


HIAS Primary History post-1066 resources.

Enquiry 1: Who had the power in medieval England?

A painting of a forest scene with a large dark blue circle containing a white question mark. The painting is in a style that looks like a reproduction of a classical work, with a focus on the forest and the figures in the foreground. The large circle is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

Who might be
hiding behind
this?

Where
might we
be?

Who might
these
people be?



This painting shows king **Henry III** with his **barons** and **knights**.

He ruled the **kingdom** of England in the **13th century** from 1216-1272.

He is standing in the impressive Great Hall he built at Winchester Castle

Henry III ruled his kingdom, with his **chief advisers**, noblemen and knights.

Kingdom: land ruled by a king or a queen

Noblemen who advised the king and ruled land like **barons** and Church **Bishops**.

Knights were given land by the king to fight on **horseback** for the king or with his barons.



This is a picture of Henry III being crowned by his Bishops



This is the inside of the **Great Hall in Winchester** today.

Power is **control** or
influence over others

It was a place where people with the most **power** met as part of the King's court in Medieval England.

What sort of
power might
different people
have had in
medieval society?

**Our history enquiry
question is:**
Who had the power in medieval
England 1066?

End of the
Stone Age

800 BC

Bronze Age

2500 BC

800 BC

Iron Age

800 BC

43 AD

**Roman
Britain**

43AD

410AD

**Anglo- Saxon
Britain**

450 AD

1066 AD

**Medieval
Britain**

1066 AD 1485 AD

Let's think back to what you have learned!

Who had power in Anglo-Saxon Britain?



Alfred's daughter Aethelflaed ruler of Merica



King Alfred Ruler of Wessex and Mercia.



Before 1066 England was divided into small **kingdoms** ruled by **Anglo-Saxon Kings**.

For example, **King Alfred** ruled Wessex from Winchester. His daughter ruled Mercia as the Lady of Mercians.

Power and land could be lost to invaders from other kingdoms or overseas.

Think. Who invaded Anglo-Saxon England?

End of the Stone Age		Bronze Age		Iron Age		Roman Britain	Anglo- Saxon Britain	Medieval Britain
800 BC		2500 BC		800 BC		43AD 410AD	450 AD 1066 AD	1066 AD 1485 AD

Yes! The Vikings invaded.



The Vikings and the Anglo –Saxons struggled for control of Britain. King Alfred pushed them back to the North and East.

By 954 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms united to defeat the Vikings and become one big Kingdom of England.

When the Anglo-Saxon King **Edward the Confessor** died in 1066, the Vikings invaded again! The Anglo-Saxons defeated them.

How did the Anglo- Saxons lose power in Britain?

Just 3 days later in 1066 Normans invaded from Normandy in France. The Normans won!

William the **Conqueror** became the Norman king of England, William I. The Normans had taken power by **force** and built **castles** to protect their men. The medieval period had begun!



Viking Britain

800 AD 1066 AD

End of the Stone Age

800 BC

Bronze Age

2500 BC

800 BC

Iron Age

800 BC

43 AD

Roman Britain

43AD

410AD

Anglo- Saxon Britain

450 AD

1066 AD

Medieval Britain

1066 AD 1485 AD

Who had the power in Anglo-Saxon society?

