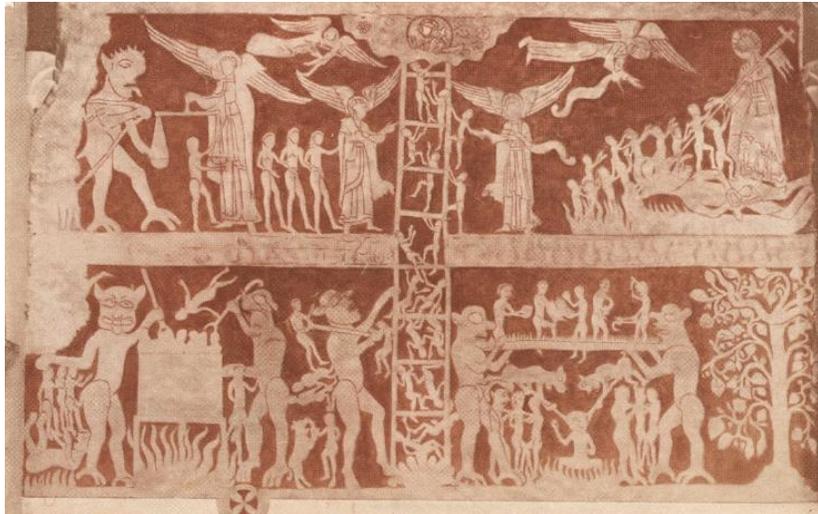
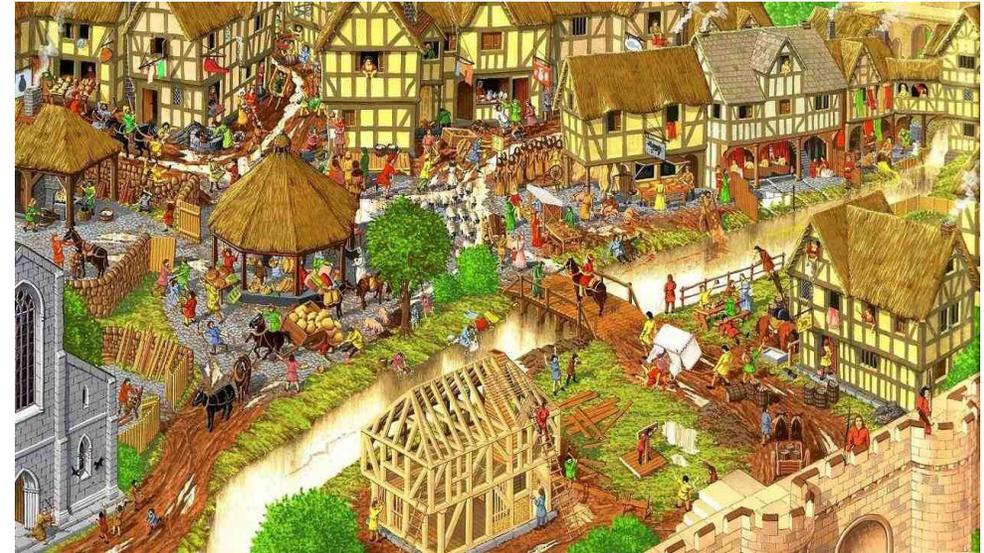


### Medieval villages and towns:

- Medieval villages were **small settlements** where a few people lived.
- They were in the countryside and the main job would be a **farmer**.
- All villagers would pay a **tithe** to the Church. This was **10% of your income** and could be paid in either money or goods (animals or crops etc).
- A town was much bigger and thousands of people could live in them.
- Some towns became so big that they could group together and buy their freedom from their Lord.
- Once free, the town could write a **Charter**. A Charter is a **set of rules** that decide how a town will run.
- Town's were very dirty and unhygienic places. There was a lot of disease there.



### Medieval Religion:

- In medieval times, everyone was religious.
- Not everyone was the same religion but everyone believed in their own God.
- In western Europe, almost everyone was a Catholic Christian. The Pope was the Head of this religion and the only person that God spoke too.
- The Church had enormous power over the people of Europe because they believed that if they defied God or the Church, then you would be sent to Hell when you died. Therefore, everyone tried to live a life without sin and made sure to pay the tithe!
- Most people couldn't read or write and so the only way they could learn about religion was to attend church and study the Doom Paintings inside. These paintings would show you what happened when you died and scared people in to fearing Hell.

