

# England in the Middle Ages

# England in the Middle Ages

- o **Main Idea (Objective):**



- o England developed a system in which the King's power was shared with Parliament.

# England in the Middle Ages

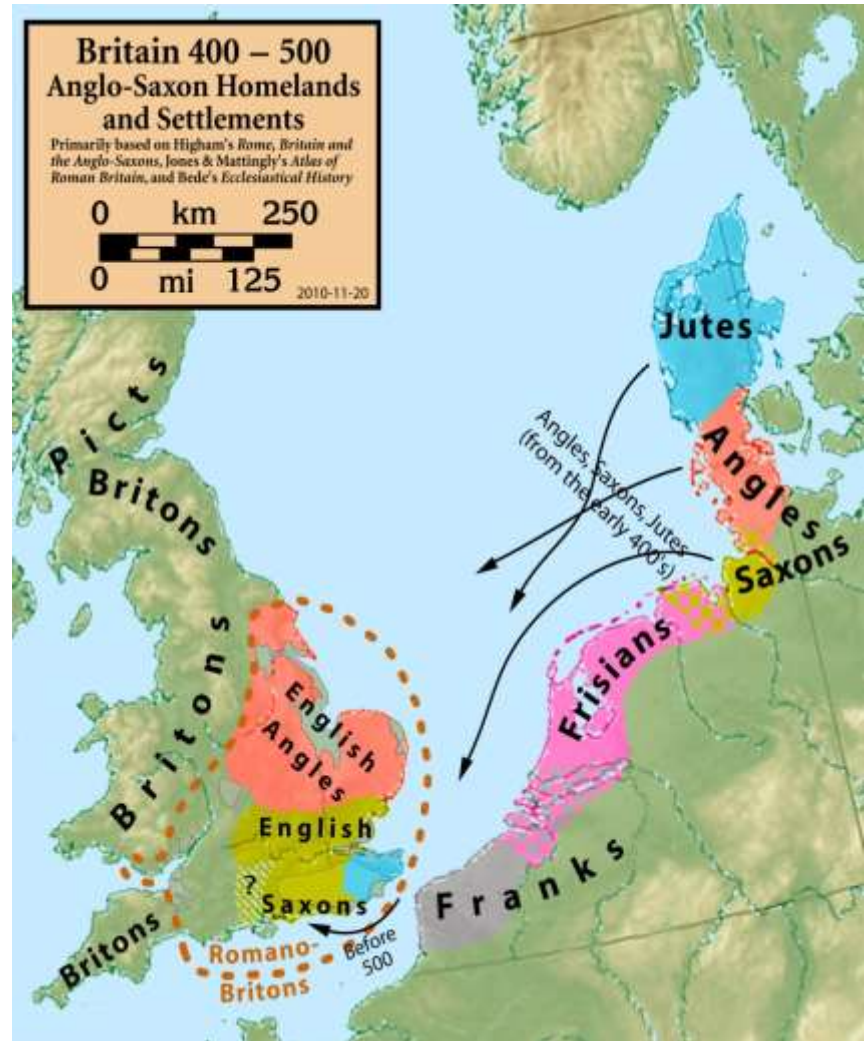
- **Lecture Focus (Essential Question):**



- Do you know anyone who has had to go to court or has served in a jury? Lets learn how these types of institutions began in Medieval Europe.

# England in the Middle Ages

- You learned a few weeks ago that Germanic people called the Angles and Saxons invaded Britain in the early 400's C.E.
- They took over much of the country from the Celts and set up many small kingdoms.



