

Year 7 History Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



Anglo-Saxons – people originally from Germany who lived and ruled modern day England and Wales between 5th century AD to 1066

Anno Domini – or AD for short, used after the date of any year after the birth of Jesus (Anno Domini is Latin for ‘in the year of our Lord’)

Archbishop of Canterbury – the head of the medieval Church, appointed by the king of England and usually a supporter of the king

Baron – a Norman, later English, lord / nobleman who owns land in England and Wales

Bayeux Tapestry – an embroidered tapestry that tells the story of William, Duke of Normandy’s defeat of the Anglo Saxons in 1066 (named after the town in France, Bayeux)

Biased – a witness who is one-sided, who may be wanting to persuade others rather than inform them

Black Death – a plague (disease) that spread through Europe and England killing between a third and a half of the population in 1348-50

Describe – to use detail to communicate what an event / individual was like

Evaluate – to weigh up or judge the accuracy of something from the past

Evidence – clues left behind from the past that are used to help construct history

Explain – to make it clear why something happened

Hastings – a port and fort on the south coast that was the site of the battle between Harold II and William, Duke of Normandy

Hypothesise / Hypothesis – to come up with an educated guess (hypothesis) about something and test it

Interpretation – a viewpoint / opinion of an event or individual from the past

Knight – a Norman, later English, warrior, trained to fight mostly on horseback

Medieval – an old English word that means from the ‘Middle Ages’, a period of time from 1066AD-1485AD

Monarch – a king or queen

Normans – people from Normandy in northern France ('men of the north')

Peasants' Revolt – an uprising in 1381 led by Wat Tyler against King Richard II in protest against a new tax called the 'Poll Tax'

Primary (source) – a historical source produced at the time of the event, may often be one sided (subjective)

Provenance – the origin of a historical source (who made it / when was it made / why was it made)

Secondary (source) – a historical source produced after the time of an event, often by a historian and more likely to be balanced (objective)

Source – an object (artefact), image (painting / photograph / etc) or communication (speech / diary / etc) that helps us learn about past events / individuals

Vikings – people from Scandinavia who raided and lived in northern Europe, including England in the 8th-11th centuries AD

Villein – a medieval peasant who is tied to the land and owned by his/her lord or lady

Witan – the name for the Anglo-Saxon council of elders / advisers that helped choose the next king and govern England before 1066