

HIAS Primary History post-1066 resources.

Enquiry 2: What does the story of Licoricia of Winchester reveal about the medieval world?

Step 2

Team name (optional)

Do you know where this is? Has anyone visited it?



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Our enquiry question

What does the story of Licoricia of Winchester reveal about the Medieval world?

Step 2

We are going to read the next part of the story to find out what problems people faced in the medieval period.

Let's find out how Licoricia ended up here at the Tower of London!

Step 2

Look out for examples of problems and dangers that people faced in the medieval period.

Write a **D** next to any dangers people face

It's the next morning
and Licoricia has
been summoned to
the Great Hall at
Winchester castle

Lets read p7-8 of the
Licoricia story
booklet to find out
what happens.

The Prisoner

Remembering
London in 1244



- 1 Licoricia can see Winchester castle looming over the city in the
- 2 morning light as she peers nervously from her carriage. The wheels clatter loudly on the
- 3 street cobbles on the way to see the king. The sight of the heavily guarded towers are a painful
- 4 reminder of her frightening ordeal 2 years ago. Little Asher was only 2 years old that unforgettable
- 5 February. Licoricia was devastated by the sudden death of her husband David. When this news
- 6 reached the king he ordered that Licoricia be taken to the Tower of London as his prisoner. Locked
- 7 away from her young son and family, she felt close to **despair**. She knew what would happen next.
- 8 The king would take as much of their property and money as he wanted. Would the king take her
- 9 home? Licoricia knows how, like the spin of the dreidel, her people could win or lose everything to
- 10 the king, if he chose to take it. Henry III knew that English people who were Jewish and everything
- 11 they owned were his. If a Jewish person died, it was another opportunity to take what he wanted.
- 12 Licoricia was afraid. Would she be safe? Licoricia closed her eyes and prayed.

Step 2

Look out for examples of problems and dangers that people faced in the medieval period.

Write a **D** next to any dangers people face

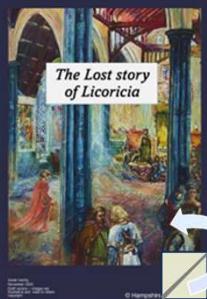
13 **Licoricia was locked in the Tower for months** while the king ordered the
14 study of all the royal records on David's business. They were kept locked in large **archa** chests in
15 the King's castles around the country. All records of Jewish property and business loans were kept
16 there. She thought back to when she had lost her first husband and had been left with young
17 children to support. She had been educated and could build a business of her own. She was
18 grateful for the Jewish tradition of teaching both boys and girls. It had been hard but she had
19 been successful, even before meeting David. She felt determined. If she had to she would
20 begin again. Her children and her community were depending on her.

21 **At long last, Licoricia was set free and heard the king's decision.** He would take their main
22 home in Oxford and she had to pay the enormous sum of 5000 marks. This was about the same
23 amount that a rich Earl could expect to make in a year! She also had to pay a massive sum
24 towards the building of a new extravagant shrine to Henry's favourite saint
25 Edward the Confessor for Westminster Abbey in London and had to make extra payments every
26 year. But he allowed Licoricia to keep the rest of the business. The king knew that she was a
27 successful businesswoman and she would make money he could take in the future.

28 **Licoricia had narrowly escaped total disaster.** The king's grandfather had taken everything
29 when Aaron of Lincoln had died. She was relieved to be going back home. The king now expected
30 Licoricia to take her husband's place to be his financier. She would have to be brave because any
31 wrong move would mean he could take all she owned. even her life. This new role put her in great
32 danger. At least she would be in a better position to speak up for her Jewish community.

33 **The carriage jolts as it stops at the castle gates** bringing Licoricia's thoughts
34 back to the present. The king was waiting!