# England in the Middle Ages

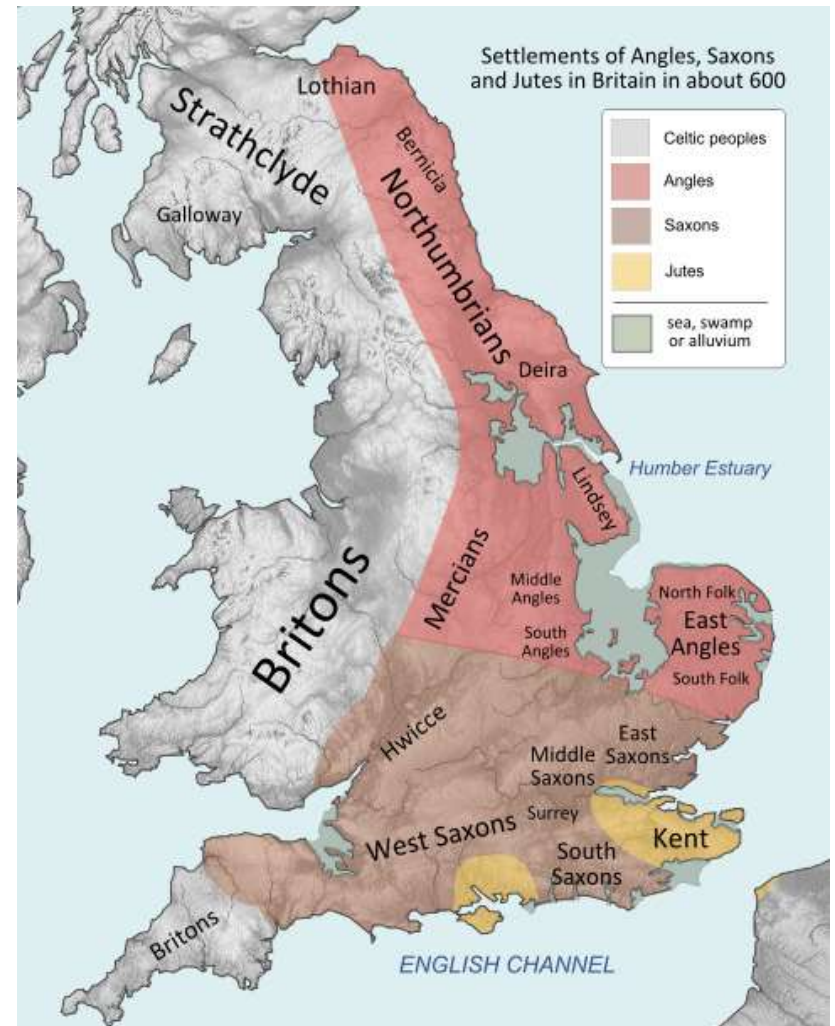
- In the late 800's, the Vikings attacked Britain.



- **King Alfred of Wessex**, later known as King Alfred the Great, united the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms and drove away the Vikings.

# England in the Middle Ages

- Alfred's united kingdom became known as "**Angleland**" or England.



# England in the Middle Ages

- Alfred ruled England from 871 to 899.



- He founded schools and hired scholars to rewrite Latin books in the Anglo-Saxon language... however, the Anglo – Saxon Kings who ruled after Alfred were weak leaders. (**King Alfred's Tower Monument**)

# England in the Middle Ages

- **Questions:**
- Who united the Anglos and Saxons to fight the Vikings?
- What was this new kingdom called?



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- In the 900's, the Vikings conquered part of Western France across the English Channel from England.



- This region came to be called **Normandy**, after **Vikings**, or **Norsemen**, who ruled it.

# Who was William the Conqueror?



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- By the middle of 1000's C.E., Normandy was ruled by William, a descendent of the Viking ruler who had conquered Normandy.



- His story goes like this...

# Who was William the Conqueror?



- During the 8th and 9th centuries, Vikings ventured down in their long boats each summer from their Scandinavian homelands to raid the **monasteries** and **towns**, reaching Paris in 845.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- After a few years they began to stay through winter in the region.
- By 911 C.E. the Viking “**Jarl**” or leader, Rollon, Count of Rouen, was powerful enough to force the French king to sign a treaty ceding part of the province to him, from which it took the name of Normandy, the country of the Northmen.



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- In the following century and a half, Rollon and his successors, converted to Christianity and became vassals of the French king.



- They also expanded their domains by conquest until they covered roughly the area of today's Normandy.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- Rollon's grandson Richard I “The Fearless” eventually took the title of Duke and the family name, St Clair or Sinclair, where the original treaty had been signed.
- This “Duke” title is passed down through generation after generation.



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- In 1035, with the death of Duke Robert of Normandy, the title passed to his illegitimate son William, then 8 years old.



- William quickly learned the arts of war and politics in the violent society of 11th century Normandy. (Château de Falaise, William was born here)



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- Knighted by the French King Henry I at the age of 15, a few years later he was successfully leading his troops to put down rebellions and invasions.



- William was also a cousin of King Edward of England.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- When King Edward dies, a noble named Harold Godwinson claimed England's throne.



- William however, believed that he, not Harold, should be king of England.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- In 1066, William and his army of Norman Knights landed in England.



