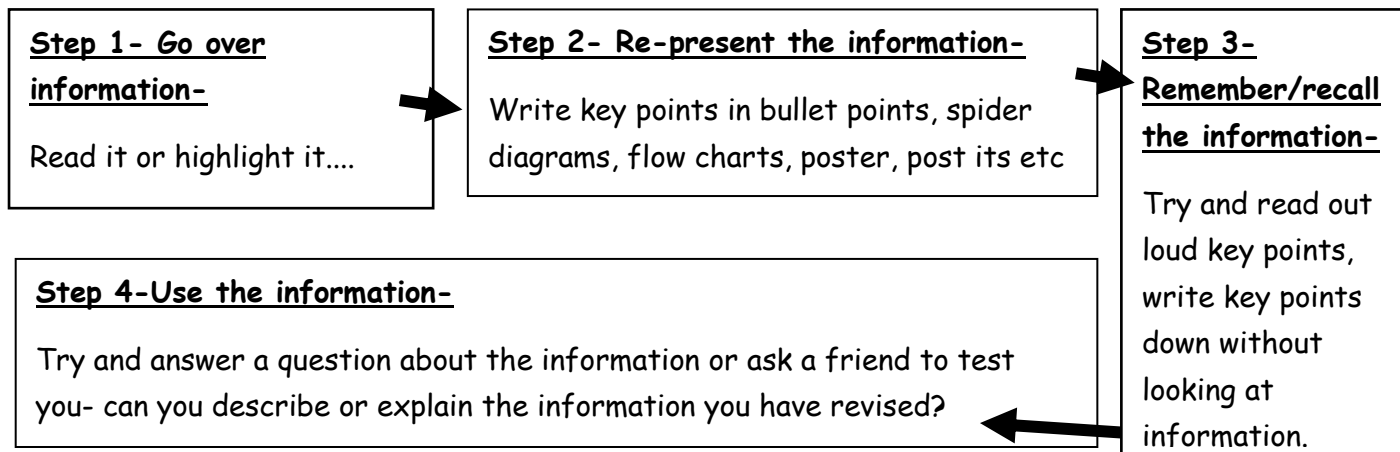


Topics

1. The Silk Roads
2. The Battle of Hastings and how the Normans kept control.
3. Life in Medieval society
4. Global Medieval monarchs
5. The Tudors

How do I revise?



Topic 1. The Silk Roads

What were the Silk Roads?

The Silk Roads do not have a start or an end point, because they are not actually real roads at all. They are a web of trade networks that flow east to west and west to east - from the Pacific coasts of China and Russia to the Atlantic coasts of Europe and Africa, and also from Scandinavia in the North to the Indian Ocean in the south. Along these routes, pilgrims and warriors, nomads and merchants have travelled, goods (e.g. silk) and produce have been bought and sold, and ideas and beliefs exchanged, adapted and refined. They have carried not only prosperity, but also death and violence, disease and disaster.

Trade on the silk roads

Most trade was local- town to town. Rare and exotic items such as (Spices, jewels and some foods) were expensive and made longer journeys worthwhile. Other goods traded were gold, amber, coral, wool, precious gems and silk. Goods were carried by caravans of camels in deadly conditions. Silk was one of the most important resources- it was a symbol of wealth and status but also sometimes used as money. Cities built along these trade routes grew wealthy.

Religion on the silk roads

Islam and Christianity started in Jerusalem and spread, and other religions spread along the silk roads including

- Islam
- Christianity
- Buddhism
- Judaism

Wisdom and learning on the silk roads

The new Islamic Empires needed a capital city. In the 8th century, a new city was built at huge expense. It was the richest and most populated city on earth and remained so for centuries. It was called Madinat al - Salam, which meant City of Peace. Today we call it Baghdad.

Great support was given to scholars (learners) and their research. Race, religion and even gender were not barriers for those who were clever, with scholars gathering materials from all corners of the world. Great attention was paid to learning about Asian culture, and how its people lived and behaved.

This was a time that saw major breakthroughs in science, mathematics, medicine and astronomy, literature and philosophy. This was a time when even the most powerful leaders in Europe could not read. People learnt about mathematical concepts like algebra and algorithms. Some did experiments on medicines whilst other scientists worked on problems like the relationship between the vision and brain.

Topic 2 The Battle of Hastings and how the Normans kept control.

Who were the contenders to the throne?

When **Edward the confessor**, King of England died with no heir to the throne people wanted a strong new King- one with **experience as a leader and warrior**, one who was **English** to ensure they put England first and one who was **related to the King**- who would therefore have "royal blood" from God.