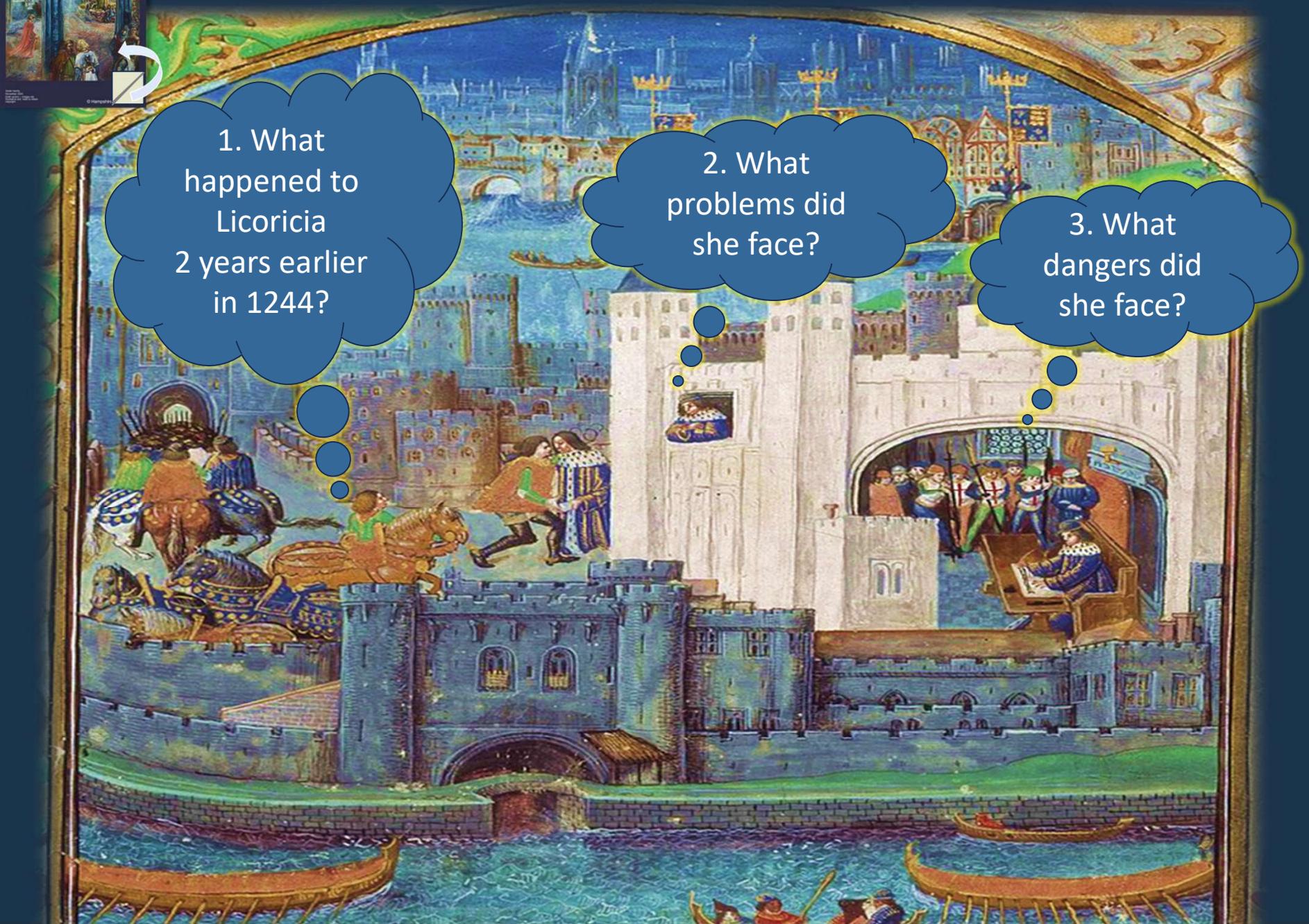


Let's get inside the story and think!