- They defeated Harold and his foot soldiers at the **Battle of Hastings**...a battle that really shaped the future of Medieval England.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- How do we know about the **Battle of Hastings** in great detail?



- The **Bayeux Tapestry** is an embroidered cloth, not an actual painting nearly 230 ft. long.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

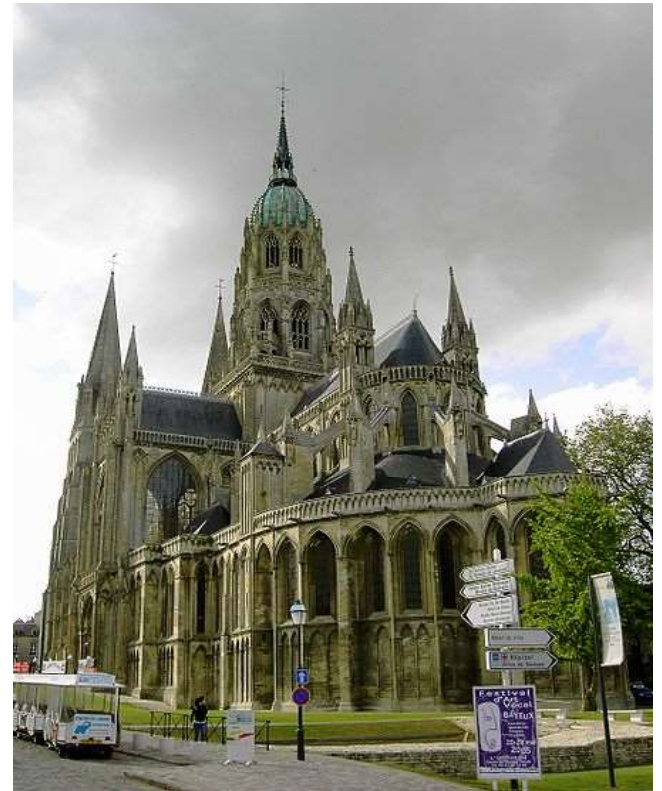
- It depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England concerning William, Duke of Normandy and Harold, Earl of Wessex, and culminating in the Battle of Hastings.



- The tapestry consists of some fifty scenes on linen with colored woolen yarns.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- It is likely that it was commissioned by **Bishop Odo**, William's half brother, and made in England in the 1070s.



- In 1729 the hanging was rediscovered by scholars and was displayed annually in Bayeux Cathedral...the tapestry is now exhibited at Musée de la Tapissierie de Bayeux in Bayeux, Normandy, France.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- When King Harold lost the battle, the Normans went on a rampage throughout England.



- The Anglo-Saxon period officially came to an end when William was crowned King of England on Christmas day 1066.

# Who was William the Conqueror?



- Following being crowned King of England William was known as **William the Conqueror**.



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- At first the Anglo – Saxons resisted Williams rule.



- He had to find a way to stop Anglo – Saxon revolts and to control his country and more importantly his Norman soldiers.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- He did so by giving land to his Norman Knights.



- He then made them swear loyalty to him as the ruler of England.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- William wanted to know all about his new Kingdom, so he conducted the first census in Europe since Roman times.



- The census was known as the **Domesday Book** and counted the people, manors, farms, animals and various other elements of his land.

# Who was William the Conqueror?



# Who was William the Conqueror?

- The Normans who ruled England brought Europe's customs to England.



- Under William's rule, officials and nobles spoke French.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- Ordinary Anglo – Saxons still spoke their own language, which later became known as English.



- They also learned new skills from Norman weavers and various other artisans.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- The Normans, in turn, kept many of the Anglo – Saxons' government practices.



- For example, they depended on local officials called **Sheriffs**, to keep order.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- The word "**Sheriff**" comes from the term "**Shire Reeve**".
- A "**Shire Reeve**" was a royal official responsible for keeping the peace throughout a shire or county on behalf of the king of England.
- The term was preserved in England throughout the Norman Conquest.
- From the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms the term spread to several other regions, from Scotland, to Ireland, and the United States.





# Who was William the Conqueror?



- As more and more Normans and Anglo – Saxons married, their ways of conducting their lives merged into a new English culture.

# Who was William the Conqueror?

- **Questions:**

- What was the name of the region in France that was taken over by Vikings?
- Who was William the Conqueror?
- What was the Domesday Book?
- What does the term “**Shire Reeve**” mean and how do we use it today?
- What was the Battle of Hastings?
- What was the **Bayeux Tapestry**?

