

Topic vocabulary

monarchy	a system of government with a leader called a king or queen.
parliament	a group of elected people who make the laws for a country
Middle Ages	the period of history between A.D. 500 to A.D. 1500.
baron	a lord, owning lots of land which would be worked by peasants.
peasant	The poorest people in medieval England, usually farmers.
Feudal System	a system in which people keep their land in return for working and fighting for their lord
charter	an official document given by a ruler to a group which explains the group's rights and responsibilities
taxes	a sum of money paid to a ruler/government
liberty	the right or power to act and choose freely
justice	the upholding of what is fair, just, and right
Political	to do with the government
economic	to do with money
religious	To do with the Church and God
heir	a person who receives another person's property and title after their death
succeed/succession	to follow or come after

The Magna Carta June 1215

The Magna Carta is regarded as one of the most important documents from the Middle Ages. Magna Carta means 'Great Charter' in Latin. The Magna Carta is a charter that King John of England agreed on with the Feudal Barons. The Magna Carta states that King John should recognise that his people deserve certain rights and that he should treat them fairly. King John put his royal seal of approval on the Magna Carta at Runnymede Castle, near Windsor, on 15 June 1215.



King John sealing the Magna Carta

Dates of reign	Important Monarchs Timeline	
William the Conqueror 1066 -1087	William had been promised the crown by Edward the Confessor. But Edward passed it on to Harold II and William felt betrayed. William confronted Harold at the Battle of Hastings, killed him and claimed the throne of England. William's Coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066. The majority of the English were not happy to be ruled by William, as he was a foreign king. He forced the English to accept them as their King, he held all the power in England	
King John 1199 -1215	He forced Barons to pay very high taxes to pay for a war in France. This was very unpopular. In 1215 baron leaders marched on London. Their demands were drawn up in a document which became the known as the Magna Carta. In June 1215 he agreed to their demands and sealed the Magna Carta. It was a remarkable document which set limits on the powers of the king and granted rights to all freemen.	
Henry VIII 1509 - 47	Henry is most famous for having 6 wives. However his reign was dominated by his desire to have a son. In order to do this he wanted to divorce his wife to marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope refused, so Henry passed a law through Parliament and which started a new Church in England in 1531. England was no longer Catholic. Henry made himself supreme head of the church in England. He was a very powerful King but had to pass laws through his Parliament.	
Elizabeth I 1558 - 1603	Elizabeth I was one of the most famous queens England ever had. She was the last Tudor monarch (a monarch is a king or queen). Elizabeth I was King Henry VIII's youngest daughter, and her mother was Anne Boleyn. The years in which Elizabeth I ruled England are called the Golden Age, because England was very prosperous.	
Charles I 1625 -1649	When Charles I came to the throne he fell out with Parliament straight away. Charles believed in his divine right as king and struggled to control Parliament who resented his attempts at rule alone. Charles fought a war against his parliament and after many battles he eventually lost. As a result he was tried in court and sentenced to death. He was executed by his own people on 30th January 1649.	
George I 1714 -1727	George was German and arrived in England aged 54 speaking only a few words of English. In Germany he had complete power but in England found that he had to work with Parliament and his ministers. The king grew frustrated in his attempts to control Parliament. One MP called Walpole became powerful and was Britain's first Prime Minister.	
Queen Victoria 1837 -1901	The British Empire was at the height of its power and she ruled over 450 million people, one quarter of the world's population and approximately one quarter of the world's landmass. The Victorian era was a time of great industrial, political, trade, scientific and military progress for Great Britain. In 1851 she was persuaded her to take a less of a role, leaving the rule of the nation and Empire to Parliament.	
Elizabeth II 1952 - present	The reign of Queen Elizabeth II since 1952 has spanned a period of great change. Britain's position in the world, her economy, and the very shape and structures of society have all been transformed. She is the head of State for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Head of the Commonwealth. She has symbolic duties but no direct powers. She is the longest serving monarch in History.	