

The 12th Century

Expansion and Enlightenment,
Crusades and Compasses



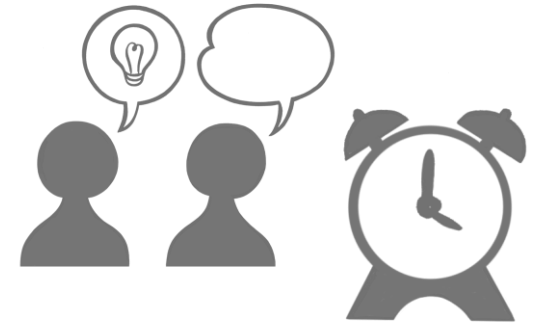
Learning objectives

- Understand the wider global context at the time of the building of St Leonard's Church, Flamstead
- Learn about some of the key events that took place in this country and further afield during that time

What do you know about the 12th Century?

What kinds of inventions and advances do you think happened in the world during the 12th Century?

Discuss with your partner and write down 5 ideas.



5 minutes!

Flamstead in the 12th Century

At the start the 12th Century, the community in Flamstead was growing fast and forging ahead with building the new stone-built church....

Advances in the World



...and the world was about to experience great technological advances, enlightenment through teaching, and sadly much turbulence due to war....

Miracle Plays

The earliest recorded Miracle play was performed in Dunstable, England.

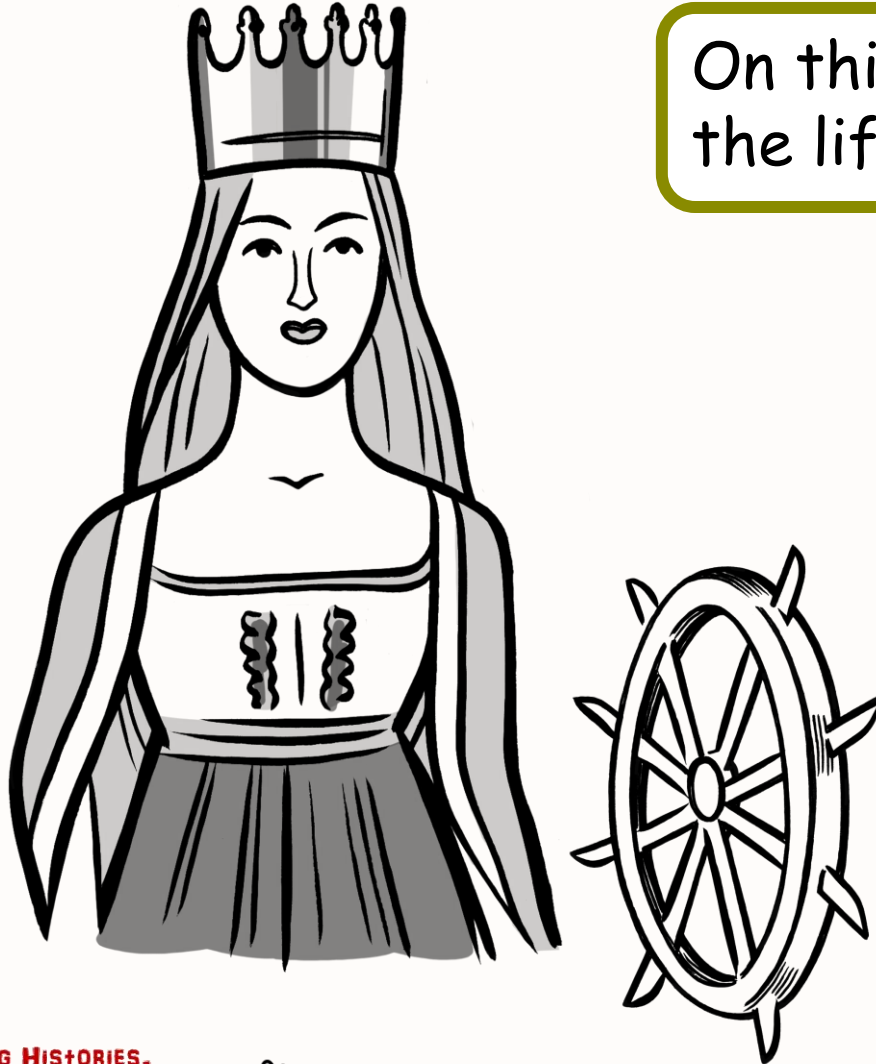
Miracle plays were performed to explain the lives and deaths of Saints to ordinary people who did not read or write.

