a holy place.

Angevin Empire – the land ruled by the Angevins (Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard I and John)

Muslims – those that follow the religion of Islam.

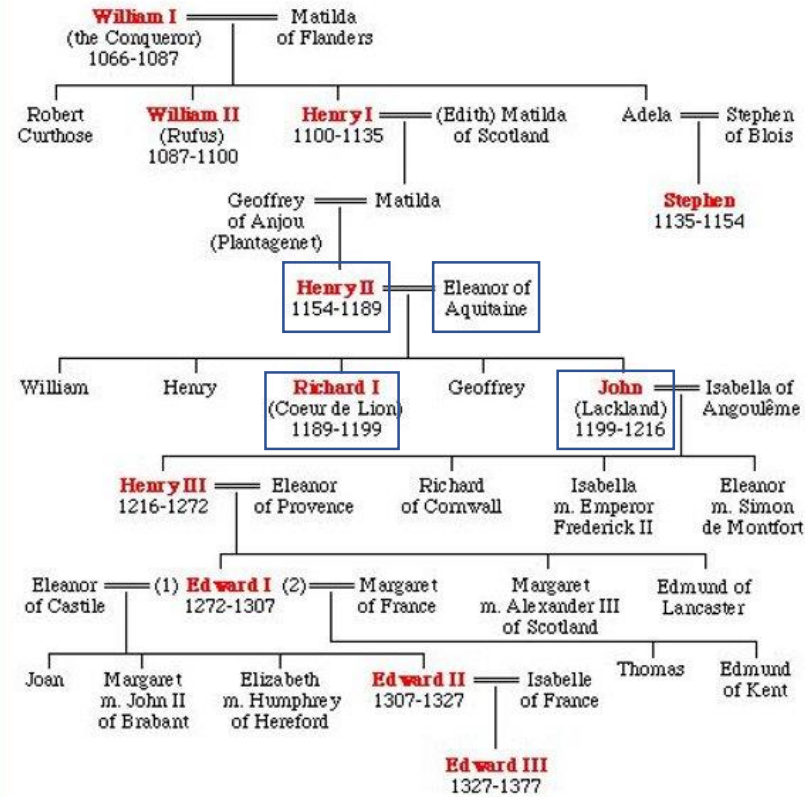
Mecca – a city in Saudi Arabia that was the birthplace of Muhammad and is the holiest city of Islam

Mansa – a Mandinka word meaning 'king of kings' or emperor

Heir – a person who inherits the throne (usually the oldest son)

Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen Consort of France (1137-52) and Queen of England (1154-1189)

- Ruled over the richest part of France, Aquitaine.
- Married King Louis VII of France first.
- Went on the Second Crusade with him.
- Married King Henry II of England. Together they ruled over the Angevin Empire.
- Had five sons and three daughters.
- Played an active part in ruling Henry's kingdoms.
- In 1173 two of Eleanor's sons involved her in a plot against their father, and as a result Henry imprisoned her.
- After Henry's death in 1189, his eldest son, Richard I, ordered his mother's release. Even though she was in her mid-sixties, Eleanor became very closely involved in government.
- In 1190, she acted as regent in England when Richard went to join the Third Crusade.
- Helped to win a battle in Aquitaine when she was 75!



King Richard (1189-1199)

- Son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine.
- Nickname was the Lionheart as he was seen as brave and strong.
- His first action as king was to release his mother, Eleanor from prison.
- Went on the Third Crusade – hero-worshipped for his military ability. However, his armies failed to capture Jerusalem (their main aim) and they returned to Europe.
- Fought with his brother, John, who resented Richard's power. John tried to overthrow him, but it failed.
- Was imprisoned by Duke Leopold of Austria before being handed over to the German emperor Henry VI, who ransomed him for the huge sum of 150,000 marks.
- Richard only spoke French, and spent only ten months of his reign in England.
- Died in France of an injured shoulder with no legitimate heir.



How successfully did medieval rulers wield their power?

