



# THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT MEDIEVAL KINGS ACTIVITY



During Year 7 you will learn all about the history of England from 1066 to 1601. One of the units you will study will focus on medieval kings. Read the fact cards and answer the questions in the grid below.

Once you have answered all of the questions we would like you to take part in our History Department competition – the details can be found at the end of the powerpoint.

<b>Question 1: Who was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170?</b>	<b>Question 2: Which king died in suspicious circumstances in 1100?</b>	<b>Question 3: What did William I see when he arrived in Exeter in 1068?</b>
<b>Question 4: What was the name of Henry II's favourite jester?</b>	<b>Question 5: How did King John die in 1216?</b>	<b>Question 6: What happened at a medieval banquet?</b>

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# Fact Card 1

In December 1170 four of King Henry II's knights murdered Thomas Becket, The Archbishop of Canterbury, in Canterbury Cathedral.

They attacked Thomas Becket with their swords chopping off the top of his head. The Archbishop's brains were splattered all over the cathedral floor.

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## Fact Card 2

King William II was killed whilst hunting in the New Forest in 1170. An arrow hit him in the chest and his body was left abandoned in the forest. To this day nobody knows if this was murder or just a hunting accident.

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## Fact Card 3

Many Englishmen did not like their new king William of Normandy. William had become the King of England after defeating Harold at the Battle of Hastings but he was French and not English. When William visited Exeter in 1068 an Englishman bared his bottom over the walls of the city as an insult to the new king!

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## Fact Card 4

Medieval Kings held lavish banquets with lots of food and entertainment. They hired jesters, acrobats, dancers and actors to put on plays or read poetry. Henry II's favourite jester was called Roland le Farter. His only job was to entertain the king at Christmas by performing one jump, one whistle and one fart!

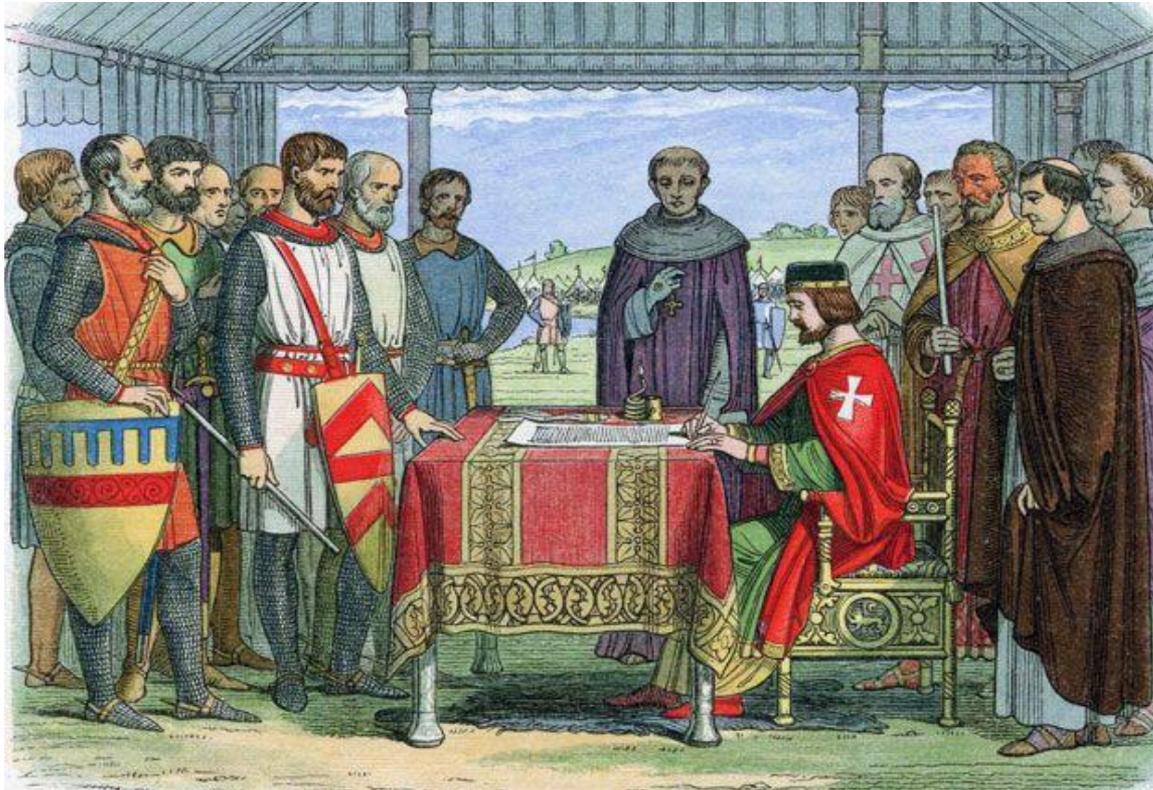


## Fact Card 5

King John died in 1216. He was suffering from a disease called Dysentery which was caused by over-eating and drinking too much – but this didn't stop him from being greedy! He died on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1216 after eating too many peaches and drinking too much cider.

# History Department Competition

In 1215 King John faced a rebellion from his barons. The rich and powerful men of England were angry with the king for losing wars, taking too much money from them in taxes and ignoring their advice. The barons forced King John to sign a document called **Magna Carta** on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1215.



Do some of your own research to find out more about Magna Carta. Design your own poster explaining what Magna Carta said and why it was important. Take a picture of your poster or design your poster on the computer and email it along with your name and address to Miss Hall from the History Department at [hall.j@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:hall.j@thecoleshillschool.org) by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021– The History department will judge the entries and decide on 3 winners who will be notified by post – prizes will be awarded in September!