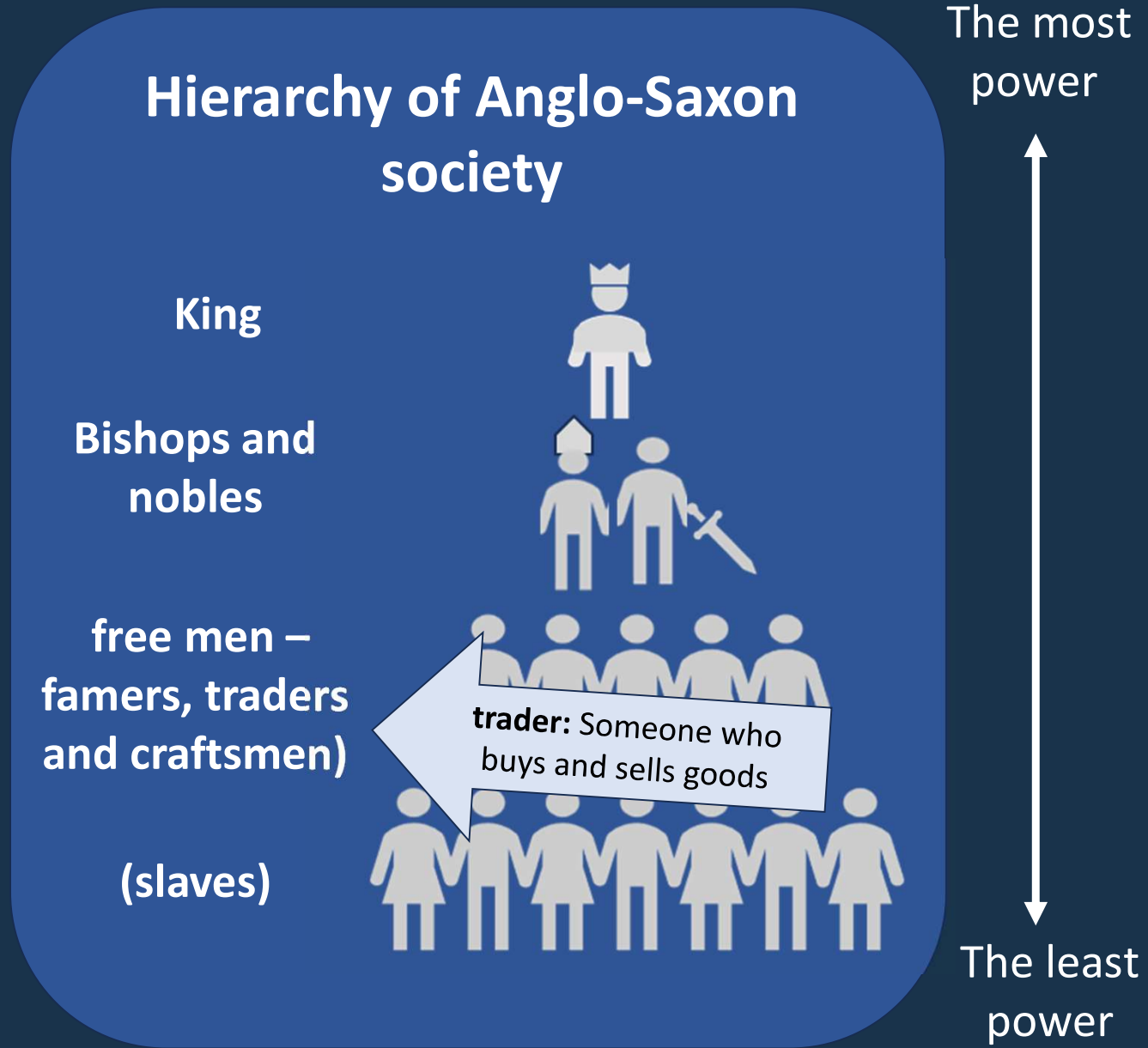
Kings had the most power.

He ruled with the help of important **nobles**: the earls and thegns

The higher up in society you were, the more **land, wealth and power** you had.

Most people were Ceorls
free men who were farmers and traders.

Thralls had no power. They were the property of their master.



Step 1 Find out who had the power in medieval England?



Cut out the people on the next slides and place them along your copy of the line of power to show how much power each group had.



Total power
(full control)

Some power
(some control or freedom)

No power
(powerless)





Peasants

Many people were farmers who worked on other people's land or their own small area of land.

They had to do what their lord said. Most could not leave their village. Some had no power and were treated like slaves.

If they were angry because they didn't have enough food or **wages** they might **rebel** against the king.

They were very poor. Some had to work on the lord's land for free for some days. All had to fight for the king.



Traders

Traders were free men who were allowed to buy and sell things in towns and cities.

They were free to travel. The goods they brought into towns and cities were very helpful to markets and created jobs.

Christian traders tried to stop people with different beliefs being allowed to trade in most things. They formed clubs or guilds to control who could trade. Only Christians could join them.

Most were richer than peasants. Some became very rich. They began to demand more say in what happened in their town.



