

## The Middle Ages

### Lesson 6



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. Magna Carta caused changes in England's government and legal system.
2. The Hundred Years' War led to political changes in England and France.
3. The Black Death led to social changes.
4. The church reacted to challengers by punishing people who opposed its teachings.
5. Christians fought Moors in Spain and Portugal in an effort to drive all Muslims out of Europe.
6. Jews faced discrimination across Europe in the Middle Ages.

### Key Terms and People

**Magna Carta** document written by English nobles and signed by King John listing rights the king could not ignore

**Parliament** lawmaking body that governs England

**Hundred Years' War** long conflict between England and France during the 1300s and 1400s

**Joan of Arc** teenage peasant girl who rallied the French troops during the Hundred Years' War

**Black Death** deadly plague that killed millions of Europeans from 1347 and 1351

**heresy** religious ideas that oppose accepted church teachings

**Reconquista** Christian efforts to retake Spain from the Muslim Moors

**King Ferdinand** Aragon prince who married Isabella of Castile to rule a united Spain

**Queen Isabella** Castilian princess who ruled Spain with her husband, Ferdinand of Aragon

**Spanish Inquisition** organization of priests charged with seeking out and punishing non-Christians

### Lesson Summary

#### MAGNA CARTA CAUSES CHANGE IN ENGLAND

In 1215, a group of English nobles decided to force the king to respect their rights. They made King John approve a document listing 63 rights the king had to follow. This document was called **Magna Carta**, or "Great Charter." This charter became a key principle of English government

What was Magna Carta?

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Lesson 6, *continued*

and an important step in the development of democracy.

The kings soon turned to a council of nobles for advice and money. This council developed into **Parliament**, the lawmaking body that still governs England today.

**Who made up the original British Parliament?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR**

In Europe, kings were not giving up their power, but other events forced changes. The **Hundred Years' War**, a long conflict between England and France, started when the English king invaded France. Nearly 100 years later **Joan of Arc**, a teenage peasant girl, rallied the French troops. The English killed Joan, but the French won the war.

**Why was Joan of Arc's feat truly remarkable?**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**THE BLACK DEATH**

During the Hundred Years' War an even greater crisis arose. This crisis was the **Black Death**, a deadly plague that swept through Europe between 1347 and 1351. The plague originally came from infected rats from central and eastern Asia.

Some historians think the Black Death killed a third of Europe's population—perhaps 25 million people. This caused sweeping changes all over Europe. The old manor system, already weakened by the growth of cities, fell apart. Plague survivors found their skills in high demand. They could demand wages for their labor. Many fled their manors, moving to Europe's growing cities. The power of the church also began to decline.

**Underline the estimated number of victims of the Black Death.**

**How did the Black Death change Europe?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 6, *continued***THE CHURCH REACTS TO CHALLENGERS**

Around 1100, some Christians felt that the clergy were more concerned with money and land than with God. Others did not agree with the church's ideas and preached their own ideas about religion. Religious ideas that oppose church teachings are called **heresy**. Church officials sent priests and friars throughout Europe to find heretics.

In the early 1200s, Pope Innocent III called for a crusade against heretics in southern France. The result was a bloody struggle that lasted about 20 years, destroying towns and cities and costing thousands of lives.

**What two things did some Christians feel that the clergy was more concerned with than God?**

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**CHRISTIANS FIGHT THE MOORS**

In Spain, the reign of the Muslim Moors collapsed in the 1000s. Christian kingdoms in Spain started a war to drive them out. They called their war **Reconquista** (reh-kahn-KEES-tuh), or reconquest. The kingdom of Castile freed itself of Muslim rule. Portugal and Aragon soon followed. Castile and Aragon became united by the marriage of two royals, **King Ferdinand** of Aragon and **Queen Isabella** of Castile. Spain became a nation-state. In addition to banning Islam, the royals required all Jews to convert to Christianity or leave.

Ferdinand and Isabella created the **Spanish Inquisition**, an organization of priests that found and punished non-Christians. The inquisition executed about 2,000 people in Spain and almost 1,400 more in Portugal.

**What was the Reconquista?**

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**How many people in both Portugal and Spain died at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition?**

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**JEWES FACE DISCRIMINATION**

Jews were persecuted all over Europe. Many Christians blamed all Jews for the persecution and death of Jesus. Some people even blamed the Jews for the Black Death. In many kingdoms, Jews were driven out by angry mobs, and sometimes by the kings themselves. They had to flee from their homes or die.

**Name two things that some medieval Europeans blamed on the Jews.**

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Lesson 6, *continued*

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Make Inferences** Write a one-page paper explaining how our lives might be different if the Magna Carta had *not* been created.

**DIRECTIONS** Match the terms in the first column with their correct definition from the second column by placing the letter of the correct definition in the space provided before each term.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Magna Carta        | a. teenage peasant girl that rallied the French troops             |
| _____ 2. Parliament         | b. long conflict between England and France                        |
| _____ 3. Hundred Years' War | c. a document listing rights that the king could not ignore        |
| _____ 4. Joan of Arc        | d. a deadly plague that swept through Europe between 1347 and 1351 |
| _____ 5. Black Death        | e. the lawmaking body that governs England today                   |

**DIRECTIONS** Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

6. King \_\_\_\_\_ was a prince from Aragon, one of the largest Spanish kingdoms. (**John/ Ferdinand**)
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the effort to retake Spain from the Moors. (**Reconquista/Hundred Years War**)
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ was an organization of priests that looked for and punished non-Christians in Spain. (**Reconquista/Spanish Inquisition**)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was married to King Ferdinand and together they ruled all of Spain. (**Queen Isabella/Joan of Arc**)
10. Religious ideas that disagree with church teachings are called \_\_\_\_\_ . (**Black Death/heresy**)