# History Mystery!!!

- How do we know about the Anglo – Saxons???



- One of the most important archaeological sites in all of Europe is at **Sutton Hoo** in Eastern England, a site of two 6<sup>th</sup> and early 7<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries

# History Mystery!!!



# History Mystery!!

- One site contained an undisturbed burial ship 80 feet long and a wealth of Anglo-Saxon artifacts of outstanding historical significance.



- The grave is thought to be from an Anglo – Saxon king from the mid 600's.

# History Mystery!!!

- Historians have found many artifacts of gold and silver, including some from the Byzantine Empire.



- By studying these artifacts archeologists have learned much about life in seventh century England.

# History Mystery!!!



# Henry II and the Common Law

- The power of the English King increased under Henry II.



- Henry ruled England from 1154 to 1189 and really used the countries laws and court system to increase his power.



# Henry II and the Common Law



- Chinon Castle, extensively used by Henry II

# Henry II and the Common Law

- He set up a central court system with trained lawyers and judges to dispense justice fairly.



- Then he appointed circuit judges, who travelled across England hearing cases and dishing out justice.

# Henry II and the Common Law

- Henry II also established **Common Law**.



- Common Law** – Laws that are the same throughout the entire kingdom.

# Henry II and the Common Law

- Henry set up juries to handle arguments over land and other minor disputes and in time two major jury's were developed.



- The **Grand Jury** decided whether people should be accused of a crime.

# Henry II and the Common Law



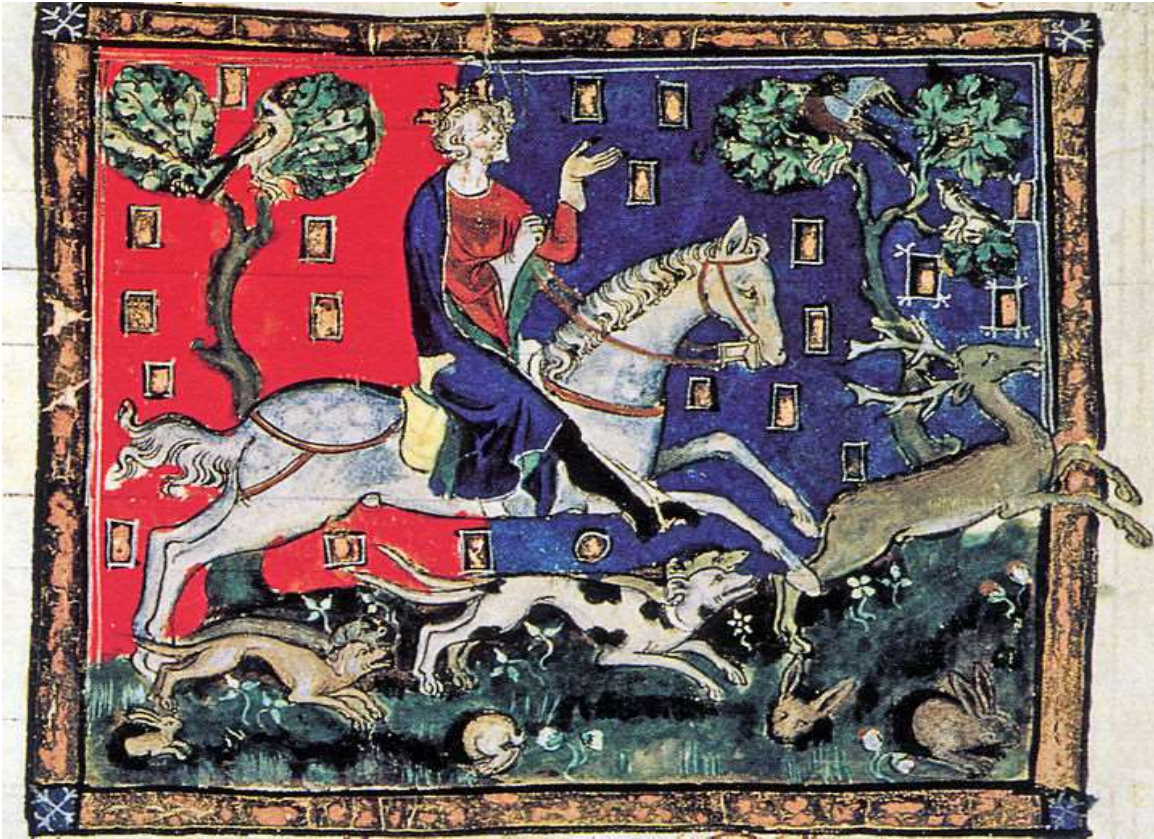
- The **Trial Jury** decided whether an accused person was innocent or guilty,

# Henry II and the Common Law

- Questions:
- What is Common Law?
- What are the differences between a grand Jury and a Trial Jury?