Mansa Musa (1312-1337)

- Mansa Musa ruled over the empire of Mali, a nation of fabulous wealth.
- He built many monuments, mosques and schools throughout his empire, and was most famous for his 1324 pilgrimage to Mecca that introduced Mansa Musa and the empire of Mali to the Middle East and Europe.
- During his pilgrimage, he gave out fabulous wealth to the needy, accidentally destroying the local economies of the region.
- Mansa Musa's wealth may have made him the richest man in all of history, with a net worth of \$400 billion.
- Mansa Musa was responsible for the Djinguereber Mosque in Timbuktu, which remains an important Muslim holy site.
- He also was responsible for staffing and funding the University of Sankore.

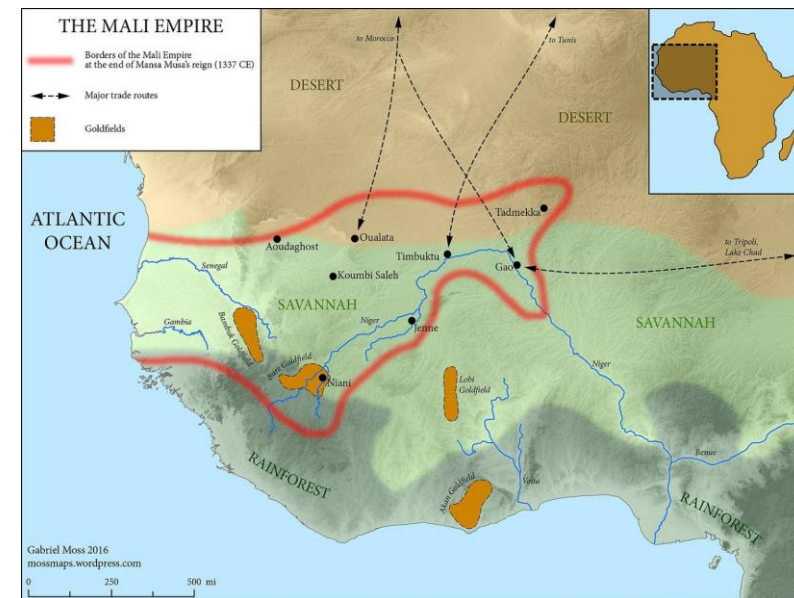
King John (1199-1216)

- Son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine.
- John was unpopular as he quarrelled with his popular brother, Richard.
- He was not glamorous, religious or a great military leader.
- He ran his government efficiently, and cared about fair laws.
- He raised taxes to fund his wars with France.
- In 1209 John was excommunicated by the Pope.
- John was unlucky in war and lost most of England's land in France. He had the nickname John Lackland.
- In 1214 the barons rebelled against him.
- This led to the Magna Carta being signed – this limited the power of the king.
- The barons remained angry and continued to fight against John.
- He died of fever in 1216.

Adapted from The Magna Carta, written in 1215.

"I, King John, accept that I must run the country according to the law. I agree:

- Not to interfere with the church
- Not to imprison freemen or nobles without a trial
- That trials will be held quickly and fairly
- To stop unfair taxes
- Not to ask for extra taxes without consulting a council of church leaders and landowners (known as the Great Council)
- To let merchants travel around the country to buy and sell without having to pay large taxes
- That the 25 barons will be elected by other barons to make sure that I follow this agreement'



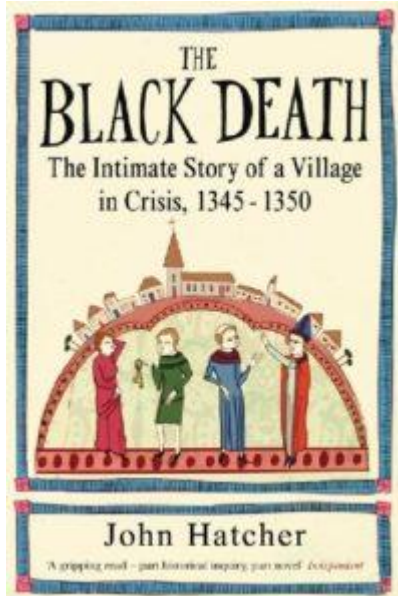
Knowledge organiser: Did rats and rebels change people's lives completely?

