**Resource 5.1: chances of survival scale**

Chance of survival certain

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June 1215 | August 1215 | May 1216 | October 1216 | November 1216 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Pope cancels the charter.  | King John dies. His son, Henry III, becomes King. | The charter is sealed at Runnymeade. | The charter is reissued by Henry III’s government of barons. | Prince Louis of France arrives in England to take the English crown for himself. |

**TASK**

Can you remember the correct order of events? Place each one on the graph to show when it happened and how certain the charter’s survival seemed at the time.

How certain do you think the charter’s survival was by the end of 1216? Who wanted the charter? Who did not like the charter?

**Resource 5.2: Different copies of Magna Carta**

All these pictures show copies of Magna Carta that were made. What differences can you see between them?

Source A: Copy of Magna Carta, created in 1215

Source B: Copy of Magna Carta, created in 1216 when it reissued by the government of Henry III

Source C: Copy of Magna Carta, created in 1225 when it was reissued by Henry III

Source D: Copy of Magna Carta, created in 1297 when it was issued by Edward I

**Zone of uncertainty**

**Resource 5.3: Interpretations of Magna Carta**

**Magna Carta was reinvented by clever kings who used it to get what they needed to run the country.**

**Magna Carta was reinvented by the barons who used it to force kings to limit their own power.**

**Resource 5.4: the life of Magna Carta from 1215 to 1315**

1216 King John died. His heir, Henry, was just nine years old. The country was in the middle of a civil war. A French Prince, Louis, was trying to seize the throne. To win support from rebel barons, Henry’s government of barons reissued Magna Carta.

1217 The civil war was ended. Prince Louis of France agreed to peace, and to return home. He was even paid a lot of money! Another version of the charter was issued by Henry III’s loyal barons. Copies were sent to local sheriffs in the counties with orders that they be read aloud.

1225 Sixteen-year-old King Henry III sent men out into the country to investigate what rights his father, King John, had enjoyed before the civil war. This made many barons very suspicious. They were worried that Henry would forget the promises he had made when he reissued the charter in 1216 and 1217. The archbishop of Canterbury asked Henry to issue a new version of the charter. He said that this would show the barons that Henry wanted to keep his promises. Henry needed money to fight his war in France, so he agreed. In return, the barons agreed to pay a new tax.

1237 King Henry III wanted to raise a new tax. His barons were unhappy about this. They accused Henry of secretly asking the Pope for permission to ignore the terms of the charter. They were afraid that because the reissues of 1216, 1217 and 1225 had been made before Henry was still an adult, he could claim that it was his advisors, not him, who had agreed to the terms. To reassure his barons, Henry met with them and promised to keep the terms of the charter. In return, Henry was given his new tax.

1253 King Henry III wanted money to go on crusade. This time he asked for money from the barons and the church. The barons agreed, but they worried about how it would be spent. They used the terms of Magna Carta to get Henry to agree that a group of barons could supervise how the money was spent. The bishops ordered the agreement to be read out loud in parish churches.

1258 King Henry had fought an unsuccessful war in Sicily (an island near Italy). It failed, and cost a lot of money. This made the barons very angry. They made Henry agree to the Provisions of Oxford. They agreed to pay his debts in return for changes to the way the country was up run. They decided to revive one of Magna terms – that a committee of barons be set up to advise the King.

1265 King Henry wanted more money, this time so his sons, Edward and Edmund could go on crusade. But the barons were unhappy – they complained that Henry kept ignoring the promises made in the charter. A great Parliament (the word Parliament comes from the word ‘parley’, which means to talk) was called to meet in London. For the first time, not only the barons but cities and towns sent representatives. Henry got his money, but this time it was granted not just by the barons, but by *‘all the free men of the realm of England in towns as also in cities…’* Bishops, nobles and free men were summoned to London to witness the reissuing of the charter. The charter was also read out to ordinary people at St Paul’s Cross in London. Copies were sent to all the counties.

1272 King Henry III died. His son, Edward, became Edward I.

1297 Edward I had spent many years dealing with rebellions by both the Scots and the Welsh. He was also still fighting wars in France! Fighting these wars cost a lot of money. In England the church refused to pay its share of the costs and the barons started to grumble again. They gave Edward a list of their complaints. To get the money he needed Edward I reluctantly issued a ‘Confirmation of the Charters’. In particular he had to agree that he would no longer collect taxes unless he had the agreement of ‘the whole kingdom’. For the first time Magna Carta was recorded on the statute rolls. Copies were sent to every cathedral, with orders that they be read twice a year before the people in English.

1300 When dissatisfaction with his reign grew again, Parliament asked Edward to reissue Magna Carta again. They also asked Edward to issue the ‘Articles concerning the charters’ which set out procedures to enforce the charter. The charters were read aloud in Westminster in both Latin and English. Five years later Edward persuaded the Pope to excuse him from keeping the promises he made.

1307 Edward I died. His son, Edward II, became king.

1310 Edward II was not a strong king. He upset the barons by giving lots of money and gifts to his favourite friends. He also gave them important jobs in the government. This upset many barons – they saw it as their job to advise the king! In 1310 a group of barons arrived at Parliament. They were wearing armour and carried weapons in their hands. They demanded lots of changes to the way the country was run. Parliament appointed a group of barons to decide how Magna Carta’s terms should be applied.