**Stone Keep Castles:**

King's knew that Motte and Bailey Castles weren't that strong and so once they had the time and money, they began building Stone Keep Castles. These Castles were made of stone and had much stronger and thicker walls. The main defensive feature other than the stone walls, was the moat. A moat was brilliant at keeping attackers out and the people safe inside.

Key features:

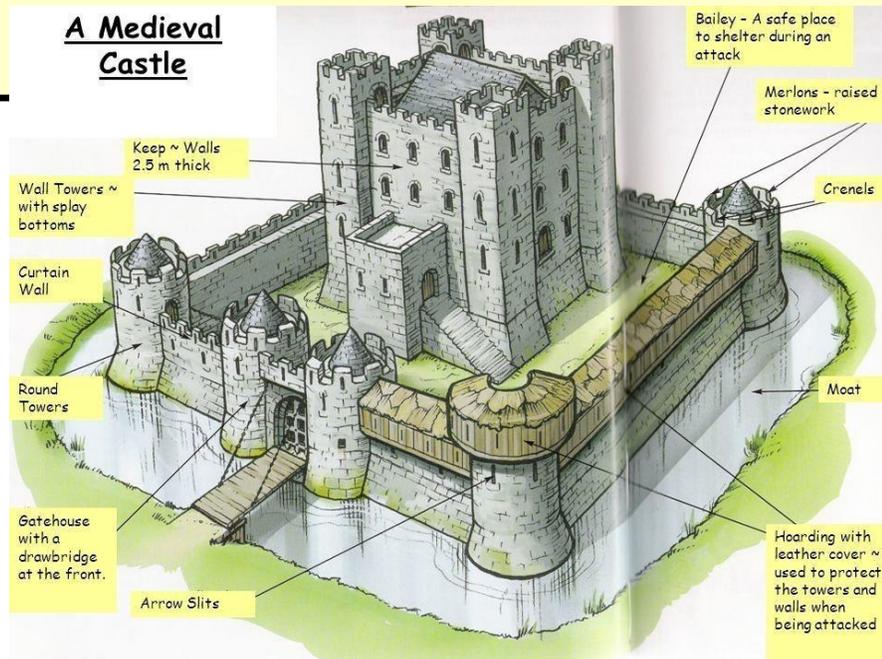
**Stone Keep** = Square castle building in the middle

**Moat** = Ditch around the outside usually filled with water

**Gatehouse** = A strong building in the walls that defended the entrance to the castle.

**Curtain wall** = A stone wall that surrounded the castle.

**Battlements** = Strong tops of the walls that protected the soldiers when fighting the enemy.

**Concentric Castles:**

After returning from the Crusades, it became clear that there was an even stronger type of castle; A Concentric Castle. This is still made out of stone but instead has several layers of walls. This was better because if the enemy managed to get through your outer walls, they still had to get through more walls before they could capture your castle.

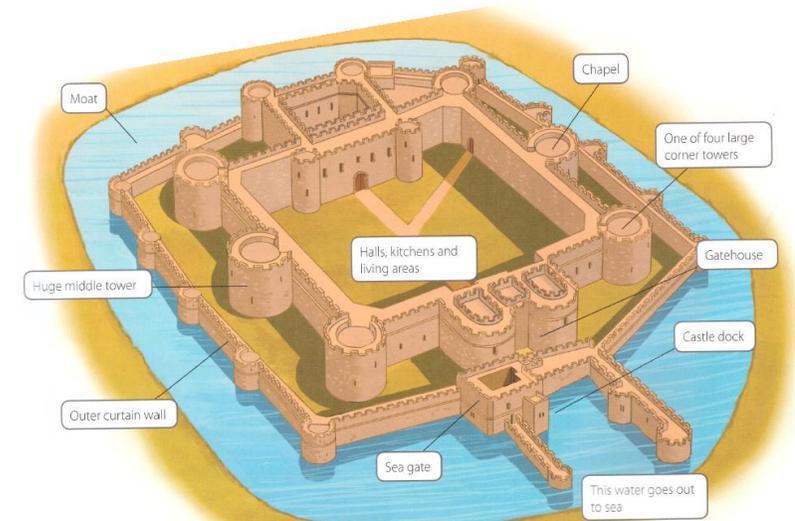
There were other new design features too:

**Arrow slits** = A small slit that your archers could fire from without fear of being hit

**Portcullis** = A metal gate that could be dropped in your gatehouse in case your main door was breached.

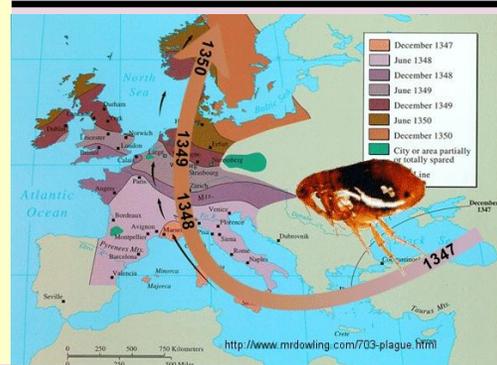
**Barbican** = A second and even more impressive Gatehouse to make it even more difficult to get in!