Walsham-le-Willows:

Walsham was a typical medieval village located in Suffolk.

The Black Death arrived in England in the summer of 1348.

The name given to this disease by the people at the time was 'the pestilence'.



The effects of the Plague:

By the end of 1350, nearly two and a half million people had died of the Black Death out of a population of roughly six million.

In Leicester, 700 people died in a single parish within days.

When the first wave of the plague hit London, 300 people died every day within a square mile of the city.

People who caught the Black Death felt tired and discovered painful swellings called buboes in their armpits and groins.

In many places, they dug deep pits and buried bodies together.



Ideas about causes and treatments:

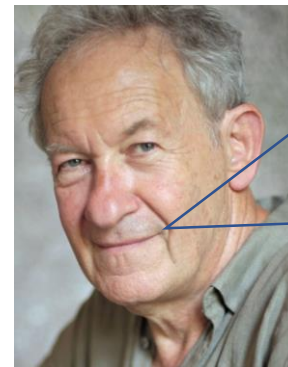
Historians are not completely certain what the Black Death was, but it was probably bubonic plague. This disease is carried by rats and spread by fleas.

Medieval people did not understand what caused the plague.

Medieval people believed God had sent the plague as a punishment for their sins.

Medieval people tried a variety of treatments; these included praying to God, whipping themselves, drawing out the poison from the buboes and cleaning the streets.

Most people just tried to avoid those who were suffering from the plague.



"Whether the Black Death was the prime cause of a great rural transformation or whether it merely completed a process that had been underway for generations, the countryside of late medieval Britain was unquestionably an irreversibly altered world."

Simon Schama

Key terms used in this unit:

The Black Death: One of the most devastating epidemics of plague resulting in the deaths of an estimated 75 to 200 million people and peaking in Europe in the years 1348-50.

Pestilence: a name used at the time to describe the plague.

Buboes: painful pus-filled swellings in the armpits and groin.

Bubonic Plague: an infectious disease which is believed to be the cause of the Black Death that swept through Europe in the 14th Century.

Flagellation: a medieval practice of whipping yourself to show God you are sorry for your sins.

Knowledge organiser: Did rats and rebels change people's lives completely?

The causes and course of the Peasants' Revolt:

The Statute of Labourers was passed by King Edward III in 1351 keeping wages the same as before the Black Death.

A new poll tax was introduced in 1381, which was three times higher than the last one in 1379, and tax collectors were sent into villages to collect it.

The war being fought between England and France was going badly for King Richard II.

The king's advisors, Simon of Sudbury, John of Gaunt and Robert Hales were very unpopular.

Wat Tyler led thousands of rebels from Essex, Kent and other counties in a march to London where they looted and set fire to the Palace of Savoy, John of Gaunt's residence.

King Richard met Wat Tyler and the mob and he agreed to the rebels' demand to set the villeins free and lower the poll tax, but Tyler asked for a signed promise.

The Tower of London was attacked; Robert Hales and Simon of Sudbury were beheaded and their heads were put on spikes on London Bridge.

When King Richard met Wat Tyler the next day a quarrel broke out and Tyler was killed. King Richard promised the rebels he would give them what they wanted if they went home. The demands were never granted.

The king quickly raised an army to catch the rebels; as many as 1500 rebel leaders were hanged.



The consequences of the Peasants' Revolt:

In the years after 1381 no further efforts were made by the government to collect the hated poll tax.

Wages for peasants slowly began to rise; by 1391 the government had given up trying to control wages. Peasants became better off. They rebuilt their homes making them bigger and more comfortable.

Peasants could afford to eat more meat and began to wear more colourful clothes. The Black Death had led to a shortage of workers; this meant that lords could not keep demanding that people work for no pay and they could no longer stop them leaving the village.

By 1500, there were no more villeins and all labourers were free.

The impact of the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt:

Changes:

After the Black Death there were far fewer people to work in the fields and eventually this led to higher wages and ordinary people having more money to spend.

By the 1500s everyone was free and people could move around the country to find higher-paid work.

The lords could no longer control people's everyday lives.