Parish Priests

Priests looked after the churches in towns and villages. They collected money from people in their churches.

They had the power to forgive sins and report people to church courts for punishment.

They had to obey Church bishops and their king. Most were poor.



Jewish people

The king and the Church tried to **convert** Jewish people to become Christian. Muslim people were not allowed to stay in England.

Jewish people were allowed to live in some towns and could ask to travel. But they belonged to the king so everything they had was his.

The king could take money from them and spend it on what he wanted without asking the barons.

They could not own land or work in most jobs. Many were traders who had good connections with world trade. Some were doctors. A few became rich working with nobles. Most were poor.



The King

People believed God gave the king the power to rule over all the land and all the people. He could give orders and do what he liked most of the time.

He was very rich and powerful. His money came from taxes and his land.

The king could not control the country on his own. He needed the support of his barons and built castles to protect them.

He led the army into battle. He made the laws and acted as a judge.

The king had to support the Church. If he did not the Church leader (the pope) would ban him from heaven and ask other Christian kings to fight against him.



The barons

Barons were given large areas of land by the king to help him rule. This made them rich and powerful. Most of the time they did what the king wanted

They had their own knights and promised that the king could use them in his army.

They could fight against the king if he did not ask their advice or gave away too much land and money to his favourites.

The barons forced Henry III to ask them before he taxed people in special meetings called parliaments. They asked the king for more power if they agreed to the taxes.



The knights

Knights were given land to fight on horseback for their king and to serve their baron. They had to do what barons asked.

Their land made them quite rich. It gave them power over the peasant farmers who worked on the knights' land.

They helped make sure taxes were collected for the king.



The bishops

Bishops were given large areas of land by the king to help him rule.

They ran the services in cathedrals and collected money from their churches and their land. They were very rich.

They did what their leader the pope said, most of the time. They were also expected to serve the king. They could ask the pope for help if the king didn't listen to them.

Some bishops had knights and helped to lead the king's army. They sometimes rebelled against the king with the barons.

Step 1 Find out who had the power in medieval England!

1. Place the medieval people along this line to show who had the most / least power.

Total power
(full control)

Some power
(some control or freedom)

No power
(powerless)



2. Finish these sentences:

The people with the most power were....

The people with the least power were....

Step 2 Make a human power line!

1. Stand along this line in your classroom to show how much power your person had in the medieval period.
2. Hold up the name of your character and be ready to explain to the class why you have chosen to stand there!

Total power
(full control)

No power
(No control)

I had total power
because

No one could stop
me because ...

I had a lot of
power but not
total power
because....

I had some power
for example...

but other people
had more power

...

I had little power
because I ...

But I could

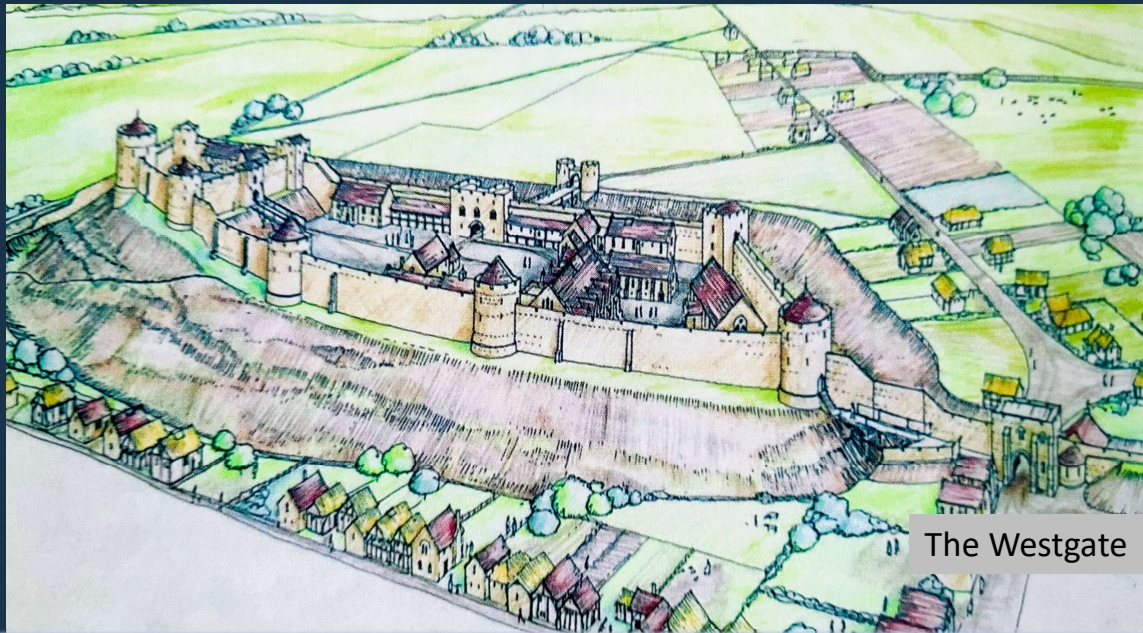
I had no power
at all because...

