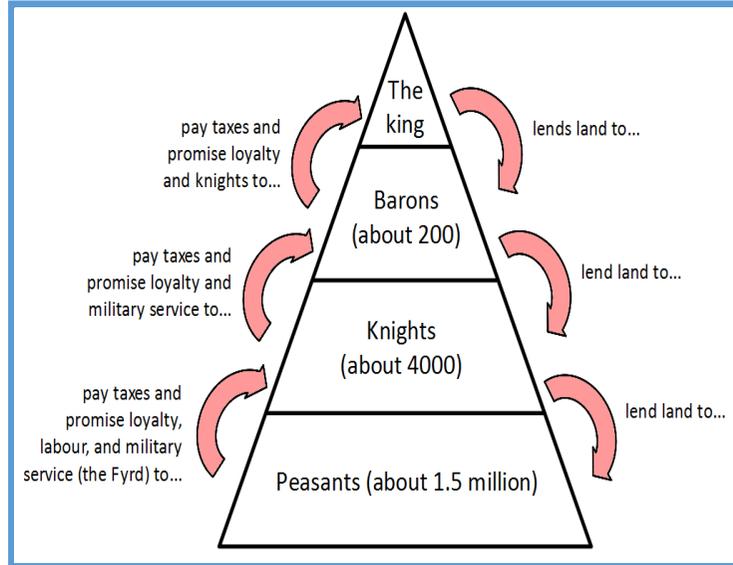


Key Dates:

- 1070's** - Bayeux Tapestry completed.
- 1086** - Domesday book (first draft completed).
- 1096** - Pope Urban II (launched First Crusade), anyone who went would automatically go to heaven.
- 1170** - Thomas Beckett is murdered at Canterbury Cathedral
- 1346 - 1353** - The Black Death, a deadly disease which killed between 75 and 200 million people.
- 1381** - The Peasants revolt in southern England.



By the end of this Half Term I should know:

- How William the Conqueror changed the way England was governed.
- The reasons why William wanted to carry out this great (Domesday) survey.
- Why the Crusades were so important to the church and what Christendom gained from them.
- How Thomas Becket was Killed in Canterbury Cathedral.
- How the plague was able to kill so many people and how the people thought it was spread.
- How the king and the authorities acted towards people after the plague.

Key Terms: William the Conqueror: King of England (1066 until his death in 1087).

Domesday Book: A book which listed all of the property and its worth in England.

Feudal system: king owned all the land and lends it to others in return for loyalty.

Christendom: Countries which officially follow Christianity as a religion.

Thomas Beckett: Chancellor until 1162, when he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