# What was the Magna Carta?

- Henry's son John became King of England in 1199 when his father died.



- King John raised taxes in England and punished his enemies without trials, jury's or even justice.

# What was the Magna Carta?

- Have you ever heard of the **Magna Carta**?



- **Magna Carta** - The Magna Carta is Latin for "Great Charter", It set down rights which became part of English law and which are now the foundation of the constitution of all countries which speak English.



# What was the Magna Carta?

- It did not grant any new rights, but it did protect existing rights in writing.



- These rights included the basic right of anyone convicted of a crime to a jury trial, protection of private property, reasonable limits on taxes and a degree of guaranteed religious freedom.

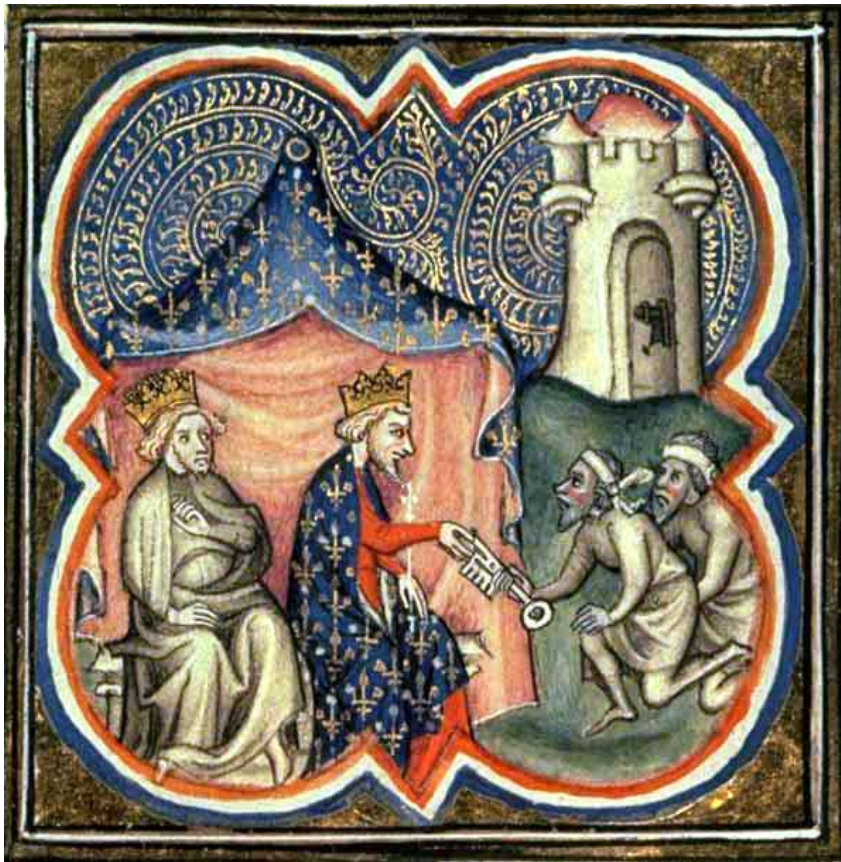
# What was the Magna Carta?



- The Magna Carta was a significant influence on the long historical process that has resulted in the rule of constitutional law today.

# What was the Magna Carta?

- **The Magna Carta** removed some of the King's power and really limited what he could do with his kingdom.



- The King could no longer collect taxes unless a group called the Great Council agreed.

# What was the Magna Carta?



- Many English nobles resented the King's power and refused to obey him unless he could guarantee them certain rights.

# What was the Magna Carta?

- King John had a reputation for being tyrannical.



- His reign was blemished by continuous war losses, beginning with the loss of Normandy to Philippe Auguste of France and ending with England torn by civil war.

# What was the Magna Carta?

- King John risked being forced out of power because of his mismanagement.



- By 1215, England's nobility was fed up with paying extra taxation and nobles rebelled and captured London.

# What was the Magna Carta?

- The nobles met with King John at a meadow called Runnymede in 1215.



