

Cruel King John and the Magna Carta

10 When Richard the Lionheart, the King of England, died in
20 1199, his brother, John, became the next king. John was
32 seen as a cruel man with a very bad temper. The noble
43 people of England did not like him very much because he
53 taxed them heavily. This meant that John would take a
65 lot of the money that they earned and keep it for himself.
76 By the year 1215, the noble people had had enough of
86 John's greed. They got together and came up with a
94 document called the Magna Carta, which they demanded
98 that King John signed.

109 The Magna Carta was a promise that John would not be
119 able to take whatever he wanted from the noble people
128 without their agreement. If he did, the noble people
136 would be able to put him in jail.



Quick Questions



1. What was the name of King John's brother?

2. Find and copy a phrase which shows what people thought of King John.



3. Do you think that King John would have stuck to the Magna Carta's rules? Explain your answer.



4. Sum up the key points of this text in 20 words or less.

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Answers



1. What was the name of King John's brother?

Accept: Richard (the Lionheart).

2. Find and copy a phrase which shows what people thought of King John.

Accept: '...did not like him very much' or 'had enough of John's greed'.



3. Do you think that King John would have stuck to the Magna Carta's rules? Explain your answer.

Accept any either yes or no providing that reasonable justification is given, such as 'Yes because he would not have wanted to go to jail' or 'No because he was not a nice person and his greed would have got the better of him'.



4. Sum up the key points of this text in 20 words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary within the word limit, such as: 'Noble people made greedy King John sign the Magna Carta because he kept taking too much tax.'