

# British History: Lime Class – Rule of Britain

## Who were the early law makers?

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Magna Carta</b>	The Great Charter (book of Laws)
<b>Charter</b>	an official document setting out the rights and duties of a group.
<b>Baron</b>	a member of the lowest order of the British nobility, usually referred to as a Lord.
<b>Crusade</b>	a series of medieval military expeditions.
<b>Scroll</b>	a roll of parchment or paper for writing on.
<b>Feudal system</b>	The feudal system was 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.
<b>Taxes</b>	an amount of money that you have to pay to the government so that it can pay for public services.
<b>Democracy-</b>	is a form of government in which the common people hold power and can rule either directly or through chosen people
<b>Rule of Law-</b>	no person or government is above the <b>law</b> . No government or its officials can enforce <b>laws</b> that are unfair or unjust.
<b>British Values-</b>	Being <b>British means</b> having freedom in the country, but respecting democratic laws. Also to have tolerance with everyone and treating them with equality,
<b>Tyrant</b>	a ruler who shows absolute power
<b>Medieval Times-</b>	The <b>Middle Ages</b> , or <b>Medieval Times</b> , in Europe was a long <b>period</b> of history from 500 AD to 1500 AD. That's 1000 years!



### Key People

King John  
 Richard The Lion-Heart  
 The Barons

### Key Places

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



### Key Dates

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

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#### Key Knowledge

##### Causes:

King John was unpopular due to high taxes and losses in his war with France. He was a poor soldier in comparison to the previous King, his brother Richard.

King John angered people by trying to control the Church. This led to the Pope closing all Churches in England for 7 years.

The barons were angry at paying scutage—a high tax and giving John their best fighting men.

##### Events:

In 1215, the barons gave the king a choice: change the way the country was run or face a fight against the barons' armies. The barons came up with 63 rights they thought all barons should have. This list of rights became known as The Magna Carta. When John refused to listen, they raised an army and captured London. This meant that John had to listen. Key promises included: The King not demanding taxes without the barons' permission, not interfering with the church, fair trials for all freemen, no inheritance tax and a reduction in fines for crimes.

##### Impact:

It limited the King's power and John could not back out of the agreement without a war.

The laws covered everyone in society (e.g. fair taxes).

It was the start of the idea of parliament—we still have this today.

Countries like America based their constitution on the Magna Carta.

It involved ordinary people in the running of England (e.g. barons, bishops and knights)

#### Key Knowledge

##### **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.