The following people were possible next Kings, and contenders for the throne

- Edgar Atheling- Nephew of the previous King, only 14 years old.
- William of Normandy- Duke of Normandy In France
- Harold Hardrada-King of Norway, fierce warrior, related to a previous King.
- Harold Godwinson- English, Earl of Wessex, Brother in law to the previous King.

Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?

- William had around 2000 more men, trained knights and cavalry. Harold had lots of peasants with axes and forks, not very well trained.
- Harold's army were tired after marching and the battle at Stamford Bridge.
- William inspired his army by fighting with them at the front.
- William used the retreat tactic to break the shield wall

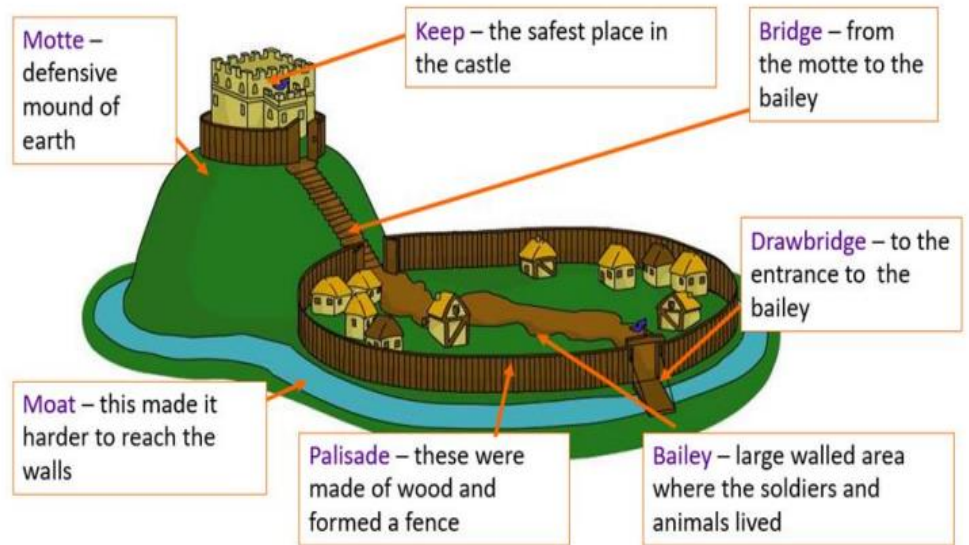
How did William Keep control of England?

1. Building castles

King William liked castles. As he said, 'Castles are safe and strong. No one can attack me if I build castles.'

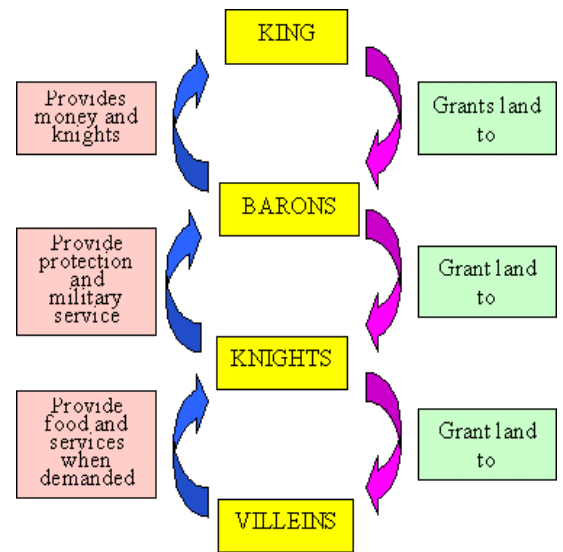
He built his first castle at Hastings very soon after winning the Battle of Hastings. At first, he built wooden castles which only took a few weeks to build; these were called motte and bailey castles. **Motte and bailey:** the castle was built on a hill next to a small village and was surrounded by wooden walls

Early castles – Motte and Bailey



2. He created the Feudal system- This was a hierarchy whereby everyone had a place and it allowed William to control land in England. The king was at the top of society, and therefore at the top of the feudal system. The nobility were below the king in the hierarchy. This included the clergy, barons, and lords and ladies. They would distribute some of their land to knights, who would raise an army to fight for the king when needed. Noblemen would also let peasants live and work on the land, in return for taxes and food. The nobility became wealthy from rent raised from peasants they let farm on the land.

Peasants were the largest and lowest group in medieval society, making up over 90% of the population. Most peasants were villeins and they were at the bottom of the system. Some peasants were freemen and they had more rights than villeins.