- There they forced John to sign a document of rights called the **Magna Carta**, or the **Great Charter**.

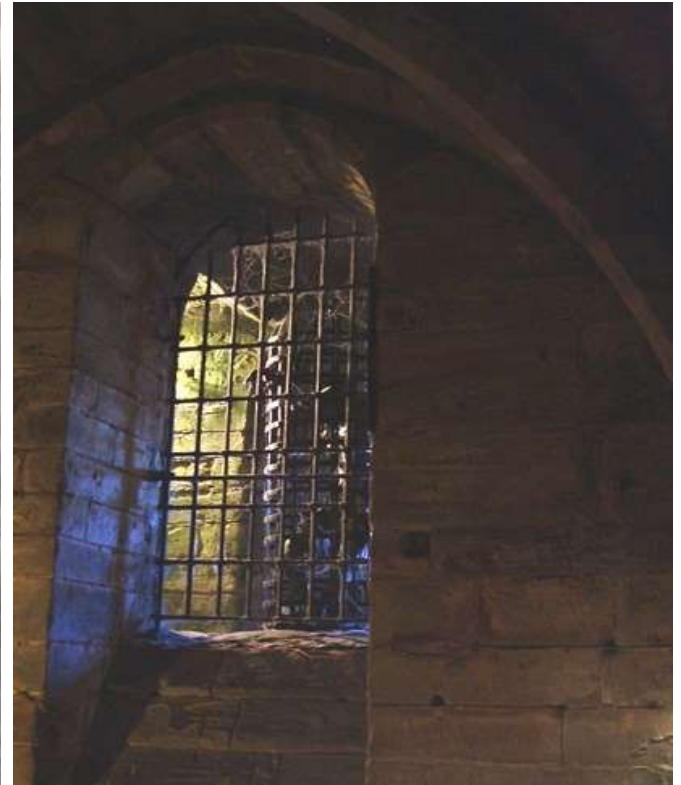
# What was the Magna Carta?





# What was the Magna Carta?

- The **Magna Carta** was full of rules for all of England,, freemen accused of crimes had the right to fair trials by there peers or equals.



- **Habeas corpus** was introduced, which protects a person from being imprisoned indefinitely without a trial.

# What was the Magna Carta?

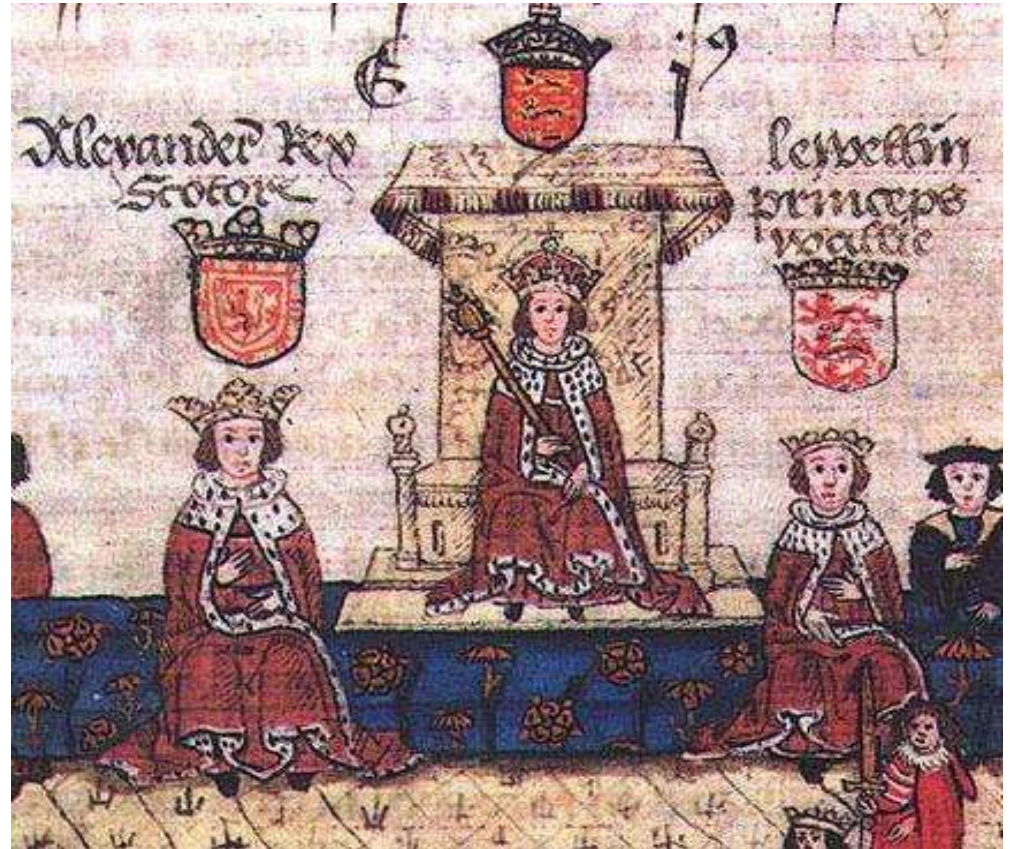
- The Magna Carta also stated that the King and Vassals both had certain rights and duties.