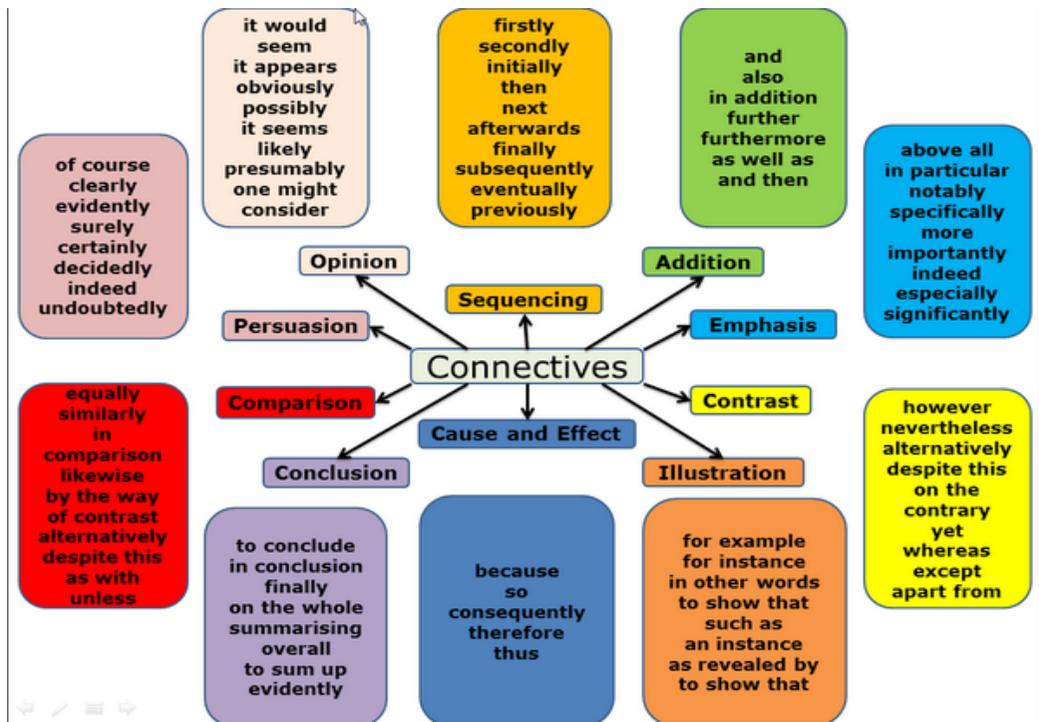
Buboes: Large swellings

Exile: When you ban someone from an area or the country which they come from.

The Holy Land: An area in the Middle East which is important to Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Crusades: A series of wars between 1096 and 1291, between Christian and Muslims.

Wat Tyler: Leader of the 1381 Peasants' Revolt in England. He marched a group of rebels from Canterbury to the capital to oppose the poll tax.





KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 4 - Medieval England



William controls England (The Feudal System): Different groups of people have different roles and responsibilities. The higher up the system, the less people there are but the more responsibility they have. William was king but he could not run the country on his own. He needed other people to help him in return for giving them land and power. This was the feudal system. The barons received land from William. These estates were given in return for their support and service. One of their jobs was to supply knights to William's army. The knights received land from the barons in return for their promise to serve in William's army for 40 days a year. The peasants gained little from the feudal system. They worked on the land and paid taxes.

William controls England (Domesday): The Domesday Book was a huge land survey, commissioned by William (December 1085) to assess the extent of land and resources available in England. This helped him work out how much taxes he could demand from the people. The information was collected and recorded by hand in two huge books over the space of a year. These were extensive records of landholders, tenants, the amount of land they owned, the amounts of woodland, meadow, animals, fish and ploughs, churches, mills, ponds etc. Just like Judgement Day (Doom's Day), no one could argue with the Domesday Book.

Medieval Religion (Crusades): There has been conflict and violence in the region called the Holy Land for a long time. This is because it is an important religious place for three different religions; Islam, Judaism and Christianity. In 1095, Pope Urban II called people to go on a crusade to take back the Holy Land. He inspired kings, knights, soldiers and an army of children to fight. The crusaders brought back with them new ideas about building castles, developing and improving weapons, carpets which were hung on walls as well as floors, sugar, rice, apricots, cotton and Classical Greek and Roman learning.

Medieval Religion (Thomas Becket): Henry II became King of England in 1133. He was frustrated that he did not have absolute power in England because he could not control the Church courts. Henry appointed his best friend Thomas Becket to be the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. He hoped that Becket would make the Church courts do what he wanted. However, Becket became very religious and sided with the church, refusing to do as Henry wanted. The two argued many times which led to Henry shouting, 'Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?', Four knights acted on this and murdered Becket.

Medieval Life (The Black Death): The Black Death spread throughout England between 1347 and 1350, and killed between a third to a half of the people (nearly 2.5 million). No one knew how this disease spread which caused much fear and suspicion. Whole villages were abandoned as people fled their homes, often taking the plague with them and spreading it further. The most common beliefs about the spread of the plague were: evil planets Mars and Saturn had moved closer together turning the air bad, God sent the plague because he is angry with sinners who had spent too much time gambling and drinking, or the plague was passed from person to person. Plague sores gave off a terrible smell. If this was breathed in you would catch the plague.

Medieval Life (The Peasant's Revolt): After the horrors of the Black Death, England started to rebuild itself. The peasants found that gradually conditions were improving, there was more food to go around. Lords were desperate for workers and found themselves having to pay higher wages to get people to work in their fields. This led to demands for everything go back to the way it was before the Black Death. Wat Tyler and John Ball preached to the peasants about equality and fairness. They led a group of peasants and marched on London to speak to the King. The king agreed to their terms however, after the meeting he went back on his word and Wat Tyler and other leaders were beheaded. Their heads were put on spikes at London Bridge.