Medieval Kingdoms: The English

Background
- Foreign Rule
  - Romans
    - 43 B.C.E. – 410 C.E.
    - Established system of roads and cities
    - Established Christian Church
  - Saxons
    - 410 – 800 C.E.
    - Brought in European Farming Techniques
    - Developed Language
    - Edward the Confessor
      - d. 1066
      - Last of Saxon Kings
      - Mother was Norman
  - Vikings
    - 793-1066 C.E.
    - Mixed traditions with locals
- Home Rule
  - King Arthur
    - Semi-Mythical warrior in the 6th Century who defended England from the Saxon Invasion
    - Seen as a father figure of England
    - Inspiration for Britons to establish state
- Norman Rule
  - 1066 C.E.
    - Edward the confessor dies
      - Has William of Normandy as Heir
      - Anglo-Saxon Assembly names Harold Godwinson as successor
    - King of England faces Invasions from two fronts
      - Harold Godwinson head of Britons
      - Norwegians attack from the North
        - Norwegian Harold Hardrada Attacking
      - Battle of Stamford Bridge
        - England Victory
      - Normans Attack from the South
        - Battle of Hastings
        - William of Normandy Attacking
        - Harold rushes his Saxon army south but battle is a disaster
          - Harold takes arrow to throat
          - William given moniker “the Conqueror”

Feudal England
- William the Conqueror
  - Reforms
    - Introduced Feudal System to England
      - Established capital at Old Sarum
      - Uniting all of England under him
    - Increased power of lords and church by granting larger fiefs
      - Increased loyalty
      - Continued practice of parleying
- Monitored growth of nobles
  - Forced them to swear allegiance to him
  - Monitored who built castles
- The Domesday Book
  - 1086 C.E.
  - Complete Census of the Kingdom
    - Used it as a way of figuring out a tax collection system
- Death
  - Son Henry I takes over
  - Dies Heirless

**Plantagenet Dynasty**
- Henry II
  - 1133-1189 C.E.
  - Autocrat
  - Empire builder
    - Western France
      - Start of French and English Rivalry
    - Parts of Ireland
    - Scotland becomes vassal
  - Son of count of Anjou and Matilda
    - Matilda was Henry I’s daughter
  - Established system of Royal Justice
    - Common Law foundation for English Legal System
  - Established system of Royal Courts
    - Increased Royal Control of matters of law
    - Constitution of Clarendon
      - Placed clergy under civil law
      - King allowed to select Bishops
      - Thomas Becket rebels
        - Assassinated 1170
  - Introduced Jury system to England
  - Married to Eleanor of Aquitaine
    - Angevin
      - English-French Empire
    - Spawned cultural golden age
      - Eleanor patron of the arts
        - Especially Literature
    - Had 5 Children
      - Most famous of which were Richard (Lionhearted) and John
    - Very headstrong
      - Worked with French against her husband
      - Led 3 surviving sons in Rebellion
- Richard the Lion-Hearted
  - Son of Henry II succeeds throne
  - 1189 – 1199 C.E.
- John
  - 1199-1216 C.E.
  - Seen as very weak ruler
  - Loss to the Pope
    - Disagreement over Bishop of Canterbury
      - led to excommunication of John
      - England made a fief of the Papacy
  - Loss to the French
    - French had Pope’s blessing
    - Lost regions of Anjou and Normandy
  - Loss to the Nobles
    - People in outright rebellion
      - Origins of the legend of Robin Hood
    - Forced to sign Magna Carta
      - Restricts power of King over nobility
      - John ignored it as much as possible
        - So did just about every king
      - Basis for modern English Law