

King John and the Magna Carta

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19 death of his brother, Richard the Lionheart, in 1199. His
29 reputation soon became one of a cruel king, who greedily
38 taxed his noble landowners and kept the money for
39 himself.

48 While King John was fighting a disastrous battle against
56 France, church leaders and noblemen met secretly and
61 drew up the Magna Carta.

70 This document stated that King John must follow the
82 law and could not rule just as he wished. Failure to do
92 so meant that the nobles could declare war against him.

103 It was one of the first documents to declare that citizens
113 had rights, such as being properly tried for a crime.

124 As King John needed the support of the barons in France,
134 he agreed to affix his seal on 15th June 1215.



Disclaimer: We hope you find the information and resources on our website useful. Please be aware that aspects of an individual's life may be controversial to some. Due to this, we highly recommend that you carefully research the individual before teaching about them to learners. If your learners do independent research about an individual, we advise using only pre-selected, appropriate sources of information and websites appropriate to their age.

Questions



1. Who did King John succeed to the throne?



2. Which word is closest in meaning to the word **affix**? Tick one.

☐ unstick

☐ attach

☐ unfasten



3. Why do you think church leaders and noblemen met secretly to write the Magna Carta?



4. Summarise the key points of this text in 25 words or fewer.

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3. Why do you think church leaders and noblemen met secretly to write the Magna Carta?
Pupil responses such as: I think the church leaders and noblemen met secretly to write the Magna Carta because they wanted to discuss it without King John. Perhaps, they thought he would try to stop them.



4. Summarise the key points of this text in 25 words or fewer.
Pupil responses such as: King John was known as being greedy and cruel. He was made to sign the Magna Carta so that he had to follow the law.