**Round Towers** = Towers that give a 360\* angle of your enemy and were stronger.



**Key facts:**

- It came from the east, most likely China or Mongolia
- It was brought to Europe by traders and eventually reached England in 1348
- 1/3 of England's population died from it
- There were 2 main strains of the disease; Bubonic (most common) and Pneumonic.
- It could last anything up to 6 days



**What they believed caused the Plague in 1348:**

The movement of the planets.

Being close to infected people.

Bad smells (Miasma)

Sent by God to punish us for our sins.

Foreigners.

It is important to remember that whilst we know now that the cause of the plague was bacteria carried by fleas on the rats, **they did not know this in 1348.**

They believed in **supernatural reasons such as God** but also in things such as bad smells.

People tried to **avoid** the plague by praying, whipping themselves to show God how much they loved him, avoiding people who had the plague.

In some parts of Europe, they even **blamed the Jews** and many were forced to flee their homes as a result.

**Cures:**

 <p><b>Leeches:</b> Suck out bad blood</p>	 <p><b>Rub a chickens bottom on your boil</b></p>	 <p><b>Place a dried toad on your boil:</b> It will drain the poison</p>
 <p><b>Potion:</b> E.g. Herbs, crushed egg shells, old treacle, marigolds</p>	 <p><b>Cut the boil:</b> Allow the disease to leave then fill with plant roots and human excrement</p>	 <p><b>Live in the sewer:</b> The smell keeps illness away</p>
 <p><b>Blood letting:</b> Get rid of bad blood</p>	 <p><b>Flagellation:</b> God may forgive your sins and not punish you</p>	 <p><b>Wash in and drink urine:</b></p>

These cures are all things that people tried to do but the **most common form of cure was prayer.**

People prayed to God to cure themselves and their loved ones.

Some of these ideas were terrible but some had a chance of success such as herbal potions because we get many of our modern medicines from plants.

**How it came to an end:**

When the Black Death finally ended, 1/3 of the population was dead. However, there were some surprising consequences:

**Negatives:**

- 1/3 of people dead
- Not enough workers to keep businesses going
- Disruption to trade across Europe

**Positives:**

- Workers were in short supply and so could demand higher wages. Some went up 400%!
- People felt that life was short and celebrated more.
- Links began to be made between disease and dirty areas of cities and so they began to clean up the streets.



## Overview

Thomas Becket (c.1119-1170) was the son of a wealthy commoner, who rose to become the Chancellor and then the Archbishop of Canterbury

Henry II (1133-1189), was the King when Becket was the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Henry initially had great trust in Becket, but Becket soon fell out of favour. Henry had expected loyalty from Becket over disputes between himself and the church, but Becket often took the side of the church.

Becket became known as someone who helped the poor and was extremely popular. Any action against Becket became extremely risky for Henry. Becket was eventually murdered in Canterbury Cathedral and was almost immediately made into a saint.



## Why did Henry II and Thomas Becket disagree?

-Henry II and Thomas Becket had originally been friends and it was Henry who had appointed Becket as the Chancellor. Becket was a trusted advisor.

-When Becket was made the Archbishop of Canterbury, many worried that he would be too easily influenced by the King in religious matters.

-However, Becket frequently stood against the King and aimed to ensure power remained with the church. He helped the poor and lived a committed life to the church. This made him extremely popular with the people. He particularly disagreed with Henry over the Church Courts

## How exactly was Becket killed?

-Henry was heard saying words that suggested that he wanted Becket dead, however he is not thought to have explicitly ordered the murder.

-Four knights: rode to Canterbury to confront him. On 29<sup>th</sup> December 1170, they attacked and killed him with swords in front of the high altar

## What was the impact of Becket's death?

-It is thought that Henry was horrified when he heard the news - he believed that it was his words that had been the cause of Becket's death. He starved himself for three days.

-It weakened his position as King, as Becket had been very popular. Becket was described as a martyr and was canonized (made a saint) in 1173. His shrine in Canterbury became popular for pilgrims.