

What were medieval peasants' lives really like?

Lesson Enquiry Question	Main disc. focus	Substantive knowledge covered	Key terms
Dirty, boring and treacherous: Was medieval village life really that bad? An overview	Sub knowledge Interpretations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview knowledge of ordinary rural people (peasants) working practices. Overview knowledge of how peasants spent their leisure time. Overview knowledge of how justice worked for ordinary people in this period. 	Interpretations, evidence, tithing, hue and cry, Sumptuary Laws, Magna Carta, feudal system, villein, peasant
Why were the remains of ten people buried in a pit away from the main churchyard in Wharram Percy?	Enquiry Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeology is used to find out about peasant life. People living in the Medieval Period experienced famine. During periods of famine some historians suggest cannibalism existed. Witchcraft was not really a belief in this period. People believed in revenants. Revenants were dealt with by digging up corpses, breaking their bones and burning them. 	Archaeologist, heretic, cannibalism, famine, revenant.
What was the farming year like for ordinary people?	Sub. knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The knowledge of a pre industrial farming year. This includes farming techniques. The role of luck skill and choice in the farming year. 	Ploughing, scythe, flailing, sowing, harvest, oxen.
Why were so many people buried under Charterhouse square in the City of London?	Enquiry Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Black Death / Pneumonic Plague spread quickly across England and attacked and killed people. This plague was spread in the air and attacked peoples' lungs. At the time people had different explanations as to what caused the plague, including it was sent by God as punishment, poor dirty living conditions help it spread and that it was caused by movements of the planets. At the time people did not know that germs caused disease – this only came with the invention of microscopes. 	Archaeologist, annihilate, chronicle, eminent, parish.
Peasants Revolt Decision maker	Causation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 100 years war threatened England in 1377. A Poll Tax was used to pay for the cost of the war. Peasants lives were controlled and movement limited at this time. Knowledge of reasons why peasants revolted and knowledge of the events and chronology of the peasant revolt. 	Black Death, Hundred Years' War, Poll Tax, revolt, looting.
What were the consequences of the Peasants Revolt?	Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The short term medium term and long term consequences of the Peasants Revolt. These included the changing role of women, the end of the Poll Tax, increased wages, a growth in reading and increased freedoms. 	Consequences Poll tax, Freedom,