

Year 7 Term 3: How successfully did Medieval rulers navigate power?



Key dates

1154	Henry II become King of England
1162	Thomas Becket becomes Archbishop of Canterbury
1170	Murder of Thomas Becket
1189 -1192	The Third Crusade. Fought between King Richard I and Saladin. It ended with a famous truce
June 1215	The Magna Carta was signed at Runnymede, near Windsor, placing limits on King John's powers
1265	Simon de Montfort calls the first Parliament that contained ordinary people as well as Lords

Key people

Thomas Becket	Archbishop and former Chancellor to King Henry II
Henry II	Powerful king who extended England's control over French lands between 1154 and 1189
King John	Henry II's youngest son who was known for being forced to sign the Magna Carta.
Eleanor of Aquitaine	Henry II's wife and the mother of John and Richard; she was unusually powerful for a women in the 12/13 th C.
Richard I	Known as Richard the Lionheart for his military skills
Saladin	Respected leader of all Muslims from Egypt to Syria

Key Tier 3 vocabulary

Angevin	The name for the kings of England from Henry II to King John, 1154-1216
Archbishop of Canterbury	The leader of the Church in England
Crusade	A term to describe the wars fought over the Holy Land between Muslims and Christians
Dynasty	A collective name for the successive kings and queens of a royal house, for example, the Angevins
Empire	A group of countries ruled over by a monarch or state.
Excommunication	Officially excluding someone from participation in the sacraments and services of the Christian Church
Heir	The acknowledge successor to a monarch
Infidel	Medieval word to describe non-Christians
Magna Carta	The Great Charter signed by King John agreeing to limits on his powers.
Martyr	Someone who dies for their religious beliefs or in defence of another cause
Minority	A period when a child king rules with the support of others
Monarchy	A form of government controlled by a king or queen

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Prior knowledge required:	Provides building blocks for:
- Anglo-Saxon England - Norman rule	14th century - Tudor monarchs - Silk Roads - Empire <i>Power and the People GCSE</i>



An alabaster sculpture representing the fate of Thomas Becket. The sculpture, in the British Museum, was made c1450-1500, approximately 300 years after the event.

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What cross-curricular links can you make with this big picture enquiry question?

Key knowledge
Deconstruction big picture enquiry question
Henry II and Thomas Becket
Eleanor of Aquitaine: Brief on early life, then marriage to Henry II Role in Great Revolt 1173-74 Support of sons Richard and John
Background to crusades; causes and consequences
Third crusade. Interpretations of Saladin
Overview of King John's rule; why the barons were annoyed What the Magna Carta is and its significance
Evaluating interpretations of King John's reign
Draw together key examples of navigating power from Henry II, Eleanor, Richard I and John.

Key historical skills		
Cause/consequence	Similarity/difference	Change/continuity
Significance	Sources	Interpretations