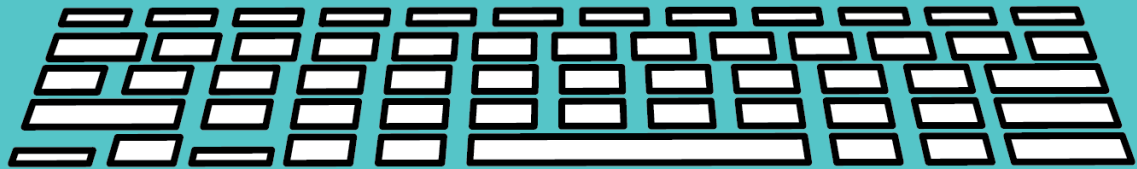


THE ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION,  
THE MAGNA  
CARTA HAS  
LIVED

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What year did King John accept the crown?	
2. What neutral site was the signing of the Magna Carta?	
3. Who was king after King John?	
4. What were the nobles large areas of land called?	
5. What country was King John at war with?	
6. What did King John die of?	
7. Which pope voided the binding document?	
8. What year were King John's armies defeated in France?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What year did King John accept the crown?		9. A ____ system was used in England to set up rules and order.	
2. What neutral place was the signing of the Magna Carta?		10. King John's brother was Richard the ____.	
3. Who was King after King John?		11. The leader of the baron rebellion was Robert ____ Fitzwalter.	
4. What were the nobles large areas of land called?		12. A baron's job was to maintain an ____.	
5. What country was King John at war with?		13. 40 barons formed an army called the Army of ____.	
6. What did King John die of?		14. ____ was a knight, a "free" warrior, or nobleman.	
7. Which pope voided the binding document?		15. King John died at ____ years old.	
8. What year were King John's armies defeated in France?		16. Barons without armies paid a tax called ____ money.	



# MAGNA CARTA

King John of England accepted the crown in 1199 when his brother died. His brother, Richard the Lionheart, did not have any children so John was next in line. King John was a harsh, cruel and angry. Most of the English people thought he was a tyrant.

King John was fighting with an ongoing successful war with France in order to fight France. He placed heavy taxes on the barons (nobles) of England. He also took his power over the village. The nobles felt the king's demands were unfair. The word "freeman" means "freeman, warrior, and knight".

A feudal system was used in England to set rules and order. Different groups of people had different responsibilities. Feudal lords and people would give the king money and command work in exchange for protection.

King John owned all the land. He did not control all of the land himself, so he divided it up among the barons. The rank of knight was a title of honor in Europe.

A baron was given his land directly from the king. Powerful barons ruled large areas of land called fiefs. In return for the king's protection and land rights, the barons would pay him with soldiers and taxes.

A baron's job was to maintain an army that was at the king's service when needed. If the barons did not have an army, they could be taxed by the king. This tax was called shield money.

To finance the ongoing war with France, the king kept demanding more taxes and more soldiers. By 1215, King John's armies were defeated in France and the barons had enough of King John's high taxes. The nobles were angry. They put on their armor and gathered a force of nobles. In May of 1215, 40 barons broke their ties to the king and formed an army (called 'the Army of God'). They ended up taking over London by force.

The leader of the baron rebellion was Baron Robert Fitzwalter. The negotiations were managed by William Longspee and Archbishop Stephen Langton. The archbishop read to the king from a parchment. The parchment was called the Magna Carta or the Great Charter.

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Runnymede was a neutral site just west of London. The barons demanded that King John sign the Magna Carta at Runnymede. The Magna Carta was a document guaranteeing them certain rights also known as the "Great Charter of the Liberties". King John accepted the terms of the document originally called the "Articles of the Barons".

By signing the document, King John agreed to a limited government. He could no longer do whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted. This document stated the rights of the nobles and what they could do if the king violated those rights.

King John did not want to sign the document but without the nobles and their soldiers, he would not have anyone to protect him. The king gave into their demands due to the threat of a possible civil war. King John had no alternative but to negotiate.

By signing the document, King John was obligated to run a fair government and protect the rights of the people. The Magna Carta was designed to try to balance the power between the King and his people. The document stated that no one was above the law, not even the king. Rule of Law now exists in England.

Over time the Magna Carta was created to guarantee legal rights to all people without limiting the king's power. Included in the document was the right to a fair trial, the right to a trial only within England, and the right to private property. It also stated that the king could no longer raise taxes without the approval of the barons.

The Magna Carta was initially a failure because both sides had broken the agreement with the king. However, the agreement resulted in the First Barons' War. Pope Innocent III voided the binding document. King John died of leprosy when he was just 59 years old in October of 1216. In 1216, the document was reissued in 1225 as a new version issued by Henry III. It became the first written constitution in England.

Today, the Magna Carta is considered one of the most important documents for democracy. The Founding Fathers of the United States were influenced by the document and used it as a model for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

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