

History Year 7 Autumn Term 2 'Knowledge Organiser: Medieval England – The power and importance of the Church.



Summary:

In Medieval England the vast **majority of people were illiterate and relied on the Church** for all parts of their lives. People believed that the Church was the only way to everlasting life and that hell meant everlasting punishment and pain. **Life was hard and often short.** At the time people feared death because there was so much disease.

The Church owned large amounts of land making it rich and powerful. The Church employed lots of people to run the churches and also the monasteries. Here, books would be translated as the monks could read and write and they would provide medical care for the sick. **The King and the Church usually worked well together,** the Archbishop acted as a key adviser to the King. In the 12th century the **Church and King came into conflict because Henry II wanted more control,** especially over the Church courts. This conflict resulted in the murder of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Timeline:

1154	Henry II inherits the throne. Appoints Thomas Becket as his Chancellor. They become good friends.
1161	Henry appoints Becket as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket was asked by Henry to make the church courts fairer as they favoured churchmen. Becket refused making Henry angry.
1164	Constitutions of Clarendon. Henry's attempt to limit the power of the Church courts and the Pope in England. Becket was angry and fled to France.
June 1170	Henry ordered the Archbishop of York was to crown the next King – Becket was angry.
November 1170	Becket returned friends with Henry and set about removing his supporters from the Church. Henry was angry, "Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?!!!"
December 1170	Four of Henry II's knights responded and went to Canterbury Cathedral. Thomas Becket was murdered!

Key Words.

Archbishop	Highest representative in the country of the Catholic Church.
Chancellor	Key position in the King's court and ruling body. Looks after the church and the Kings' law courts.
Church Courts	Dealt with all religious crimes and matters. Not the King's Court.
Civil War	A war between two sides on the same country.
Doom Painting	Paintings in a Church that show Heaven and Hell.
Excommunicate	Officially stopping someone from being recognised by and involved with the Catholic Church.
Illiterate	Unable to read or write.
Martyr	Someone who gives up their life for their beliefs.
Monk/Nun	Man/Woman who devotes their life to the Church.
Parishioner	A member of the church
Priest	A minister of the Church who carries out the services.
Religious Order	A group who live apart from others to follow their religious beliefs
Traitor	A person who betrays someone or something.
Treason	A crime of disloyalty to the Crown, punishable by death.

Key terms.

Roman Catholic Church	The largest Christian Church. Key religion in Medieval England up until 1534.
Chronology	Time order. The century is one more than the decades – 1100s = 12 th century.

Key people.

Henry II	King of England from 1154 to 1189. A very strong character, determined and forceful temper. He controlled huge parts of France as well as England.
Thomas Becket	Chancellor in 1155 as close friend of Henry II. Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162.
Pope	Head of the Roman Catholic Church

Concept: Cause and Effect