- The Magna Carta was extremely important due to the fact that it helped to establish the idea that people have rights and that the power of the government should be limited.

# What was the Magna Carta?

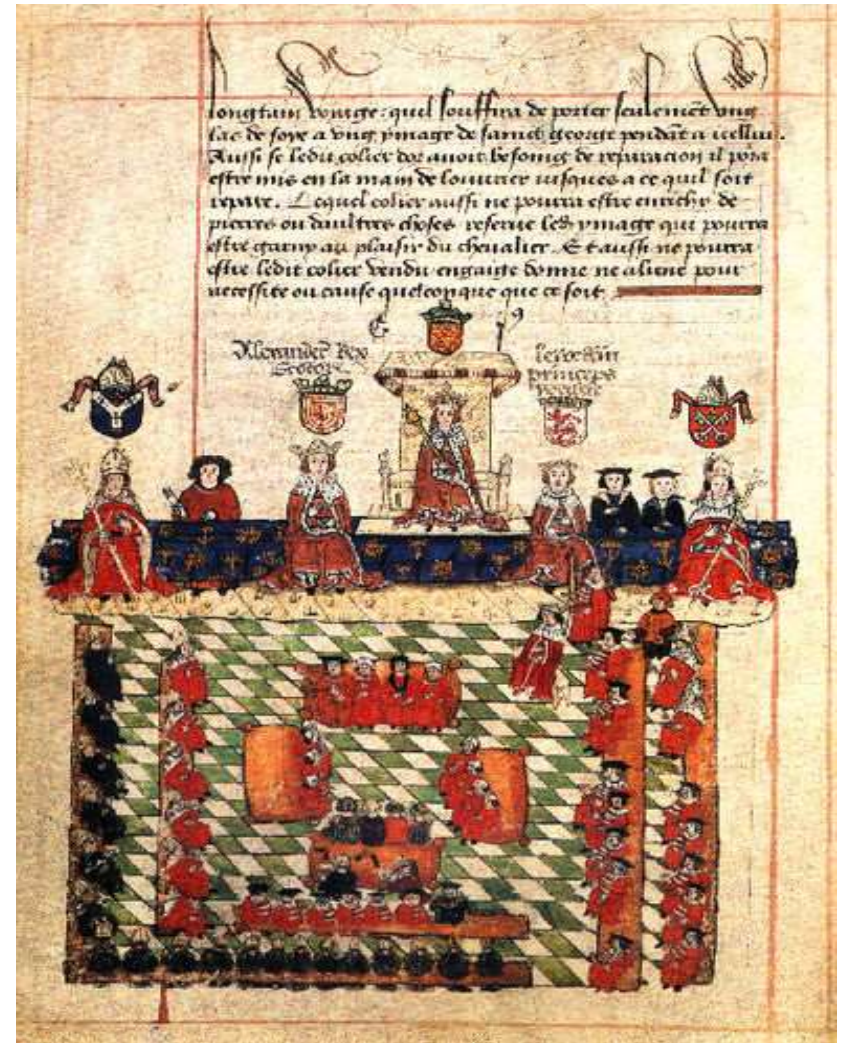
- In the 1200's, another English King, Edward I, called for a meeting of people from different parts of England.



- Their job was to advise the King and help him make laws that were best for England.

# What was the Magna Carta?

- This gathering, called the **Parliament**, was an important step toward a representative government.
- At first, **Parliament** was made up of two Knights from every county, two people from every town and all high ranking nobles and church officials.



