

Early Lawmakers - History

Key Vocabulary

Magna Carta	The Great Charter (book of laws).
Charter	An official document setting out the rights and duties of a group.
Baron	A member of the lowest order of the British nobility, usually referred to as a Lord.
Crusade	A series of medieval military expeditions.
Scroll	A roll of parchment or paper for writing on.
Feudal system	A way of organising society into different groups based on their roles. It had the king at the top with all of the control, and the peasants at the bottom doing all of the work.
Taxes	An amount of money that you have to pay to the government so that it can pay for the public services.
Democracy	A form of government in which the common people hold power and can rule either directly or through chosen people.
Rule of Law	No person or government is above the law. No government or its officials can enforce laws that are unfair or unjust.
British Values	Being British means having freedom in the country, but respecting democratic laws. Also, to have tolerance with everyone and treating them with equality.
Tyrant	A ruler who shows absolute power.



King John of England put his seal on the Magna Carta at Runnymede, near Windsor, on 15 June 1215.

Magna Carta Libertatum is Medieval Latin for "the Great Charter of the Liberties", commonly called the Magna Carta (also Magna Charta; "Great Charter"). It is a charter of rights agreed to by King John of England in 1215. It set out the first laws and everyone, including the monarch, must obey the law of the land.



Key dates

1199	King John becomes King. He has no money as it has been spent by Richard the Lionheart on the Crusades.
1203	Arthur, John's nephew and rival for the throne is murdered. He is only 16.
1203-04	John is defeated in war with France. He loses most of his French lands.
1207	John falls out with the Pope. He doesn't like the man the Pope has chosen for Archbishop of Canterbury.
1208	Pope bans all church services.
1209	Pope excommunicates John. John steals church land and money.
1214	John tries to win back lands in France. He loses and short of money tries to make the barons pay more.
1215	Barons rebel against John. They force him to sign the Magna Carta. His power is limited.