



# Turton School History Department

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_



## Yr 7 History

Homework Book Medieval England

**Peasants' life in medieval England?**

## Peasants' everyday life

Peasant homes were small, often just made up of one room. A peasant's hut was made of wattle and daub, with a thatch roof but no windows. Inside the hut, a third of the area was penned off for the animals, which lived in the hut with the family. A fire burned in a hearth in the center of the hut, so the air was permanently eye-wateringly smoky. Furniture was maybe a couple of stools, a trunk for bedding, and a few cooking pots.

Women in peasant families learnt to spin wool from an early age, using wooden wheels to make clothes. Children spent most of their time helping their parents with day-to-day activities. Rather than going to school, they worked on jobs in the house, looked after animals and helped grow food.

Peasants also had to pay a tithe to the Church. A tithe was 10% of what they produced on their land. The Church was central to medieval life. People would attend services there every Sunday, and it would host marriages, christenings and funerals.

Why do you think peasants kept their animals in the animals in the same hut as the family?

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What are the risks in doing this?

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How is the life of a medieval peasant different to modern day life?

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## Homework 2

To be completed by:

### Education in medieval society ?

Some children went to school to learn to read and write, but most didn't. Schools were expensive and usually located in towns. Children from wealthy families may have had a tutor or attended a grammar school, but the cost of schooling meant that most children could not afford to go. There were also schools in monasteries, but places often went to children who were to become monks.

Instead of formal schooling, many medieval children learned how to farm, grow food and tend to animals. Some also learned a trade and perhaps became an apprentice to a local craftsman like a carpenter or a tailor.

Using the information:

Describe one reason why a peasant would not send his children to school?

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How would the children of wealthy families be educated?

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What skills did medieval children learn instead of going to school?

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## Homework 3

To be completed by:

### Medieval Law and Order?

In the medieval period, there was no organised police force and most law enforcement was organised by local people. In some areas, every male over the age of 12 had to join a group called a tithing, and they had to make sure no one else in the group committed a crime. If someone was the victim of a crime, they had to raise the 'hue and cry', meaning other villagers had to come to help find the criminal.

Some areas had watchmen or constables who would patrol the area to prevent crimes. Most minor crimes were dealt with by the local lord. A judge, who was appointed by the king, travelled to each county to deal with serious crimes.

If a jury couldn't decide if a person was innocent or guilty, there was the option of trial by ordeal. This is where people were subjected to painful tasks, such as:

- Walking on hot coals
- Putting your hand in boiling water to retrieve a stone
- Holding a red-hot iron
- If your wounds healed cleanly after three days, then you were considered to be innocent in the eyes of God. If not, you were considered guilty and would be punished accordingly. Punishments included being put in the stocks, fines, or even death for more serious crimes

What was a tithing?

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Why do we not create tithings to deal with crime in modern Britain?

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## Homework 4

To be completed by:

### What are Manors and Guilds?

Manors were composed of large castles surrounded by small villages and a local church. During this period, about 90% of the population worked on lands as peasants or serfs. Lords and Barons swore their oath of fealty to the king.

Groups of craftsmen called guilds also emerged during this period. Each guild had specialties and was able to move up the social ladder through hard work. Some examples were guild for weavers, dyers, armorers, painters, masons, bookkeepers, bakers, and candlemakers. They had well-defined positions including apprentices, journeyman, and masters. Despite being skilled workers during this period, women were not allowed to join or form their own guild.

Much of the local economy was influenced by guild of merchants as they controlled the flow of trade. Before a journeyman could be a master, he needed to produce a masterpiece to be approved by the guild masters.

Who did the Lord of a manor swear fealty to?

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Why do you think they did this?

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In your own words, describe what a Guild is?

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Why do you think craftsmen formed their own guilds?

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**Richard the Lionheart?**

Richard I was king of England between 1189 and 1199. Although he reigned for nearly 10 years, he spent less than a year in England. The rest of the time he was fighting abroad, particularly in a series of battles known as the Crusades. He was a great soldier and earned the nickname “Richard the Lion-heart.”

**Crusades**

Almost as soon as he became king, Richard began planning to lead a Crusade to the Holy Land. The Muslim leader Saladin had captured Jerusalem in 1187. Richard planned his Crusade to win it back.

To raise money Richard sold off offices such as sheriffdoms in England. With this money he built ships and organized an army. He set off for the Holy Land in 1190.