There were more opportunities for women to do 'men's work' as there were not enough workers after the Black Death. Women also married at a later age and chose their own husbands.

Continuities:

Life expectancy was still much shorter than it is today (50 was a good age!) and infant mortality was high (one in five babies died before their first birthday). The population of England remained around 2 million in the 1400s. The population had fallen from around six million before the Black Death.

Nobody understood that bacteria caused disease and people continued to believe God sent disease.

Nearly everyone still worked as farmers and relied on a good harvest to survive.

Key terms used in this unit:

Revolt: a violent protest against people in authority.

Poll tax: a tax where everyone pays the same – lords and villagers.

The Statute of Labourers: a law passed in 1351 that kept wages the same as before the Black Death.

"Dissatisfaction with the government, especially with the administration of the law, was bound up with resentment against landlords. The outbreak of a major revolt came when the poll tax provided the whole region with a single common grievance."

Christopher Dyer

Knowledge organiser: Why was there a Religious Rollercoaster in Tudor England?

Who were the Tudors?

There were five Tudor monarchs (Tudor is their family name).

Henry VIII had six wives; '*divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived*'.

An important event that took place at this time was the English Reformation – this was a big religious change when Henry VIII broke away from the Pope in Rome (Catholic Church) and formed an independent Church of England (Protestant Church).

At this time, the people living in a country were expected to follow the religion of the king or queen.

Edward was the youngest of Henry's children, but he became king before his sisters as he was the only boy. He was only 9 when we became king! He officially changed the religion in England to Protestant.

Edward wanted his Protestant cousin, Lady Jane Grey, to become queen after him, instead of his Catholic sister Mary. Lady Jane Grey is known as the '9-day queen' because Mary beheaded her to take the throne for herself.

Mary I is also known as Bloody Mary because she ordered the killing of lots of Protestants during her reign.

Elizabeth I is also known as the Virgin Queen because she never married and did not have children; when she died it was the end of the Tudor dynasty.

Elizabeth I faced a Spanish invasion by the Spanish Armada, but the Armada was destroyed.

Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh were famous explorers in the 16th century and William Shakespeare was a famous playwright during Elizabeth's reign.



How is time divided?

BC – Before Christ

BCE – Before Common Era

AD – Anno Domini

Decade – 10 years

Century – 100 years

Millennium – 1000 years



When finding out which year is in which century, cover up the last two numbers in the year and then add one to the first two numbers. For example, 1562 is in the sixteenth century (cover up the 62 and add 1 to 15 to make 16).



Who were the Tudors?

Henry VII (1485-1509)

Henry VIII (1509-1547)

Edward VI (1547-1553)

Mary I (1553-1558)

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

Key terms used in this unit:

Tudor Dynasty – the years between 1485 and 1603 when England was ruled by the Tudor family.

Reformation – a time of big religious change in Europe when Christianity broke into two rival groups, the Catholics and the Protestants, causing lots of conflict and war.

Catholicism – the only form of Christianity in Europe before the Reformation. The head of the Catholic Church is the Pope in Rome.

Protestantism – the new form of Christianity that was introduced to Europe in the 16th Century. Protestants get their names from the word 'protest' as they protested about the corruption of the Catholic Church.

Spanish Armada – the Spanish navy that unsuccessfully attempted an invasion of England in 1588.

Knowledge organiser: Why was there a Religious Rollercoaster in Tudor England?

What was the Reformation?

Catholic Churches are highly decorated with statues and symbols of the Virgin Mary and the Saints, who Catholics pray to as they believe they will act as a go-between with God. There is a Rood Screen, which separates the clergy from the laity. The priest wears highly-decorated robes to show his important status. At this time all Catholic services were in Latin, as was the Bible.

Protestant Churches are very plain with the Ten Commandments and important prayers pinned on the wall. The clergy are not separate from the laity and there is a pulpit in a prominent position for the minister to preach to the congregation. The minister wears plain robes and the Bible is in English, so it is easier for people to read themselves.

At the beginning of the Tudor period, Catholicism was the only form of Christianity in Europe.