They were rather like a medieval pantomime and were looked forward to with great excitement!

They were usually very cheeky and poked fun at local people, but were very popular.



The Story of St Catherine



On this occasion, the subject was the life and times of St Catherine.

Sadly, St. Catherine was put to death on a spiked wheel.

This is why we call the firework we see whirling around every Bonfire Night a Catherine Wheel. They recall the sparks that flew off the wheel as it rolled around with her tied to it!

Places of Learning



In the early 12th Century, Bologna, Paris and Oxford universities were considered centres of teaching excellence and seats of learning.



The first school attached to a Cathedral was opened in Lund, Sweden.

Technical Advances

Gothic architecture was appearing and expanding from its beginnings in 12th century France.



The [Abbey Church of Saint Denis](#), France

The first blast furnace for smelting iron was built in Sweden with technology imported from China.

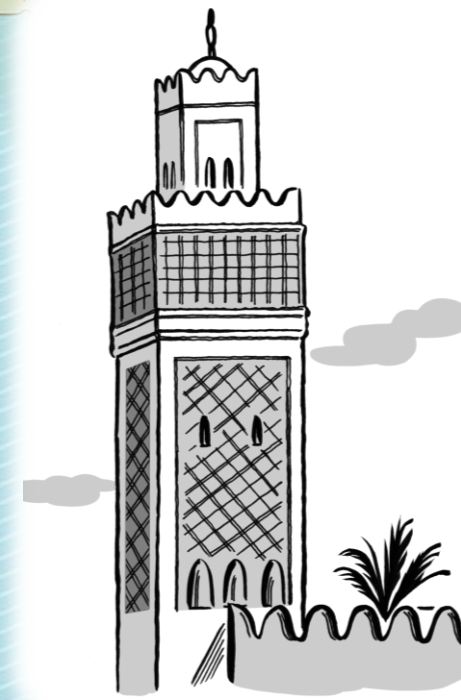
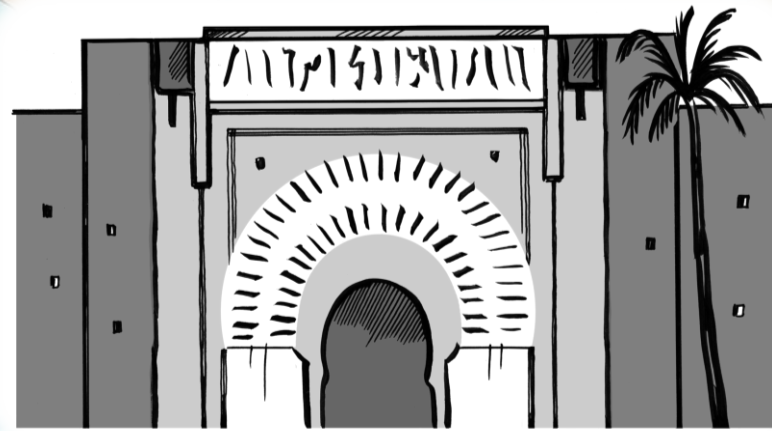
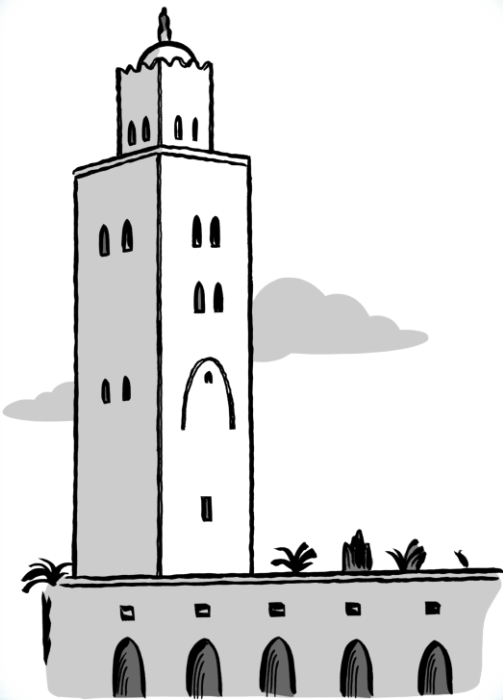
The first documented use of a compass to determine direction was documented by Alexander Neckam...