3. He made the Domesday Book

King William decided that one of the best ways to keep control in England was to find out what people owned and make them pay taxes.

In 1086, William sent his knights to every single village in the country to do a **survey**. He told the knights to find out what each person owned and to threaten to kill people if they would not tell them.

The people were so scared that they thought it was their 'doomsday'. William asked the knights to record everything they found out in a huge book. This became known as the **Domesday Book**.

4. He attacked the North

After the Battle of Hastings, William was crowned king in London on Christmas Day, 1066. The Saxons in the north-east of England did not want William as their king. In 1069, they rebelled against him. William slaughtered the rebels, destroyed their food, salted the earth so that crops would not grow again and moved the survivors into what we today would call concentration camps. This became known as the '*harrying of the north*'.

Topic 3 -Life in Medieval society

The Black Death

The Black Death arrived in England in the year **1348** and it killed 50%-75% of its victims. Medieval doctors did not know what caused it, but guessed it was the result of:

- the movements of the planets
- a punishment from God
- bad smells and corrupt air
- enemies who had poisoned the wells

Most historians believe that the Black Death was caused by strains of the bubonic plague. The plague lived in fleas which lived on black rats. They gave the disease to the rats. When the rats died, the fleas hopped off onto humans and infected them.

Symptoms of the black death-blood and pus seeped out of swellings called buboes, chills, vomiting, diarrhoea, terrible aches and pains, death.

Roles of a medieval King

- Look rich and powerful.
- Decide on law and order for the country, how people would be punished.
- Decide how much to tax people.
- Decide when to go to war.
- Keep the church and barons happy to ensure their support and loyalty, the barons would give the king knights to fight in war.

The murder of Thomas Becket

Thomas Becket was Archbishop of Canterbury, the most important bishop in England. In 1170, he was brutally murdered in Canterbury Cathedral.

Before this, Becket and Henry II had been arguing for some time. Henry only appointed him in his important position as archbishop of Canterbury as he wanted to control him. However, Becket refused to obey Henry's orders and said he only worked for God. This enraged Henry II and led him to shouting the quote above.

Who's to blame for Thomas Becket's death?

- **King Henry II** = Henry fell out with Thomas after he gave him the job of Archbishop of Canterbury (top man in the church in England.) Henry wanted Thomas to ensure the church gave power to the King, he wanted Thomas and the church to do whatever he said. After a tantrum one day he said "will no-one rid

me of this troublesome priest?". The knights took this as an order to kill, but was Henry just having a tantrum and not making an order?

- **The knights** = They were indeed the people who killed Thomas Becket in Canterbury cathedral. They did not check with the King and assumed he had made an order to kill. The king often had tantrums and used to be best friends with Becket. Should they have checked before killing the priest? However, they would not want to cross the king and so may have been careful to follow orders.
- **Thomas Becket** = He knew how powerful the king was and why he had been given the job in the first place. Thomas became too devoted to God and stopped listening to the king. He knew what the king was capable of and kept pushing his buttons.

Who was King John and why was he unpopular?

King John ruled England at a difficult time. He faced wars with France, a shortage of money and clashes with powerful English barons.

The barons became increasingly angry with John as he was not trustworthy and was very mean with his money. They eventually forced him to agree to changes in how England worked, written down in the **Magna Carta in 1215**

The Magna Carta is seen as the basis of many English laws and helped to influence the US constitution, which was written over 500 years later.

Topic 4- Global Medieval Monarchs- who was the most successful?

1. Eleanor of Aquitaine

Eleanor of Aquitaine was important because she had a lot of land and power. She was also married to two powerful men during her life. These marriages were beneficial to her, as well as to her husbands. They united lands and wealth, as well as ruling over more people.

In 1137, King Louis VII became king of France. As his wife, Eleanor became queen of France. It was a difficult time to be in power. Louis had arguments with the Pope and there was a lot of conflict. Eleanor helped Louis to run the country and even went with him on a crusade in 1149. They eventually ended their marriage in 1152.

Two months after her marriage to Louis was annulled, Eleanor married Henry. He was the Count of Anjou and the Duke of Normandy. After two years, Henry and Eleanor were crowned king and queen of England. This brought a large part of France together with England. It was very important for international relations

2. Genghis Khan

Genghis Khan was one of the world's most powerful military leaders and a ferocious fighter, who joined with the Mongol tribes and started the Mongol Empire. He was a Mongol Emperor who was very successful in battle, conquering many other people such as the Jin Dynasty. He was a very strong and powerful emperor who occupied much of China and some surrounding countries of China.

His children and his grandchildren started the largest empire in the world. Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai Khan, was the first ever emperor of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) in China.