In Tudor times, everyone believed in God. They used religion to explain things they did not understand, and they believed that heaven and hell were real places. If you led a good life on earth and prayed regularly, then you would probably go to heaven when you died. If you were a bad person who committed crimes and did not go to church regularly, then you would probably end up in hell.

By 1500, there were more books and leaflets being printed and circulated because of the invention of the printing press in the 1450s. Some of these books were about religion; some people started to criticise the Catholic Church as they believed it had become corrupt. Their criticisms included that the Catholic Church had become too rich; not all priests were leading 'holy' lives; ordinary people struggled to understand the Latin church services; and only rich people could afford to buy 'indulgences', which people believed helped them to get to heaven. In 1517, a German monk called Martin Luther wrote out a long list of criticisms of the Catholic Church and nailed it to his local church door. Luther wanted the Catholic Church to change and soon his ideas and beliefs spread across Europe. By 1529, the followers were known as Protestants because they '*protested*' against the Catholic Church.

Now there were two religious groups in Europe who believed in a Christian version of God - the Catholics and the Protestants. However, both wanted to worship God in different ways and they often came into conflict with each other. This period of religious change is called the '*Reformation*'.



Why was there a 'religious rollercoaster' in Tudor England?

Each of the Tudor monarchs had a different approach to religion. This meant that there was constant religious change in England throughout the Tudor period as the people of England were expected to worship in the same way as the monarch.

At the start of Henry's reign England was Catholic. He broke from the Catholic Church in Rome because the Pope refused to give him a divorce. Henry established the Church of England and made himself the head of the Church. This was the beginning of the English Reformation and Protestantism grew in England. However, despite being the head of the Church, Henry never became a Protestant himself.

Edward VI was brought up as a strict Protestant and he made the country officially Protestant. All Bibles were printed in English and services were in English. Churches were very plain with white walls and simple furniture. The people of England would have seen more religious change during Edward's reign than Henry's. Edward wanted his Protestant cousin, Lady Jane Grey, to become queen when he died.

After Edward's death, Mary came to the throne and reversed all the religious changes that had previously happened. In 1554, the country was officially reunited with Rome. She restored the rule of the Pope, brought Latin Bibles and services back and married the Catholic Prince Philip of Spain. She earned her nickname 'Bloody Mary' by ordering Protestants to be burned to death.

Elizabeth came to the throne after all the religious upheaval that had taken place under Edward and Mary. Although Elizabeth was officially Protestant and she made England Protestant again, she was more tolerant of Catholics and she tried to establish a '*middle way*' which would combine parts of the old Catholic Church with the new Protestant Church, to end the religious struggles. Her ideas were known as her '*Religious Settlement*' and although there was some resistance to these changes on both sides, most English people felt happier that the religious changes were settling down.

Elizabeth I was brought up a Protestant. She realised that religion had caused a lot of problems for England. She tried to find a '*middle way*' that both Catholics and Protestants could accept:



Key terms used in this unit:

Rood Screen – this is a screen used in a Catholic church to separate the clergy from the laity.

Clergy – those that work for the Church.

Laity – the ordinary people.

Pulpit – where a minister in a Protestant church stands to preach to the congregation from a higher position.

Indulgences – these were sold by the Catholic Church to people who believed it would speed up their entry to heaven.

Middle way – this was Elizabeth's approach to try and reach a '*Religious Settlement*' and restore religious stability in England.

What challenges did Elizabeth face at home and *abroad*?

1. How legitimate was Elizabeth I's claim to the throne?

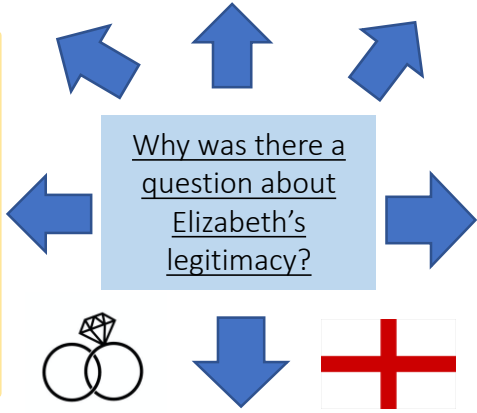
Legitimate = the legal status of a child at birth. A child was "illegitimate if their parents were considered unmarried."