# What was the Magna Carta?

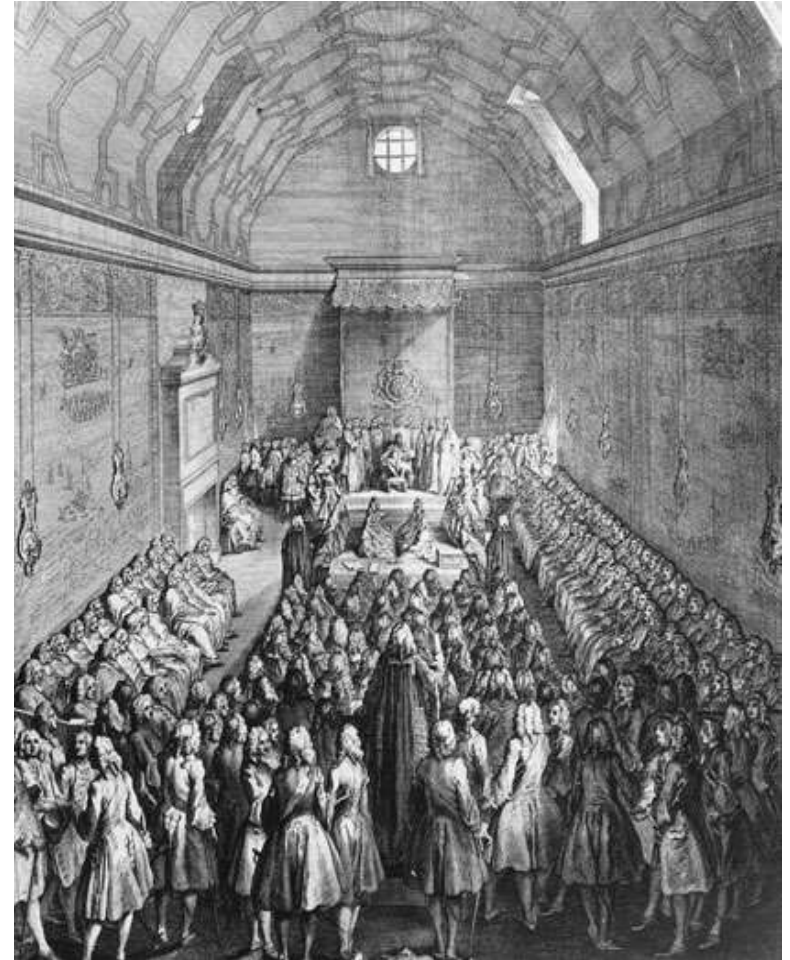


- Later, Parliament divided into two separate houses...high ranking nobles and church officials met as the **House of Lords**.

# What was the Magna Carta?



# What was the Magna Carta?



- Knights and townspeople met as the **House of Commons**.

# What was the Magna Carta?





# What was the Magna Carta?

- **Questions :**

- 1) What was the Magna Carta?

- 2) What does the term Habeas Corpus mean?

- 3) Why was the Magna Carta Important?

- 4) What were the two different houses of Parliament?

# Primary Source Magna Carta

- **Primary Source Magna Carta!!!!**

# Primary Source Magna Carta

- **Primary Source:** This excerpt from the Magna Carta describes the right to a trial by jury:



- “No free man shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised “seized”, outlawed, banished or in any way destroyed, nor will we proceed against or prosecute him, except by lawful judgment of his peers and by the law of the land”.



# Primary Source Magna Carta

- **Document Based Question:**

- Why do you think this part of the Magna Carta is important???

# Primary Source Magna Carta

- **Document Based Question:**

- Why do you think this part of the Magna Carta is important???

- **Answer:** The text of the Magna Carta is a work of many people. It guarantees the right of law to all people as well as the right to a trial by Jury.

- Our legal system today guarantees the same rights.

# Linking Past and Present

- **Linking Past and Present!!!**

# Linking Past and Present

## o **The Jury System Then:**

- o The right to a jury trial in England was granted in the Magna Carta, but jury trials began in Europe about 50 years earlier.
- o For each case, 12 jurors were chosen.
- o In some villages, the same jurors were chosen over and over because of their wisdom and status.
- o Jurors were always men.
- o The jury decided whether the accused was guilty or innocent.



# Linking Past and Present

- **The Jury System Now:**

- In the United States, citizens are chosen at random for possible Jury Duty.
- Some states have reduced the number of jurors from 12 to 10, 8 or 6.
- Jurors usually decide a verdict and sometimes even decide a sentence.





# Linking Past and Present



- What is the disadvantage of choosing the same people to serve on juries again and again?