

Activities

Activity 2: Monarchy in the Middle Ages

In this activity, you'll explore the roles of monarchs in the Middle Ages. Read over the two options and then talk to a parent about which option you think you would like to complete.

Option 1: A Monarch's Power

In this activity, you will use the page, "A Monarch's Power," to compare the limits on the powers of the King of England before and after the Magna Carta. You'll find information about this important document on page 19 of today's reading.

The Magna Carta

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/4514/

If you would like, you can read more about the Magna Carta and its influence on American political thought at this website from the National Archives.

Option 2: Magna Carta Word Cloud

In this option, you will create a word cloud of the Magna Carta and then answer some questions about your cloud. A word cloud is a visual representation of a large selection of text. In the cloud, words that appear more often in the original text will appear larger and more prominently. Word clouds can be an interesting way to see which words appear most frequently in a document, and this can be an interesting starting point for analysis. Follow these instructions:

1. With a parent's permission, go online and open up two windows or tabs in your Internet browser.

2. In one tab, open up the website of a word cloud generator, and in the other tab, open up a website with the full text of the Magna Carta. (Links to both are included.)
3. In the Magna Carta window, scroll down to the Translation section. Use your mouse to highlight the full text of the Magna Carta (Beginning with "JOHN, by the grace of God King of England..." and ending above the line near the bottom of the page. Do not highlight any modern introductory text or source notes. Once you have highlighted the text, right-click and select "Copy" or press Ctrl-c to copy the text.
4. Paste the text in the box found in the word cloud generator and create your word cloud.
5. If you would like, use the editing tools provided in the word cloud tool to change the font, colors, and layout of your cloud. When you are happy with it, use your web browser to print the cloud.

Resource List – Word Cloud Generators

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/844/

The page provides links to free online word cloud generators.

The Magna Carta

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/3441/

Scroll down to view the translation of the Magna Carta.

Next, use the word cloud generator to create word clouds of the text of at least one other important political document. See examples below:

The Declaration of Independence

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/846/

The US Constitution

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/847/

The US Bill of Rights

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/848/

The Preamble to the Australian Constitution

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/4114/

Other Constitutions

www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/5540/

You can find and download the constitutions of other countries at the Constitution Finder from the University of Richmond.

Print any clouds that you create and compare them to your Magna Carta word cloud. When you are done, answer the questions on the "Magna Carta Word Cloud" activity page.