Henry VIII wanted a male heir to the throne because he believed women were unfit to rule alone. This was an accepted and common view in Tudor society.

Her father had called her illegitimate after the death of her mother, although he later passed an act restoring her to the line of succession before he died.

Her mother had also been very unpopular. People had called Anne Boleyn a witch and believed she had seduced Henry VIII.

In the eyes of Catholic's, Henry and Anne's marriage was not lawful, because the Pope had not granted Henry a divorce from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Therefore any of their children (Elizabeth) would be considered illegitimate by Catholics (half of Tudor England's population were still Catholic).



Elizabeth was a Protestant. Mary I was a Catholic. Mary I burned all Protestant at the stake for being *heretics* (the wrong religion). Mary had Elizabeth placed in the tower of London as she knew she was really a Protestant despite going to Catholic Mass and was also fearful that English Protestants might kill her to put Protestant Elizabeth on the throne.

What challenges did Elizabeth I face when she inherited the throne?

- Money** – Elizabeth inherited financial problems. The debt from Mary's reign was £300,000. The Crown's annual income was £285,000.
- Religion** – England was divided over religion, with Catholicism still strong in the north and west in particular.
- Gender** – As a woman, Elizabeth faced those who thought that a woman was unfit to rule England. There was immediate pressure on Elizabeth to **marry** as the 16th century view of women meant that they were viewed as being incapable of ruling alone. **She chose not to marry so her power could not be taken** from her by a husband.
- Wars with France and Scotland** – During the reign of Mary, England had sided with Spain in a war against the French. The war had not gone well and England lost the last territory it held in France of Calais. Scotland was England's traditional enemy. The border between England and Scotland had seen constant fighting and regular raids between the two sides. When Mary I died, Elizabeth's second cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, declared herself the legitimate Catholic claimant to the English throne. She therefore presented herself as a figurehead for disgruntled Catholics. In an added complication, French troops were stationed there meaning a close link between two enemies of England.



Key facts about Elizabeth I:

Elizabeth was born in 1538, the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn.

She was third in line to the Tudor throne after her brother Edward VI, and her sister Mary I.

Elizabeth was crowned Queen in 1558 and ruled for 45 years. Her reign is called a 'Golden Age' by historians. England experienced a great deal of change during her reign. Religion, society, the arts, trade and exploration were all very different by the time of her death.

2. How did Elizabeth use her image to overcome the problems she faced?

- Symbolism** = the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
- Propaganda** = information of a biased nature used to promote a political cause or point of view.
- Portrait** = a painting or photograph of someone. The intent is to display the likeness, personality, and even the mood of the person.
- Divine right** = God has chosen the monarch to rule.

- In the sixteenth century, it would have been very unlikely for an ordinary person to have known what Elizabeth really looked like because they did not have televisions or photography.
- The only people who truly know what Elizabeth looked like would have been those who had a close relationship with her or saw her at court.
- Elizabeth used portraits to cleverly control what the public saw and knew of her, in order to create an image that would impress everyone – friends and enemies alike!
- She used her portraits to make herself look like a powerful ruler who should not be challenged, who had eternal youth and beauty, and loved her people.
- Her portraits were full of **symbolism** that an Elizabethan would have been able to read like a book. The aim of this symbolism was always to maintain Elizabeth's reputation and ensure she was well liked amongst her people – a bit like Instagram today!

- Some common symbols Elizabeth used in her portraits:
- Pearls – to represent peace and purity
 - White – a colour associated with youth and peace
 - Gold – to show off her wealth
 - Hearts – to represent her love for her people
 - Flowers - to emphasise her beauty and a sense of new life brought to England under her reign

"I forbid the showing of any portraits which are ugly!"



The Rainbow Portrait, 1603:

What challenges did Elizabeth face at home and *abroad*?

3. How did Elizabeth deal with threats from Spain?

English Sailor (and pirate) Sir Francis Drake, frequently attacked Spanish ships. In 1587 he and his crew raided a Spanish Port in Cadiz and destroyed 30 Spanish warships. Drake had also previously seized Spanish treasure ships off the west coast of South America, capturing large amounts of Spanish coins and silk.