Why did the king
not have total
power?

Who could
challenge him?

How was the power of the king and the church different?

The king had secular power over the people in his kingdom. People were expected to obey the king and be loyal to him. His nobles helped him to rule the people in his kingdom.



Interesting facts

This is Winchester **Castle** built by the Normans. The Normans built lots of castles to **protect** the barons and knights. They were a **symbol** of the King's power.

Henry III descended from the **Normans**. His French family were known as **Plantagenets**. He had many castles but we know Henry often visited this castle at Christmas.

Hierarchy of medieval society

The King:
he was seen as
God's chosen
leader



He gave land to
his nobles for
their loyalty



Nobles:
bishops,
barons and
their knights



They gave land to
the peasants and
other labourers
for their service.



Labourers:
Traders were
granted
permission to
trade in towns



Most peasants
worked on the
lords' land and
paid rent in
crops or 40
days of work
for the lord.



The pope had religious power over the church and influence over every part of society. How did this work?

The Church really mattered to people in medieval England and other kingdoms in Western Europe. There was only one Church. This was a big, powerful **organisation** known as the **Catholic Church**.

Most people were Christian and part of the Catholic Church so they listened to what the Church said. They believed the Church leaders had the power to decide if you went to heaven. Even the king was expected to support the Church. If he ignored the Pope, he could be **excommunicated** -banned from heaven! The Normans had built many church buildings and large cathedrals. People were fined if they did not attend church.

The Church was **prejudiced** against people who were not Christian like Muslims and Jews.

Hierarchy of the church

The pope was head of the Catholic Church and seen as God's representative on Earth.

He was rich and powerful and could use armed forces.



He ruled the Church from **Rome in Italy** (or France for a short time)

↓
Archbishops and bishops advised the king and owned large areas of land. They were rich and powerful.



They ran **Cathedrals** in important cities

↓
Parish Priests had the power to forgive sins and report people to church courts for punishment. Most were poor.



They ran **smaller churches** in towns and villages.



Prejudice sounds like:

Pr – ej – a – diss



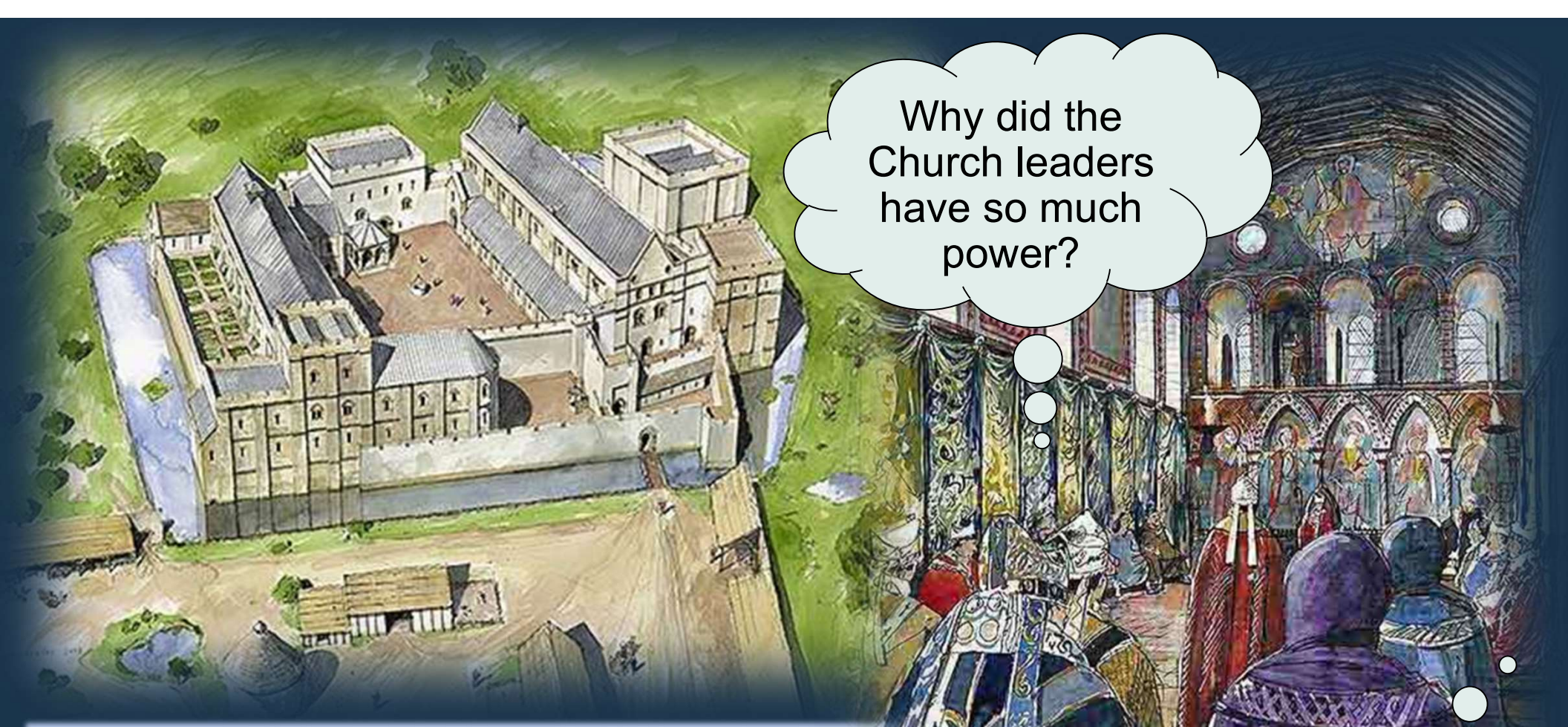
Have a go at saying

Prejudice



What does it mean?

Prejudice is to think badly of people with no good reason



Interesting fact!

The Bishop of Winchester was very powerful. He helped to lead the king's army against rebelling barons.

This is his luxurious palace. He was rich with large areas of church land and his palace was the grandest place to live in England except for the King's London palace!

You can see the bishops meeting in the East Hall of the palace.

Why did the Church leaders have so much power?

What do you notice about the Bishop's palace and East Hall?



Why were some English people Jewish?

After the **Normans invaded** in 1066, King William wanted to fill English towns and cities with French people to help stop Saxons rebelling against him.

Normans encouraged French **traders** to **migrate** to England at this time.



Migrate move to a new place

How would you feel if you moved to another country?

French people came with their skills, including some French Jews. They helped to create more jobs and **trade** in England.

Jewish people were well connected in trade so were very helpful to **markets** in towns and cities in England.

They lived and worked in towns and cities with their Christian neighbours



How did power over the Jewish people work differently?



Jewish people

The king and the Church tried to **convert** Jewish people to become Christian. Muslim people were not allowed to stay in England.

Jewish people were allowed to live in some towns and could ask to travel. But they belonged to the king so everything they had was his.

The king could take money from them and spend it on what he wanted without asking the barons.

They could not own land or work in most jobs. Many were traders who had good connections with world trade. Some were doctors. A few became rich working with nobles. Most were poor.

Jewish people didn't fit into the usual power structures in society.

- They were not Christian so were not under the power and authority of the Church in the same way.
- They could not own land like nobles or live and work on the nobles' land under their control like the peasants.

They had a separate place in society.

- They belonged to the king and were under his authority only.

Step 3 Find out if this made Jewish lives better or worse?

Look at the different ways the church and the king used their power differently towards the Jews.