The Crusade was only partly successful. Richard and his knights managed to capture several cities, but they could not win back Jerusalem. Eventually the king made a truce with Saladin and started to sail home.

**Ransom and Return**

Bad weather forced Richard ashore near Venice. As he tried to make his way home from there he was captured in Vienna and imprisoned by Duke Leopold of Austria. Richard had quarreled with the duke during the Crusade. Richard’s captors demanded a high ransom for his release, and they received most of it. In 1194 he was allowed to return to England.

Richard did not stay long in England. Within a month he had left again—this time for Normandy. For the next five years he fought the French king, Philip II, who wanted the region of Normandy for France. Richard was wounded in this campaign and died on April 6, 1199. Richard was succeeded by his brother John.

Describe one reason King Richard could be considered a great King

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Describe one reason King Richard could be consider a bad King.

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## Homework 6

## To be completed by:

### What were the middle ages?

The period after the Norman Conquest (1066), until about 1485, is called The Middle Ages. During this time, the English language and culture developed and the UK started to form a distinct identity.

The Middle Ages saw the development of a national culture and identity. After the Norman Conquest, the king and his noblemen spoke Norman French and the peasants had continued to speak

Anglo-Saxon. Gradually, these two languages combined to become one English language. Some words in modern English, for example, 'park' and 'beauty', are based on Norman French words. Others, for example, 'apple', 'cow' and 'summer', are based on Anglo-Saxon words. In modern English, there are often two words with very similar meanings, one from French and one from Anglo-Saxon. 'Demand' (French) and 'ask' (Anglo-Saxon) are examples. By 1400, in England, official documents were being written in English, and this had become the preferred language of the royal court and Parliament.

In the years leading up to 1400, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a series of poems in English, about a group of people going to Canterbury on a pilgrimage. The people decided to tell each other stories on the journey, so the poems describe the travellers and some of the stories they told. This collection of poems is called The Canterbury Tales. It was one of the first books to be printed by William Caxton, the first person in England to print books using a printing press. Many of the stories are still popular. Some have been made into plays and television programmes.

In Scotland, many people continued to speak Gaelic and the Scots language also developed. A number of poets began to write in the Scots language. One example is John Barbour, who wrote The Bruce about the Battle of Bannockburn.

The Middle Ages also saw a change in the type of buildings in Britain. Castles were built in many places in Britain and Ireland, partly for defence. Today, many are in ruins, although some, such as Windsor or Edinburgh, are still in use. Great cathedrals, for example Lincoln Cathedral, were also built, and many of these are still used for worship. Several of the cathedrals had windows of stained glass, telling stories about the Bible and Christian saints. The glass in York Minster is a famous example.

During this period, England was an important trading nation. English wool became a very important export. People came to England from abroad to trade and also to work. Many had special skills, such as weavers from France, engineers from Germany, glass manufacturers from Italy and canal builders from Holland.

What do you think was the most important change during the middle ages?

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## Homework 7

To be completed by:

### Who was Genghis Khan?

Genghis Khan was a conqueror who brought together the wandering peoples of central Asia. He made their lands into the state of Mongolia. Then he took his armies beyond Mongolia. They built up a huge empire. They also killed many people and destroyed many cities.

Genghis Khan was born in about 1162 in northern Mongolia. His name at first was Temüjin. At that time Mongolia was home to a number of related, but separate, peoples called Mongols. Temüjin's father was the chief of one Mongol group. When Temüjin was 9 years old, his father was killed by enemies from another Mongol group, the Tatars. Temüjin then became chief. Though he was young, he won many followers.

Temüjin gradually built up a large army. He used it to conquer neighboring groups, including the Tatars. He unified those groups into a single Mongol nation. In 1206 the people named him Genghis Khan, which means "universal ruler."

Genghis Khan then set out to conquer other lands. First he invaded northern China. In less than 10 years he and his generals took over most of China. Genghis Khan next conquered the land that now makes up Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. His generals raided Iran and Russia.

Genghis Khan began his last battle against China in 1226. He died on August 18, 1227. Mongols then controlled land from the China Sea to the European part of Russia. Genghis Khan's sons and grandsons expanded the Mongol Empire even more.

Why do you think Genghis was considered a great leader?

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What similarities can you see between Genghis Khan and William the Conqueror?

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## Homework 8

## To be completed by:

The Battle of Agincourt.

The two armies came face-to-face on the morning of the 25th October 1415. The common tactics of the time were to stand firm and wait for the enemy to attack first. At first, both sides waited, and the English took the time to pray before the battle commenced.

