

Year 7 HT 4 – Medieval England

The Medieval period in England lasted from the 5th century to the end of the 15th century, culminating in the Tudor period. Life in medieval England was quite different from life today. It was a time that lasted from the 5th to the 15th century, and people lived in a feudal system. Most people lived in small villages and worked on the land as farmers. They grew crops like wheat, barley, and oats, and raised animals for food. Life was centered around the local lord or noble, who owned the land and provided protection to the villagers in exchange for their work. The majority of people were peasants and lived simple lives, working long hours in the fields. There were also knights and nobles who lived in castles and had more privileges. Religion, particularly Christianity, played a significant role in people's lives, and churches were important community centers. Life in medieval England had its challenges, such as disease and occasional conflicts, but it also had moments of joy through celebrations, festivals, and storytelling.

At the beginning of the medieval period, in the early 5th century, England was invaded by Germanic tribes, such as the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. This period is often referred to as the Anglo-Saxon period, and it marked a significant change in the culture of England, as these invaders brought with them their own customs, language, and beliefs.

From the 10th century, England was ruled by a series of monarchs, with the Norman Conquest of 1066 being one of the most significant events in this period. This event saw William the Conqueror take control of England, imposing his own culture and customs upon the country and marking the beginning of the Norman period.

In the 14th century, the Black Death swept through England, killing a significant proportion of the population and leading to major changes in the way that society was organised. This event had a profound impact on England and the rest of Europe, leading to economic and social upheaval.

Outside of the UK, the medieval period was marked by significant events such as the Crusades, a series of religious wars fought between Christians and Muslims during the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries. These wars had a significant impact on cultural exchange and shaped the development of Christianity and Islam.

In addition to the Crusades, the medieval period was also marked by a number of other significant events, such as the Magna Carta, a charter of rights that was signed in 1215 and marked the beginning of legal rights in England, and the Hundred Years' War, a series of wars fought between England and France throughout the 14th and 15th centuries.

In conclusion, the medieval period in England was marked by a number of significant events that shaped both the UK and the world as a whole. By understanding these events, students can gain a better understanding of chronology and the interrelation between different historical periods, as well as the way that cultural, political, and societal changes occur over time.

Further reading:

Fiction:

"Castle Diary" by Richard Platt - This diary-style book tells the story of a young boy living in a medieval castle, detailing his daily life and adventures.

Non fiction:

"Medieval Life" by Andrew Langley - This book examines every aspect of everyday life during the medieval period, including food, clothing, entertainment, and more, with detailed illustrations and photographs.