Tick whether each one made their lives better or worse.

Step 3 Did the king and the Church choose to use their power to make the lives of Jewish people better or worse?

1. Tick each one to show if this use of power made Jewish lives better or worse. 

How the king used his power	Better	Worse
1. He made Jewish people his property . He could take anything they had when he wanted. In return they could live in England with his protection (this did not stop people attacking Jewish people and their homes).		
2. He had the power to take money from Jewish people without asking the barons. He often demanded large sums of money from them. This made many Jewish people poor .		
3. He banned Jews from owning land except for the house they lived in.		
4. He tried to convert Jews to become Christians and made them wear the badge the pope wanted Jews to wear to separate Jews from Christians.		

How the Church used its power	Better	Worse
1. The pope made it very clear that Christians should not mix with people of a different religion. Bishops and priests in England tried to separate Jews and Christians . They asked the king to make sure Jews wore their badges.		
2. Church leaders tried to convert Jews to become Christians.		
3. Catholic monks asked the king to make Jews leave England (Muslims were already banned from living in England).		



Step 3 find out what you can remember.

1. Draw an arrow from each word to the correct meaning



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. King | A) Move to a new place. |
| 2. Kingdom | B) Land and people ruled by a king . |
| 3. Baron | C) Ruler of a kingdom. |
| 4. Knight | D) Rich church leaders who advised the king. |
| 5. Bishop | E) The king's advisors who had knights to control their land. |
| 6. Parish priests | F) Fought on horseback for nobles and the king's army. |
| 7. Trader | G) had the power to forgive sins . |
| 8. Prejudice | H) Think badly of people with no good reason . |
| 9. Migrate | I) To go into a place by force . |
| 10. Invade | J) To take control of new land by force. |
| 11. Conquer | K) Someone who buys and sells goods . |
| 12. Power | L) To change your beliefs . |
| 13. Convert | M) Being able to control what people do or influence them. |

2. Finish these sentences:



The way the Church used its power made life difficult for Jewish people because....

The way the king used his power made life difficult for Jewish people because....

Let's check we have the correct answers.

Draw an arrow from each word to the correct meaning 

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. King | → | A) Move to a new place. |
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Think about your enquiry:

What would it be like to live as a Jewish person at a time when the people in power had prejudice against people who were not Christian?

We know because historians have written about the story of a woman who lived as part of the small Jewish community in England.
Her name is Licoricia of Winchester.