... although the compass had already been used in China for more than a century.

Architectural Developments in North Africa

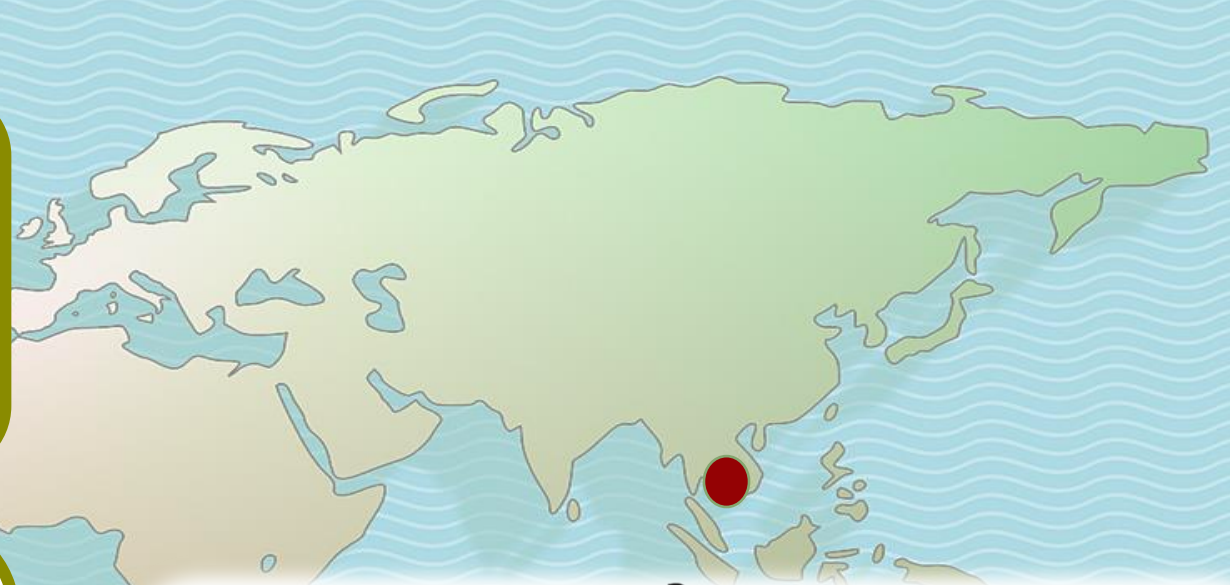
In North Africa, the Kasbah of Marrakesh was built, including the city gate of Bab Agnaou and the Koutoubia Mosque.



Developments in Cambodia

Angkor Wat Temple was built in Cambodia under King Suryavarman II as a shrine to the Hindu god Vishnu.

By the end of the Century Cambodia had converted to Buddhism, but the Khmer empire still kept Angkor Wat as a monument to the 'old' religion.



The Golden Age of Islam

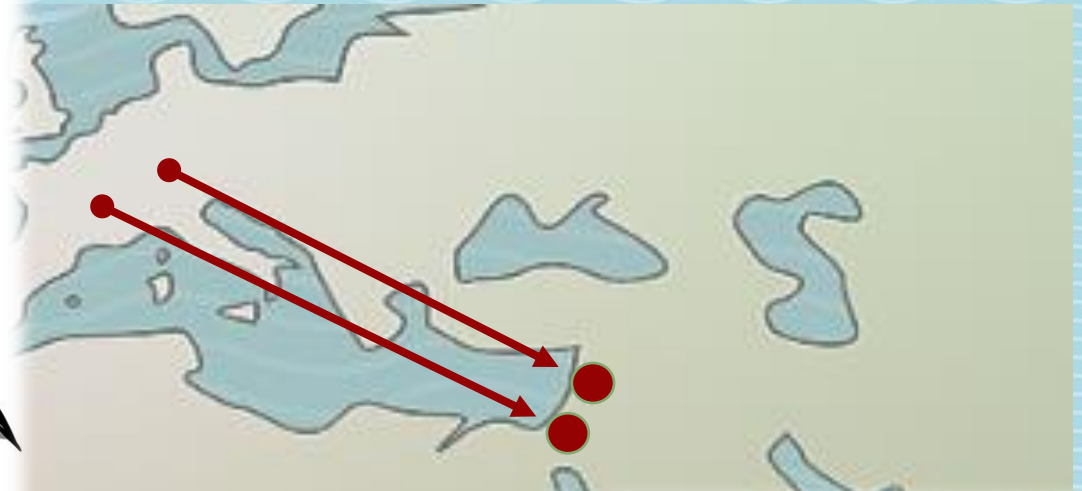
The 12th Century was known as the 'Golden Age of Islam'