1. What happened to Licoricia 2 years earlier in 1244?

2. What problems did she face?

3. What dangers did she face?



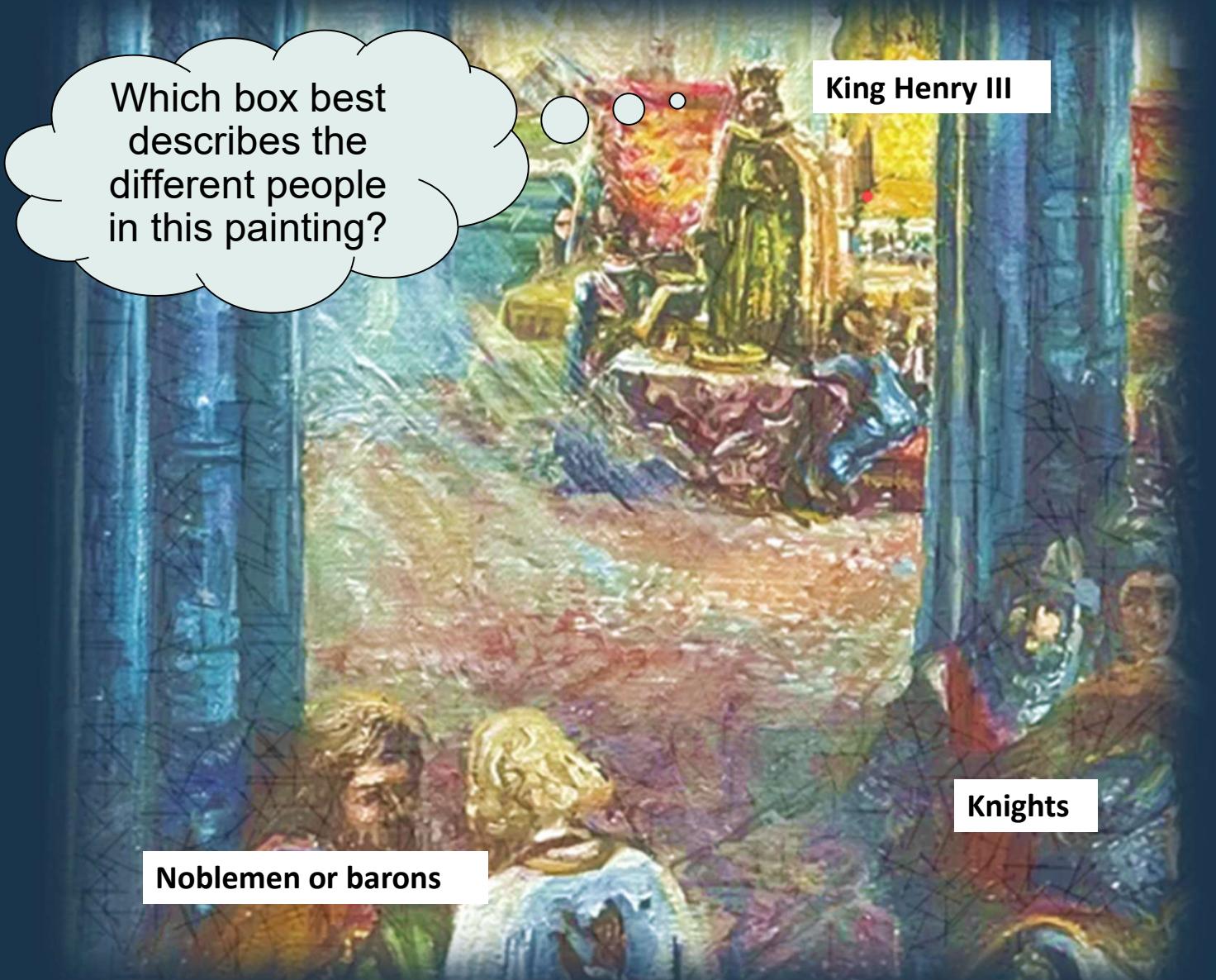
What do you know about the people in the Great Hall?

a) Skilled fighters on horseback who fought to defend the kingdom and empire for the king. They also worked for noblemen.

b) Ruler of the kingdom. He kept control and made new laws. He fought to defend his lands and increase his empire. He needed a son who would succeed his throne peacefully.

c) Advisers to the king who helped to provide taxes and knights for the army. They had their own knights and collected money from their lands

Which box best describes the different people in this painting?



Step 2

Look out for examples of problems and dangers that people faced in the medieval period.