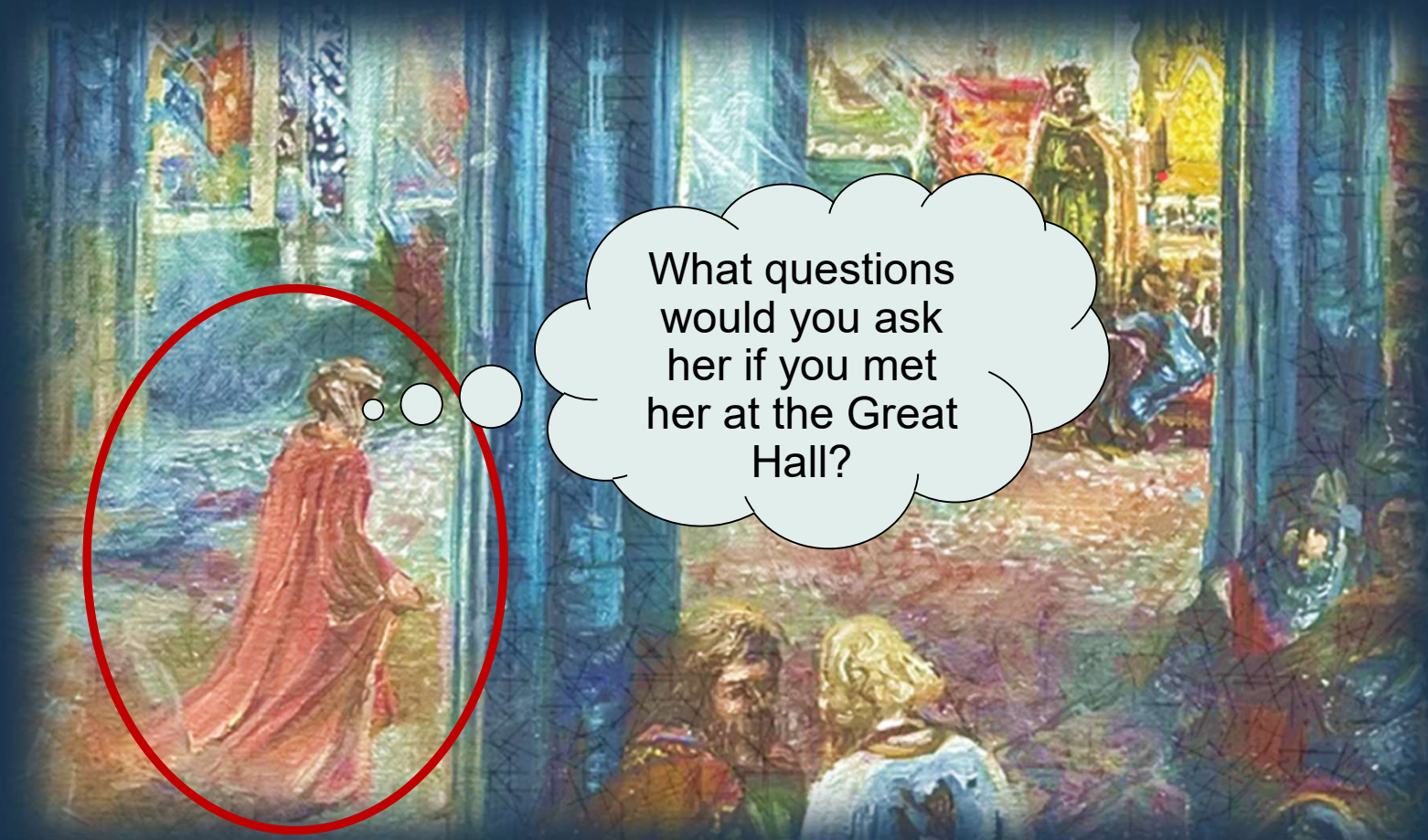


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Image of Anglo-Saxon village dwellings reconstructed at West Stow Anglo-Saxon village adapted from File:West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village buildings 2.png By 1. Rob Farrow2. Ron Strutt3. Rob Farrow4. Keith Evans - Combination of the following files:1. File:West stow 1.jpg2. File:Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow - geograph.org.uk - 40260.jpg3. File:West stow 3.jpg4. File:Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow 6337 Keith Evans.jpg, CC BY 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=138195267> [CC BY 2.5](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=138195267)

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Page 6 Edward the Confessor By Unknown Master, English or French (second half of 14th century) - The National Gallery, London, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=38178951> Part of Richard II of England with his patron saints, l to r: King Edmund the Martyr, King Edward the Confessor, St John the Baptist. The Wilton Diptych (c.1395–1399) is a portable altarpiece taking the form of a diptych, painted for King Richard II. This is the left-hand panel.

Page 6 and 16 Image from the Bayeux Tapestry showing William By 12th century - Lucien Musset's The Bayeux Tapestry ISBN 9781843831631, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19617197>

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Page 8, 9 and 13 Medieval illustration of **men harvesting** wheat with reaping-hooks or sickles, on a calendar page for August. Queen Mary's Psalter (Ms. Royal 2. B. VII), [Public Domain](#) By anonymous (Queen Mary Master) - this file: scan dated 2009, uploaded (without identification of the source) 12 May 2010 by Ann Scott (medievalminds.comReeve-and-Serfs.original1.jpg), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16340916>

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Page 13 Reconstruction of Winchester Castle and Westgate c.1283 after Henry III's renovations with kind permission of Hampshire Architects Department.

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Page 15 Bishop Henry presiding over a **meeting of church leaders** in the east hall block of th Bishop's Palace in about 1160 (illustration by Liam Wales) © Historic England Archive.

Page 15 A reconstruction drawing showing how the **Bishop's palace** in Winchester may have looked in about 1170, by which time its buildings, arranged around an inner courtyard, were surrounded by a moat (illustration by Liam Wales) © Historic England Archive.

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