Knowledge Organiser for the Dark Ages and Medieval England (410 - 1199 AD)

Overview

This unit will teach you how British society and religion developed through the Dark Ages up to the end of the reign of King Richard I. You will find out about how the Normans took control of England and transformed it into a new hierarchy, with the Normans at the top and the Anglo-Saxons at the bottom. It will teach you about the importance of religion and the power of the Church. You will also learn all about the Crusades...

Key figures









William 1

Becke¹



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Key questions

- How significant were the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to the development of Britain?
- Why were there challenges to the throne in 1066 and why did William win the Battle of Hastings in 1066?
- How did William take control of England after 1066 using the Feudal System and castles?
- What can we learn about the power and effectiveness of medieval kings from the reigns of Stephen, Henry II, and Richard I?
- Why was Thomas Becket murdered?
- Why was there a call to crusade in 1095?
- Why was Jerusalem so important to the three Abrahamic religions?
- Why were the Crusades fought and how important were they?

Timeline

43 - 410 AD Roman England

450 - 1015 Anglo - Saxon England

1015-1043 Viking England

1043 – 1066 Edward the Confessor's Saxon England

1066 Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings

1095 The call to Crusade

1099 End of first Crusade, Fall of Jerusalem to the Christians and massacre of Jews and Muslims

1135 – 1154 The reign of king Stephen, the Anarchy (1136-1152) and Second Crusade (1147-1150)

1154 – 1189 The reign of Henry II (Becket killed in 1170)

1189 – 1199 The reign of Richard I, the reclamation of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1187 and the 3rd Crusade (1189-1192)

Key words

Chronology – Organising events into date order

BC / AD, BCE / CE - Before Christ / Anno Domini, Before Common Era / Common Era

Legacy – Lasting impact of a person, group of people, event or era

Dark Ages – The period between the end of Roman England (410AD) and the beginning of Norman England (1066)

Normans – People from northern France who conquered England in 1066 at Hastings

Shield wall – The main battle tactic used by the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings

Fyrd – regular soldiers of the Anglo-Saxons

Housecarls – Elite warrior soldiers of the Anglo-Saxons

Feudal System – The hierarchy imposed by William I with Normans controlling all the power

Motte and Bailey – Wooden castles built by Normans to control the English, eventually replaced with stone keeps castles

Siege – A way of attacking a castle by starving an enemy rather than attacking it

Boon Work – Compulsory work peasants did for a Lord

Chancellor - Chief advisor to the King

Archbishop of Canterbury – Most important Church official

Church courts – Courts created by William I only for clergy (churchmen)

Crusades – a Christian versus Muslim religious war over Jerusalem