Next to the line number write a:

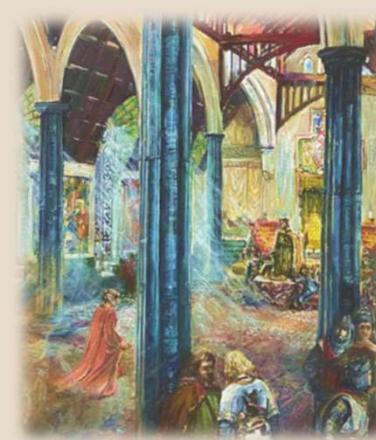
P next to problems you spot

D next to any dangers people face

Licoricia has arrived at Winchester Castle's great hall to see the king

Tallage is a special tax ordered from Jewish people whenever the King wanted

Let's read p9-10 of the Licoricia story booklet to find out what happens.



An audience with the king

December 1246, The Great Hall

Winchester Castle



- 1 Sunlight streams through the large windows of the Great Hall.
- 2 It sheds light on the majestic stone arches that reach high up to the wooden beams overhead.
- 3 The King's crown and throne shine radiantly, as if reminding visitors of the belief that God had
- 4 given the king his power to rule. Licoricia also looks impressive in her finest red tunic and
- 5 matching velvet cloak but inside she is full of fear. What did the king want? She knew that her
- 6 Jewish community was counting on her to speak up for their families. Many would be forced into
- 7 poverty and starvation if there was another tallage.

- 8 King Henry is impatient to speak with Licoricia. He needs to pay to defend
- 9 lands in France. He demands that Licoricia finds the money from the Jewish community.
- 10 Licoricia gasps. She knows she has no choice. The Jewish community would be imprisoned or
- 11 worse if this money was not found. How would she tell her community about this dreadful news
- 12 when many were already facing starvation? She put up a strong defence, arguing that the Jewish
- 13 community could not afford this without great suffering. She reminded him that if he took too
- 14 much from them there would be no more to give in the future. But it was no use. Henry's mind
- 15 was made up. He tells Licoricia he needs the job done quickly as he is rushing back to London in
- 16 icy January to celebrate Edward the Confessor's feast on the 12th day of Christmas.

- 17 'I will not miss the Confessor's Feast, you must make haste!'
- 18 exclaims Henry. Licoricia knows he is building a shrine to Saint Edward at Westminster Abbey.
- 19 She has been taught the history of Edward the Confessor. The death of this Anglo-Saxon king
- 20 sparked the battle for the English throne when the **Normans** had invaded. She wondered if Henry
- 21 had forgotten that both Licoricia and King Henry's **ancestors** had settled in Norman England from Northern France 200 years ago. It is why everyone speaks French at the king's court.

Step 2

Look out for examples of problems and dangers that people faced in the medieval period.

Next to the line number write a:



P next to problems you spot

D next to any dangers people face

Civil war is a war between 2 groups in the same country.

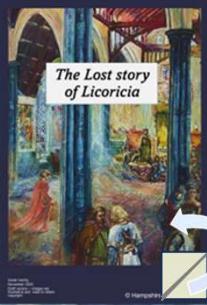


22 **As she is leaving, Licoricia notices the light glinting off the armour of a group of barons and knights behind a pillar. She recognises one of them as the king's brother-in-law, Simon de Montfort. As she walks closer, she overhears his complaints about the king having favourites. She overhears him say that some of the barons are getting more than their fair share of land and power. Licoricia suspects he is thinking he would make a better king than Henry. **Civil war** was never far away. Seeing Licoricia, Simon de Montfort's eyes narrow as he whispers to those in his group. She suspects he is criticising the king for having a Jewish woman working with him when she had not **converted** to Christianity.**

30 **Licoricia knows barons who turn against the king are dangerous.**
31 When King Henry III was just a boy in 1215, rebellious barons had captured Winchester and
32 London and offered the English throne to the French Prince. Many Jewish homes were attacked as
33 Jews were seen as the king's servants. Henry gave in to the barons' demands and ended the war.

34 **Licoricia is met by the Bishop of Winchester as she walks towards the large wooden doors. He reminds her that the next payment to avoid wearing the **Jewish badge** is due. Wearing the badge puts Licoricia and other Jewish people at risk of ill-treatment. Licoricia wonders why the Christian king and Church bishop seem to ignore Jewish and Christian teaching to '*Love your neighbour as yourself*' when it comes to Jewish people.**

39 **The king is boasting that he is planning to go on Crusade** at the request of the Pope. He is persuading others to fight with him against Turkish Muslims to gain control of the holy city of Jerusalem. The teaching of the Church meant that any person with different beliefs was seen as a threat but Licoricia is worried these wars meant they now see them as enemies. Jewish people in many cities had been murdered because of the Crusades. Would she be able to keep her family safe?