The French had expected King Henry V to stay back; the English army, who had been marching for weeks, were hungry and tired and many were suffering from dysentery. Henry positioned his men ready for battle and stood his ground. The French sent in their men-at-arms to confront the weaker foe.

To reach the English, the French had to charge the English over very muddy ground. The weight of the men, horses and armour made the going slow and exhausting. It was then, with some of the French soldiers stuck in the mud up to their knees, that the English longbowmen opened fire.

Longbowmen could shoot ten arrows a minute, each arrow potentially passing through light armour and certainly through horse-flesh. A hail of arrows fell upon the mass of French soldiers who were stuck in the mud, unable to retreat quickly. Longbowmen who ran out of arrows dropped their bows and ran forward to attack the helpless French with swords and axes, unhindered by heavy armour.

The French were turned back, with thousands killed and around a thousand taken prisoner by Henry.

Towards the end of the battle, Henry thought that the French were going to attack again with their reserve troops.

Maybe out of fear of the French prisoners escaping and killing the English, (according to some accounts, the prisoners being held by the English outnumbered the English themselves), or out of malice, Henry ordered his men to kill the prisoners.

Many of Henry's knights refused to do this, believing that the killing of unarmed prisoners went against the code of chivalry. Henry is reported to have told his men that they would be executed themselves if they did not kill the prisoners.

Up to 1000 prisoners may have been executed this way before the rest of the French army retreated and the fighting stopped

How was the Battle of Agincourt different to the Battle of Hastings?

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## Homework 9

## To be completed by:

Who were the Inca people?

The Inca people once ruled a vast empire in the Andes Mountains of South America. Their capital was Cuzco, in what is now Peru. The Inca Empire included about 12 million people at its peak in the early 1500s.

The Inca grew such crops as corn, squash, tomatoes, peanuts, and cotton. Inca farmers were the first to grow potatoes. They also raised guinea pigs, ducks, alpacas, and dogs. The Inca rode animals called llamas and also used them as work animals.

The Inca made clothing from llama wool and cotton. They made pottery and musical instruments. They also made things out of metal.

The Inca built their houses using stone or adobe (sun-baked clay). The ruins of the Inca city of Machu Picchu are famous for their well-made buildings.

The Inca spoke a language called Quechua. They had no form of writing. However, they kept records using a complicated system of colored knotted cords called quipus.

According to the traditional belief of the Inca, they originally came from a village called Paqari-tampu. In the 1100s they moved north and settled in Cuzco. In the early 1400s the Inca began to attack neighboring peoples and take control of their lands. Within 100 years the Inca Empire was at the height of its power.

The Spanish began to explore Peru in the 1520s. By 1533 Spanish soldiers led by Francisco Pizarro had captured Cuzco. They brought the Inca Empire under Spanish control. Today the descendants of the Inca live in the Andes Mountains. They make up almost half of Peru's population.

What similarities can you spot between the Inca people and people living in Medieval England?

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## Homework 10

## To be completed by:

### Who were the Medici Family?

Rulers of Florence The Medici family were wool merchants and bankers.

Both businesses were very profitable and the family became extremely wealthy. Giovanni de Medici first brought the family to prominence in Florence by starting the Medici bank. He also was the leader of the Florence merchants. His son, Cosimo de Medici became the Gran maestro (leader) of the Florence city-state in 1434.

The Medici family ruled Florence for the next 200 years until 1737. Leaders of the Renaissance The Medici are most famous for their patronage of the arts. Patronage is where a wealthy person or family sponsors artists. They would pay artists commissions for major works of art.

The Medici patronage had a huge impact on the Renaissance, allowing artists to focus on their work without having to worry about money. A significant amount of the art and architecture that was produced in Florence at the beginning of the Renaissance was due to the Medici. Early on they supported the painter Masaccio and helped pay the architect Brunelleschi to rebuild the Basilica of San Lorenzo. Other famous artists that the Medici supported include Michelangelo, Raphael, Donatello, and Leonardo da Vinci.

The Medici didn't just support the arts and architecture. They also supported science. They supported the famous scientist Galileo Galilei in his scientific efforts. Galileo also worked as a tutor for the Medici children.

The Medici owed much of their wealth and power to the Medici Bank. It made them one of the richest families in all of Europe. It was the largest bank in Europe at its peak and was very well respected. The bank made notable improvements in accounting procedures including the development of the double-entry bookkeeping system.

Why do you think the Medici family wanted everyone to know they funded art and architecture?

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