# KS3 History Medieval Realms

So what makes a good King?

Having looked at a few kings from the Middle Ages you probably have a better idea of what makes some kings better than others. It all depended on how much control they could exert without it undermining their power. The five point list below should fit in with what you think a king had to do well in order to be successful:

**What a good king had to do**

1. Be a good war leader defending lands from attack and winning new ones.
2. Keep the barons under control, and get them to help maintain order.
3. Protect innocent people from criminals and settle people’s quarrels.
4. Raise money to pay for all this.
5. Have a grown up, fit son – to take over when the old king dies!

Now it is time for you to some research of your own.

Overleaf is a list of all the medieval kings of England. It gives basic information on when they reigned, how they died and what wars thy fought. However that is all.

# YOUR TASK!

Choose **ONE** of the kings in the list. You can choose anyone you wish. You are then to research your chosen king in the library using books on the period of the Middle Ages and reference books such as encyclopedia. You need to get a good understanding of what he did and why and whether he was successful or not. Then you are to word process your assessment of the king once you have gathered your material.

In your assessment you are to:

1. Write the name of the king and then ‘A Good or Bad King?’ as your title (e.g Edward I: A Good or Bad King?);
2. Give either a timeline or a description of the king’s reign with any significant events on it;
3. Explain what you consider to be the good things about his kingship (if any);
4. Explain what you consider to be the bad things about his kingship (if any);
5. Give your final verdict with an explanation of whether you think he was a good or bad king.

Remember to give a bibliography at the end (author, title) to show where you have got your information from. A bibliography and accurate referencing are ESSENTIAL in any good piece of written research.

# Medieval Kings. A chronicle of death of war.

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| **King** | **Reign** | **How the King died** | **Wars** |
| William I | 1066-87 | Died after being injured in battle | Conquered England |
| William II | 1087-1100 | Killed by an arrow while hunting – possibly murdered | Won wars against Scotland, Wales and his brother. |
| Henry I | 1100-35 | Serious indigestion – after eating too many eels. | Won a war against his brother. |
| Stephen | 1135-54 | Heart attack | Won a long civil war against his cousin. |
| Henry II | 1154-89 | Fever | Won land in Ireland and France. Lost war against wife and sons. |
| Richard I | 1189-99 | Killed in war | Successful in Crusades and in wars against France. |
| John | 1199-1216 | Dysentery (fever with serious diarrhoea) | Lost civil war |
| Henry III | 1216-72 | Old age | Wars against France. Lost a civil war against barons, then won another. |
| Edward I | 1272-1307 | Old age | Won wars against Welsh and Scots |
| Edward II | 1307-27 | Murdered – possibly with a red hot poker | Lost wars against Scots and French. Lost civil war against his wife. |
| Edward III | 1327-77 | Old age | Won wars against France. |
| Richard II | 1377-99 | Probably murdered | Lost wars in France. Lost civil war. |
| Henry IV | 1399-1413 | Severe skin disease | Won civil war. Won wars against Scots, Welsh and French. |
| Henry V | 1413-22 | Dysentery | Won wars and land in France. |
| Henry VI | 1422-71 | Murdered | Lost war in France. Lost throne in civil war (Wars of the Roses). |
| Edward IV | 1461-83 | Severe indigestion | Won the throne, and lost it for a while in civil war (Wars of the Roses) |
| Edward V | 1483 | Disappeared – probably murdered | No war, but forced off the throne by uncle (The Wars of the Roses) |
| Richard III | 1483-85 | Killed in battle | Won war against the Scots. Lost civil war (The Wars of the Roses). |