Let's get inside the story and think!

1. What problems and dangers were the Jewish community facing?

2. What problems and dangers did Licoricia face?

3. What problem does the king have?

4. Why are Earl Simon de Montfort and the barons a danger to the king?

5. What have we found out from Henry about Christian beliefs?

Interesting fact!

When Henry became king as a child, the barons had **rebelled** against his father, King John in a **civil war**! They wanted to limit the king's power. They forced John to sign a charter of demands called the **Magna Carta**. Henry III signed it again when he became king to get the barons to be loyal to him.

Going deeper. What were saints?

The Church made some people **saints** after they died. People **prayed** to them for help and tried to follow their example. They visited their special places called **shrines** on special journeys called **pilgrimages**.

Did you spot this?

The Jewish population were part of the **migration** of Normans from France after they invaded about 200 years earlier and they still spoke Norman French in England! The local people spoke old English. Today our English is made up of both!

Interesting fact!

A lot of the money taken from David and Licoricia was spent on building a new chapel inside Westminster Abbey in London with a shrine to his favourite saint Edward the Confessor.

You can still see the shrine to Edward the Confessor and the tombs of Henry III and Edward I buried close by.

Jewish tallages and loans also helped to build Westminster Abbey and many churches. Westminster Abbey is where kings and queens are crowned.



Shrine to Edward the Confessor



Henry III's tomb



Edward the Confessor's tomb



Westminster Abbey as it looks today where you can still visit the shrine

Click [here](#) to see what the Abbey looked like originally

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What problems did people face in medieval England?

Choose the person in the picture you think is facing the biggest problems and is in the most danger. Stand in their position so others in the class can guess which person you are.

Be ready to explain what problems you are facing in medieval England and why they are the worst. Use this sheet to plan your answer and standing position. Remember to be precise. Give the details of your problems and dangers you face!

I am

I am facing great problems and I am in great danger.

My biggest problems are....

I feel I am in danger because....



Let's write and draw
what we know.



What does the story of Licoricia tell us about the medieval world in the 13th century?

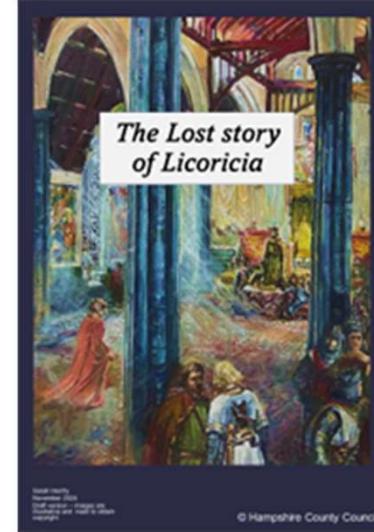
Kingdoms and empires



Towns and cities



Invasions and migration



Jewish and
Christian beliefs



The Church

Power and influence



Hardships and dangers people faced.



Trade and travel



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Page 1, 7-10, 12-13 Painting of Licoricia and Henry III in the Great Hall by Lucille Dweck with kind permission of Licoricia of Winchester Appeal charity, Licoricia.org.

Page 2-4 & 6 Tower of London in the late 15th-century image. It is the earliest surviving non-schematic picture of the Tower by Author of poems is Charles, Duke of Orléans, illustrated is unknown - A manuscript (British Library, MS Royal, 16 folio 73) of poems by Charles, Duke of Orléans (1391–1465) [1]. The original manuscript is held by the British Library. A copy of the image is available on plate 1 of Parnell, Geoffrey (1993), The Tower of London, Batsford, ISBN 978-0713468649.,

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Page 5 The photo of a medieval chest with modern locks at St Peter and St Paul's church Salle Norfolk

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Page 11 Photos with permission of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster: **the tomb of Edward I and the Edward the Confessor shrine**, financed by Licoricia and David of Oxford, © of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey.

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