

Box 1: Organisation of medieval society

Feudal system	A hierachical system in which people gave kings and lords money and worked in exchange for protection and/or land
Hierarchy	A system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance
Guild	An organisation that controls how a trade is run

Box 2: People in medieval society

Monarch	Head of State and government (a king or queen) - they make the laws everyone must follow
Lord	A man who owned land and who had power and authority over people
Peasant	A poor person of low social status who worked on the land
Villein	Peasants who were not free to leave the manor and worked for the lord without pay
Freemen	Peasants who rented their land from the lord, worked for themselves and could leave the manor if they wanted.
Artisan	Someone who earns their living from a trade or a craft

Box 3: Medieval medicine

Four Humours	Theory where health depended on the balance of four bodily humours: blood, phlegm, black bile, and yellow bile.
Physician	A person legally qualified to practise medicine
Barber Surgeon	Did surgery of wounds, blood-letting, cupping and leeching, enemas and extracting teeth.
Wise Woman	Often had knowledge of healing which had been passed on from the generations before.

Box 4: Medieval life and beliefs

Diversity	Historians look for similarities and differences in events and situations in the past
Harvest	The gathering of crops (plants grown for eating)
Reeve	A man employed by the lord to oversee the work of the peasants
The Church	The organisation responsible for Christian religious practices and beliefs in England
Priest	The lowest rank of churchman responsible for the day-to-day running of a parish (local) church
Pilgrimage	When someone visited a holy place for religious reasons
Pagan	People who did not believe in Christianity and who many Christians considered to be inferior people

Box 5: The Black Death

Siege of Caffa	In 1346, Mongols catapulted the dead bodies of Black Death victims over the walls of the city
Bubonic Plague	Caused by germs that infect black rats - the disease spread to humans by fleas from the infected rats.
Pneumonic Plague	Spread by coughing and sneezing.
Buboes	Swellings in the groin or under the armpit which were a symptom of the Black Death
Population of England	Around 5 million people in 1300; around 2.5 million people in 1400
The Black Death	Arrived in England in 1348; spread across the whole of England in 1349

Box 6: The Peasants' Revolt, 1381

Magna Carta	The barons forced King John to sign this in 1215 – it gave them important rights
Statute of Labourers	A law passed in 1351 that tried to keep peasants' wages low
Sumptuary Laws	Laws that tried to stop peasants wearing colourful clothes
Poll Tax	A tax introduced by King Richard II where everyone had to pay the same amount.
Revolt	To take violent action against an established government or ruler
Wat Tyler	Led the Peasants Revolt in 1381
Freedom	By 1400, almost all peasants were free and could work for money

Box 7: The Renaissance in the 15th century

Renaissance	A period in the 15th century when people took interest in writing and art from ancient Greece and Rome
Leonardo Da Vinci	One of the greatest artists the world has ever known (also a sculptor, musician, engineer and scientist)
Johannes Gutenberg	Invented a new way of making books, the printing press, in the 1440s
William Caxton	Set up the first printing press in England in 1476 – he printed a wide range of stories, poems, religious texts and information books

Box 8: Religion in the early modern period

Protestants	Christians who protested against the power of the Catholic Church and proposed a new way to practise Christianity
Martin Luther	German priest who published criticisms of the Catholic Church.
Reformation	Religious movement in the 16th century aimed at reforming the Catholic Church
The Break with Rome	In 1534, Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church and named himself Head of the Church of England
Edward I	Under Edward, Henry VIII's son, England became Protestant
Mary	Became queen after Edward and made England Catholic again
Elizabeth I	Became queen after Mary and made England Protestant

Box 9: The Causes of the Civil War

Civil war	A war which is fought between different groups of people in the same country
Parliament	The part of the government which met to pass laws, particularly about taxes
Archbishop	The most powerful bishop in a country who is in charge of all the priests and bishops in that country
Puritan	An extreme Protestant who believed that the Church needed to go through more reforms
Divine Right	The idea that the monarch is chosen by God so challenging their power is a sin against God
Dissolve	To shut down or end an organisation - Charles I dissolved Parliament in 1629
The arrest of the 5 MPs	In January 1642, Charles I tried and failed to arrest the 5 main leaders of Parliament