3. Mansa Musa

Mansa Musa ruled the Mali Empire during a period that has since become known as a 'golden age'. He was fascinated by exploring and dreamed of finding new lands across the Atlantic Ocean. He led an expedition of 2000 ships across the sea to explore new land in the 'New World' (Modern North America) and also promoted trade, encouraged education and building. He was a patron (supporter) of the arts e.g. music and poetry.

During his reign, Mansa Musa built many schools, universities and libraries, in cities like Gao and Timbuktu. Using his large army, he invaded other regions and doubled the size of his territory to cover 400 cities and 1.1 million square kilometres, growing his already vast empire across West Africa

It is estimated that Mansa Musa came to control half of the world's supply of salt and gold at this time. Some historians have even described Mansa Musa as 'the wealthiest man who has ever lived'.

4. Pachacuti

Pachacuti means- '*He who remakes the world.*'. He began an empire that expanded the Incas from the valley of Cuzco to nearly the whole of South America. When Pachacuti died in 1471, the empire stretched from Chile to the south and Ecuador to the north also including the modern countries of Peru and Bolivia as well as most of northern Argentina.

Pachacuti was very popular because he had several strong positive qualities such as being brave, courageous, intelligent, a good leader, mature and was also a fierce fighter.

Pachacuti's empire was wealthy, well-organized, took part in lots of trade, with generally humane (kind) treatment of its people such as banning human sacrifice and making sure that everyone had somewhere to live and enough food to eat.

Topic 5 - The Tudors

Henry VIII - Ruled between 1509 to 1547

He is remembered for his six wives and his cruelty towards them. Henry VIII wanted to achieve military success and bring greatness to his kingdom.

One of the most important events of his reign, which had a long-lasting impact, was his decision to break with the Catholic Church and establish the Church of England. The Pope was the head of the catholic Church and he lived in Rome. His decision to break away from the church in Rome is called the Reformation. This was

because he needed a divorce from his wife Catherine of Aragon so that he could marry again and fulfil his desire for a son and heir to the Tudor throne with Anne Boleyn.

Henry also wanted to create his own church so that people would worship and obey him, not a foreign power like the Pope. In addition to this, Henry wanted to use the money from his new church to pay for wars. After changing England's religion from Catholic to Protestant, Henry closed down the catholic monasteries in England to take their wealth and power.

Henry VIII had 6 wives, but only 2 children

- Wife no. 1 Catherine of Aragon (Catholic) - Daughter born Mary I (Bloody Mary)
- Wife no. 2 Anne Boleyn (Protestant)- Daughter born Elizabeth I
- Wife no. 3 Jane Seymour (Protestant) - Son born Edward I
- Wife no. 4 Anne of Cleves (Protestant)- no children
- Wife no. 5 Catherine Howard (Protestant) - no children
- Wife no. 6 Catherine Parr (Protestant) - no children

Edward VI - Ruled between 1547 to 1553

After Henry died, his only male heir, **Edward VI** became king of England. He was raised by Protestant men such as his uncles, Edward and Thomas Seymour. During his short reign, England became an increasingly devout Protestant. This led to a Catholic rebellion in 1549. Unfortunately, Edward died very young at only age 15 from a disease called tuberculosis.

Mary I (Bloody Mary) - Ruled between 1553 to 1558

After the death of Edward VI, Henry VIII's and Catherine of Aragon's oldest daughter **Mary I** became queen. She changed the religion of England to make it a Catholic country once again as she was a loyal catholic like her mother.

Many people who had been keen to keep their Catholic faith during the religious upheaval of the previous years celebrated Mary's arrival on the throne, throwing bonfires and parties. Protestants, however, were persecuted: around 300 were executed by being burnt alive during Mary's reign. Others fled abroad. As a result of this brutal persecution, Mary earned the nickname of 'Bloody Mary'.

Elizabeth I - Ruled between 1558-1603

Under **Elizabeth I**, daughter of Anne Boleyn, the religion of England changed again. After lots of fighting between the Catholics and Protestants of England thanks to the actions of Henry VIII and Mary I (Bloody Mary). Elizabeth decided she wanted to try to keep both groups happy and make England a Protestant country. The way in which she did this became known as the Religious Settlement. Under one of these laws she gave herself the title '**Supreme governor**' of the Church of England and she made a number of changes to how churches should look and behave, for example:

- The Bible would be written in English
- Church services must be in English
- Priests would have to wear simple plain robes called Vestments
- Churches were allowed to have decorative ornaments like statues, crucifixes and stained-glass windows.