Year: 7
Subject: History
Topic/Unit: Medieval Introduction
When: Autumn Term 1

Huntington School
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Overview: The foundational study for Year 7 students, introducing them to the **Medieval Period** (1066–1500 AD).

Why this? Why now? It establishes the core historical themes of **power, religion, and society**, which are essential for understanding how Britain was shaped following the Norman Conquest. By examining the shift from the Battle of Hastings to the later growth of trade and towns, students begin to grasp the complexities of historical change and continuity.

Building on...building to: The unit builds on students' existing knowledge of historical stories and their understanding of **chronology**. It functions as a bridge toward more complex historical analysis, teaching students how to move beyond simple descriptions to develop structured **explanation paragraphs**. This skill is vital for future units that require evaluating the significance of events and the impact of individuals on national history.

Sequence summary:

- **Introduction to Medieval History.**
- **Introduction to Historical Writing:** Mastering the art of the explanation paragraph by using factual evidence to support a clear point.

Key Vocabulary: Power, Religion, Society, Chronology, Feudal System, Barons, Peasants, Catholic Church, Monasteries, Magna Carta, Black Death, and Explanation.

Assessments:

- "Do Now" tasks and whiteboard activities focused on defining key concepts like power and religion. Students will then write a practice formal explanation paragraph answering: *"Which feature of the medieval world was most important?"* This must include a clear point sentence, two factual examples, and a linking sentence.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: Lessons include visual aids and color-coding tasks to categorise information into themes, supporting diverse learning needs.

Students develop **personal respect** for stories of people unlike themselves and learn to participate in the "active dialogue" of history by testing evidence.