Much of the Holy Land and North Africa was under the control of An-Nasir Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub, or 'Saladin'.

Crusades and Conflict



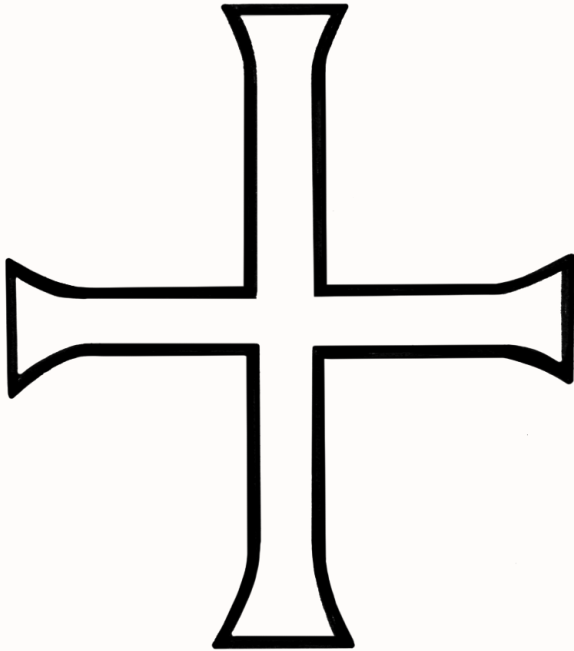
Richard the Lionheart,
a Christian Crusader



Saladin

Saladin led his Muslim brotherhood to repel the invading Christian Crusader armies.

