

1161

Apr 18

[Death of Theobald of Bec](#)

Theobald of Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, died after an illness. Henry II was informed and he expressed the wish to have his friend Thomas Becket elected as Archbishop.

1162

Jun 3

[Thomas Becket becomes Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

Thomas Becket was consecrated as Archbishop of Canterbury on June 3rd. He accepted the pallium sent by the Pope on August 10th. A pallium is a piece of clothe sent by the Pope and is woven from white lamb's wool. It is draped around the neck.

1163

Jan

[Henry II returns to England](#)

Henry returned from Normandy to England coming ashore at Southampton where he was met by Thomas Becket.

Oct

[Henry II puts plans of reform to Council of Westminster](#)

Henry II put his plans before the Council of Westminster to reform the judicial system allowing the courts power over members of the Church which had the luxury of their own courts. Thomas Becket stood against the plans starting a rift between him and Henry that would led to Becket's death.

1164

Jan 30

[Constitutions of Clarendon](#)

The Constitutions of Clarendon were series of statements laid down by Henry II regarding the relationship between the church and the state. One statement was the cause for the rift between Henry and Thomas Becket, that said that a member of the church who committed a crime should be available to be tried in a state court and not just a church one. Clarendon is near Salisbury.

Oct 6

[Council of Northampton](#)

At the Council of Northampton the Welsh rebellion and the Constitution of Clarendon were discussed. The Council tried Thomas Becket and found him guilty of perjury for failure to appear at Council and heresy. Becket was sentenced to forfeiture of his possessions. The sentence was quashed by King Alexander III and Becket fled to Lincoln on the 14th and then France in early November.

Nov 2

[Becket flees to France](#)

Becket fled to France and sought the protection of Pope Alexander III, who himself was in exile

1169

Jan 6

[Becket submits to Henry](#)

Henry II of England, Louis VII of France and Thomas Becket met at Montmirail to hold peace talks but the negotiations failed. A second meeting took place at St. Leger, and a papal ultimatum was served on Henry.

1170

Jun 14

[Henry II coronation of Prince Henry](#)

King Henry II used the Archbishop of York in the coronation of his son Henry, to insult Thomas Becket. This was an act that infringed the rights of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The coronation took place at Westminster Abbey.

Jul 22

[Becket and Henry met to talk](#)

Henry II and Thomas Becket met near Freteval in France where they came to an agreement to end their differences. This resulted in Becket's partial restoration.

Dec 1

[Thomas Becket returns to England](#)

King Henry II sent word to England saying that the conflict with Thomas Becket was at an end and his lands should be restored. Hearing this Becket returned to England landing on the south coast at Sandwich.

Dec 29

[Thomas Becket is murdered](#)

When Henry II heard that Thomas Becket had returned to England and was threatening to excommunicate his opponents, his outrage was such that four knights overhearing the King travelled to England and killed Becket inside Canterbury Cathedral.

1171

Jan 1

[Henry II told of the murder of Becket](#)

King Henry II was told of the murder of Thomas Becket.

1173

Feb 21

[Becket canonised](#)

Becket was canonized by Pope Alexander III. His shrine at Canterbury Cathedral became extremely wealthy due to the number of pilgrims visiting it and donating money.

1174

Jul 7

Start here

What can you see?



Task: Look closely and then annotate around the image with what you think is happening in the picture. Who might the characters be, and how can you tell? Where might the action be taking place, and how do you know this?





What did you think was happening in this image?

This carved alabaster panel shows the murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, on 29 December AD 1170.

Becket kneels before an altar and beside him is a figure holding a cross, thought to be Edward Grim, a witness to the event, who was also injured during the attack.

Four knights approach Becket from behind and two, armed with swords attack & kill him. Their names were Reginald Fitz-Urse, Hugh de Morville, William de Tracy, and Richard le Breton.

What can you now add to your writing around the image?

05/10/2020

WHO WAS THOMAS BECKET AND WHY IS HE IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORY OF CANTERBURY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoinuYENsKw>



Task : Read & highlight key information

The story of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, remains one of the most famous stories associated with Medieval England.

In Medieval England, the Church was all powerful. The fear of going to Hell was very real and people were told that only the Catholic Church could save your soul so that you could go to Heaven.

The head of the Catholic Church was the Pope based in Rome. The most important position in the church in Medieval England was the Archbishop of Canterbury and both he and the king usually worked together.

A king could not remove a Pope from his position, but popes claimed that they could remove a king by excommunicating him – this meant that the king's soul was condemned to Hell and people then had the right to disobey the king.

Thomas Becket's life and death were remarkable. The son of a wealthy commoner, he rose to become friends with the King, Henry 11, who appointed him as his Chancellor, such was Henry's trust in Becket.

In 1162 he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury . He became a strong defender of the Church and the rights of clergymen. This was contrary to the loyalty Henry had expected from Becket and the pair argued furiously and their friendship became strained. At the time the Church held great wealth and power over monarchs and their people. With the support of the Pope in Rome, Becket represented an even greater power.

Becket also enjoyed the support of the people. Every village and town had priests and churches that were the centre of all life. Health, holidays, learning and the “gateway to heaven” revolved around devotion to the faith. The Church as guardians of all this, held great power and influence over the people.

Any action against the Church was certain to bring divine punishment against the guilty person and his people - even if that action was taken by a king. The Becket affair was an argument between the king and the Church about power. It ended in notorious circumstances, with Becket's murder inside Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.

Henry viewed Becket as a nuisance, “the turbulent priest”, but Becket has been viewed as an example and martyr to religious people and was canonised almost immediately after his murder. Becket has been the subject of debate ever since his death: was he a saint or a troublemaker?

In 1174, Henry II did penance at Becket's tomb, but by then the damage to Henry's reputation was already done.

What did you
highlight &
why?



Henry became so angry that Thomas fled to France



Thomas had been Henry's loyal friend



Henry flew into a rage and said he wanted to be rid of the troublesome priest



Back in England, Thomas Becket did more things that infuriated Henry



Thomas became very religious and took the Church's side against Henry



Henry made Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury. He thought Thomas would help him control the Church



Henry and Thomas made up their quarrel and Becket returned to England

Task : Place the seven cards into the chronological order & add one or two final scenes



What are these objects?

While Becket's body still lay in the cathedral people came and tore pieces from his clothes, dipped in blood, for good luck.

Later in 1173, the pope canonised him and excommunicated the knights who had killed him.

In 1220 the Becket relics were transferred into a specially rebuilt shrine at the eastern end of Canterbury Cathedral, paid for by pilgrims who visited the Canterbury & the site of his murder.

Manuscripts record miraculous cures taking place at the shrine, and as a result Becket was celebrated for his healing powers.

Pilgrims flocked to Canterbury to visit his tomb. It was believed to have healing powers & pilgrims would buy keepsakes of their trip. Becket & Canterbury's fame grew exponentially,



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8NxoAwTYg4>

Becket was canonised, made a saint, in 1173, and Canterbury quickly grew to be one of the four greatest pilgrimage destinations in Europe.



The significance of Becket as a saint and the importance of Canterbury as a place of pilgrimage can be seen by looking at the quantity and types of object connected with him.



These range from the highly expensive to the cheap and mass-produced. Numerous caskets were made to hold relics of the saint; pilgrim badges and other objects were sold at shrines as evidence of pilgrimage or in the hope of continued protection.



Canterbury & Becket's shrine continue to attract pilgrims and visitors from across the world today.

Who was more powerful: Henry (the king) or Becket (the Church)?



TASK : WHO WAS THOMAS BECKET AND WHY IS HE IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORY OF CANTERBURY