

## What were the duties of a medieval monarch, and why?

- Looking good – otherwise your people won't respect you;
- Support the Church – guide your people to heaven;
- Settle arguments – making sure the Feudal System works;
- Have a male heir – to carry on your dynasty (royal family);
- Fighting wars – conquer land to give to your barons.



# Year 7 Learn Sheet

## Final Assessment *King Henry II, King John*

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## King Henry II – the one who killed his best friend?

**Pope** – the head of the Catholic Church.  
**Archbishop** – the highest Church job in England

**Disobedient** – someone who is not following the rules.

**Rebellion** – when the King's power is challenged

1. In many ways, **Henry II was a highly successful king**. Henry managed to rule over England, half of France, and the kings of Scotland and Ireland bowed down to him.

3. But Thomas Beckett began to take his job very seriously; the drinking stopped and Thomas started to side with the Church over Henry on matters they disagreed about.

5. The knights saw this as an order from the King to kill Beckett. They found Beckett in **Canterbury Cathedral**. They couldn't drag Thomas out of the building, so they killed him there and then!

7. Henry's apology clearly paid off. Two days later Henry's armies managed to put down the rebellion against him.

2. But the story Henry II is best remembered for his what happened to his best friend, Thomas Beckett. **The two men were very close; they used to drink together**. When the old **Archbishop of Canterbury** died, Henry put in place Thomas Beckett as his replacement. Henry figured that this way he could control the Church in England.

4. Thomas was becoming so popular with the people of England, he fled to France to avoid Henry's anger. But in **1170** he returned to England. This annoyed Henry II who was overheard by 4 knights shouting '**Who will rid me of this disobedient priest?!**'.

6. Henry II's actions **upset the Pope**. A few years later Henry's own children and wife rose up against him. To gain the support of the Pope (and God) Henry had to promise to say sorry for murdering Beckett. **Henry was whipped in Canterbury Cathedral**.

- **support the Church** (fell out with Pope over who should be made Archbishop of Canterbury. John thought he should have the right to pick. The Pope stopped all church services in England. John was excommunicated (**banned from the Church**) for 4 years and finally gave in to the Pope. John got his revenge by torturing monks);
- **fighting wars** (lost nearly all of England's land France giving him the nickname 'softsword');
- **settle arguments** (fell out with barons who complained that John was taxing them and others unfairly to pay for war. The Barons forced John to sign the **Magna Carta**, a set of rules the King had to follow).

**Not fit to be king** – replaced his brother, King Richard the Lionheart, who died in France

**Saw himself as more important than the Church** – ignored the orders of the Pope

## King John – the one who was bad?



**Obsessed with war** – desperate to win back land he had lost in France

**Obsessed with his own image** – wanted to look the part of King



**Bad Good**

- **having heirs** (his son was Henry III);
- **looking good** (had a ceremonial bath every 3 weeks, costing 6 pence a time, a lot of money then! John also wore fur coats made of polar bear skin!);
- **fighting wars** (when John went to war with his barons after breaking the Magna Carta, John besieged Rochester Castle that was held by enemy barons. He used pig fat as a fuel to burn wooden struts used to hold up tunnelling beneath a wall. It brought down the wall and allowed John to take the castle!).