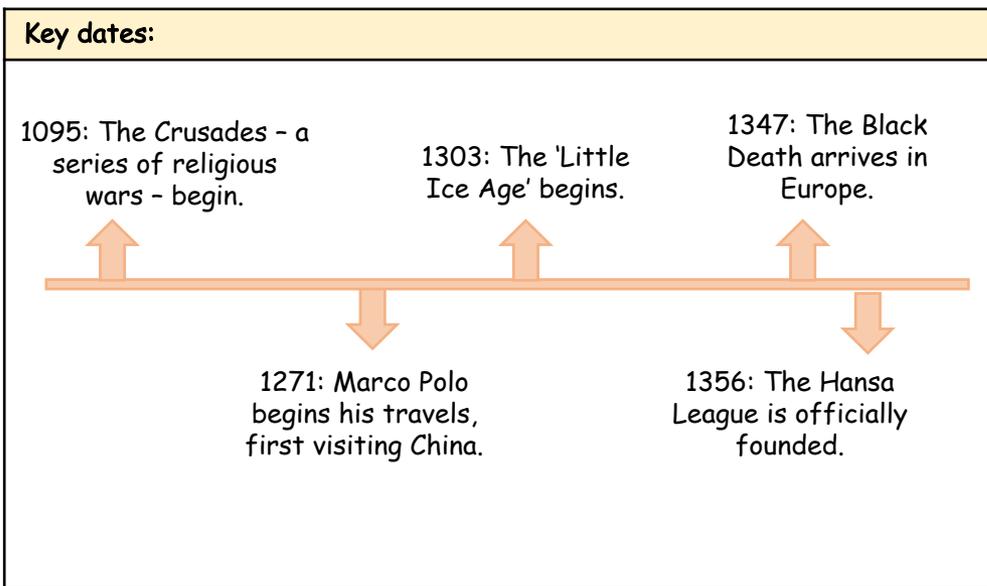


What was the big story of the medieval period?

Themes/key aspects:	
Kings and rulers	European kings and rulers had a large amount of power. They had nobles to advise them, but could ignore this advice if they wanted to.
Religion and the Church	Christianity became the dominant religion in places like England, France and the 'Low Countries', although parts of Spain and Portugal had largely Muslim populations.
Economy and trade	The Hansa League developed in this period, allowing merchants to trade in things like furs and linens. The League connected distant places like London, Novgorod and Bergen.
Ordinary people's lives	Most medieval people worked as farmers in the countryside - although some people were beginning to move to towns and cities. Distant travel was unlikely for ordinary people, yet some did go on pilgrimages to religious sites.
Disaster and upheaval	The medieval period saw two big 'disasters': the Black Death and the Little Ice Age. Both had a huge impact on the population of Europe.



Key terms:	
Middle Ages	The term sometimes used to describe the 'medieval' period (usually around 1000 to 1500).
Christianity	Religion whose followers believe in the existence of God. It is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Islam	Religion whose followers - Muslims - worship a God known as Allah.
Crusade	A military expedition or trip made by European Christians who went to the Holy Land to try to 'defend' key religious sites.
Holy Land	Area in southwest Asia that is considered important for followers of both Christianity and Islam.
Fief	An area of land which a medieval person was allowed to farm, in return for the work they did for the lord who owned the land.
Migration	Movement from one place to another. Medieval migrants sometimes moved in the hope of a better life elsewhere.
Trade	Buying and selling goods.
Hansa League	A group of towns and cities that came together in the medieval period to trade with each other.
Merchant	Someone involved in trading, usually buying and selling goods abroad.
Black Death	A plague that arrived in Europe in 1347, and led to the deaths of millions.
Little Ice Age	A period (lasting hundreds of years) known for cooler than expected temperatures across the world.