Founding of the Knights Templar

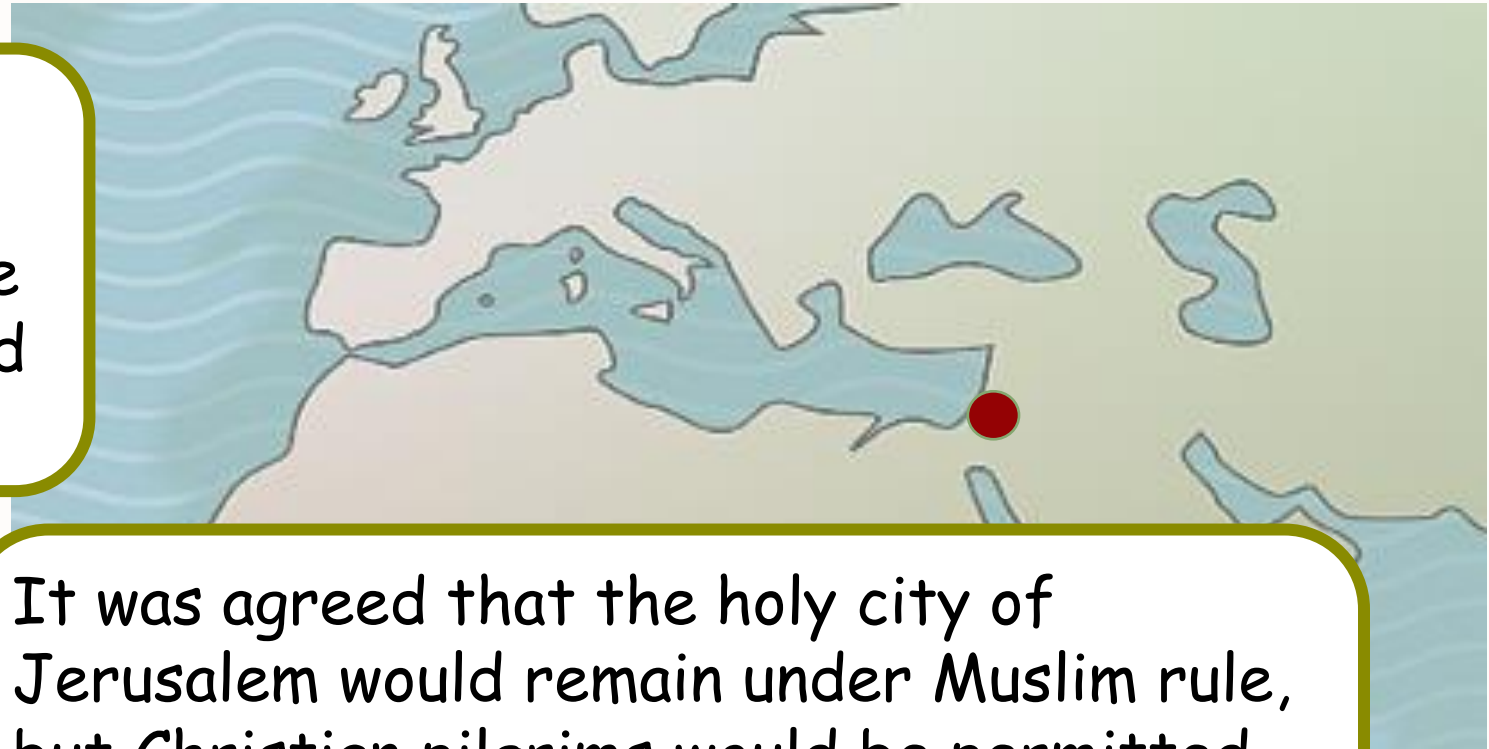


In 1119 the Knights Templar was founded to aid and assist Christian pilgrims and Crusaders on their journeys to the Holy Land.

They provided armed protection, safe places to stay and financial services for those under their care.

The Truce of Ramla

In 1180, after many years of bitter fighting and bloodshed a truce was agreed (the Truce of Ramla) between Saladin and Richard the Lionheart.



It was agreed that the holy city of Jerusalem would remain under Muslim rule, but Christian pilgrims would be permitted to enter and pray at the shrines and churches without fear of reprisals.



Saladin



Richard
the Lionheart

The Fall of the Knights Templar

Some 200 years later, the Knights Templar had amassed great wealth and power.



Philip IV

On the orders of King Philip IV of France and Bishop Clement of Avignon all the known Templars were arrested and imprisoned at dawn on Friday 13th October 1307.



Bishop Clement of Avignon

This date quickly became widely known as an unlucky day. This is why we have an aversion to Friday 13th when it occurs!

Unrest in England - The Anarchy

Between 1135 and 1153 England was in the grip of a civil war known as The Anarchy.

Henry I had lost his only legitimate son in a drowning incident. His daughter, the Empress Matilda, and his nephew Stephen fought a bitter war for the vacant throne, each claiming to be the true heir.



Henry I



Empress Matilda



Stephen

The Anarchy and a Moment of Peace

After many years a peace treaty was signed by both parties.



Henry II

Stephen became King, but proclaimed Matilda's son Henry his legitimate successor.

In 1154 Henry acceded to the English throne and became Henry II.

The Assassination of Thomas à Becket

In 1170 Henry II uttered the fatal words... *'Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?'*



Henry II



Thomas à Becket

Unfortunately, four of his most faithful knights took him at his word, travelled to Canterbury and assassinated Thomas à Becket in the Cathedral on 29th December.

The Mongol Empire

The Emperor of the Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan, was born in around 1155.

He was a Tengrist (a monotheistic religion of the medieval Asian peoples), but also explored other religions during his lifetime, receiving teaching from Buddhist and Taoist monks and Muslim and Christian missionaries.

His armies conquered most of central Asia, reaching as far west as Poland, southern Russia and much of Turkey.



Genghis Kahn

Your turn!

How many of the locations discussed today can you plot accurately on your map?

Dunstable
Bologna
Jerusalem

Cambodia
Sweden
Marrakesh

Paris
China
Oxford