King Phillip II of Spain had previously been married to Elizabeth's half sister, Mary I. When Mary died, Phillip partly hoped he could be King of England. Phillip proposed marriage to Elizabeth I, but she turned him down.

The Netherlands was under Spanish control. Elizabeth sent English troops to the Netherlands to support the Protestants there who were rebelling Spanish rule.

Why were relations with Spain so poor?

Spain was a Catholic country and Phillip had witnessed how his wife Mary I, had revolutionized religion in England to convert it back to Catholicism after her sibling, Edward VI, encouraged Protestant worship. Phillip did not want to see Elizabeth convert England back to Protestantism. Elizabeth had been excommunicated by the Pope in 1570.

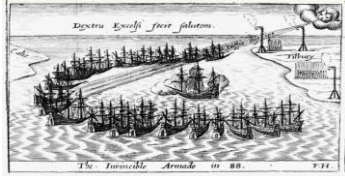
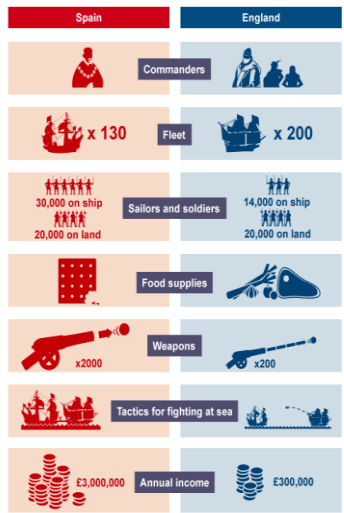
King Phillip II tried to plot with the Catholic Scottish Queen, Mary Queen of Scots (Elizabeth's Cousin) and English Catholics to have Elizabeth murdered (the Babington Plot). This would mean that Mary Queen of Scots would be Queen of England too if the plan had succeeded. Elizabeth found out about the plot and had Mary executed.



War was launched between England and Spain in July 1588.

Why did the Armada fail?

- The Spanish Admiral Medina Sidonia had never commanded the navy before and he suffered from sea sickness.
- The English used fireships to force the Spanish to break their crescent formation.
- The English ships were smaller, lighter and more manoeuvrable than the Spanish ships.
- The Spanish sailed in a crescent formation which made it hard for them to manoeuvre.
- The Spanish guns were poorly designed and this made them difficult to reload.
- The English guns were able to reload quickly and they aimed low and fired between the waterline.
- The Spanish element of surprise had been lost and the English beacons were lit to warn of their arrival.
- The Spanish fleet ran into storms on route to England and this cost them time and supplies.



4. How did Elizabeth deal with threats from Mary Queen of Scots?

- Mary, Queen of Scotland had a troubled past. She was known as a great beauty but had difficulty keeping her husbands.
- Her first husband was the King of France who died in a freak riding accident.
- Her second husband was an English Lord who was strangled and blown up.
- Soon after this, she married the man who was suspected of murdering her second husband.
- The Scots were suspicious of her connection to her second husband's death and some rebelled against her. She was forced to give up her throne and allow her young son James to become King of Scotland.
- In 1568 she ran away to England, perhaps hoping her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I would take pity on her. Mary immediately caused problems for Elizabeth. For a start, Mary was Catholic and she made it known she believed the ruler of England should be a Catholic too and proposed that she should take over from Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth kept Mary prisoner until she could decide what to do with her. In fact, Elizabeth kept her imprisoned in various houses and castles for 19 years.
- Mary tries to marry a powerful English Noble, the Duke of Norfolk who was also a Catholic. Elizabeth discovered the marriage plot and sent the Duke to the Tower of London.
- Two English Earls later tried to free Mary from her imprisonment and to force Elizabeth to name Mary as her successor. Elizabeth found out about this plot.
- A young rich Catholic called Anthony Babington came up with a secret plan to kill Elizabeth. Babington needed to know if Mary liked the idea and sent her a letter in code hidden in a beer barrel. A spy intercepted the letters and took them to Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth had Mary executed in February 1587.