

Knowledge organiser

Major monarchs	
William (the Conqueror) 1066–1087	A Norman (French) duke who defeated the English King Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings
Henry II 1154–1189	Ruled much of France as well as England, Wales and Scotland; partly responsible for the murder of Thomas Becket
Richard I (the Lionheart) 1189–1199	Led several Crusades in the Middle East. Only spent six months of his ten-year reign in England
John 1199–1216	Unsuccessful in battles and forced to sign the Magna Carta

Vocabulary	
Baron	A noble who owned land, which would be worked by peasants
Clergy	Members of the Church
Crusades	A series of European military campaigns to recover the Holy Land from the Muslims in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries
Ecclesiastical	Related to the Church; ecclesiastical courts were special courts where members of the clergy were put on trial for crimes
Feudal system	A social system in which peasants rented and worked land belonging to nobles in exchange for loyalty
Knights	Warriors who protected the barons' land and fought for the monarch in times of war
Magna Carta	Literally the 'Great Charter', this document set out certain rights, for barons and the Church, and forced the monarch to follow the law
Monarch	A king or queen
Peasants	The poorest people in medieval England, usually farmers
Successor	Someone who will take over the throne when a monarch dies

Important people	
Harold Godwinson	Was crowned king in 1066, but only ruled for ten months before he was defeated by William at the Battle of Hastings
Harald Hardrada	Another contender for the English throne in 1066; he was defeated by Harold Godwinson
The Pope	The head of the Church: an extremely powerful figure who could (in theory) command the monarch
Thomas Becket	Chancellor (advisor) to Henry II before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162; murdered in 1170 after a long conflict with Henry
Saladin	Sultan of Egypt and Syria, and a great military leader who commanded the Muslim armies that Richard I fought against in the Third Crusade