



Schools Educational Package:
**Medieval Life
&
The Cricklade Manorial Court Leet.**





The Cricklade Manorial Court Leet.

The Cricklade Manorial Court Leet is a form of local government which was formed in the thirteenth century. There are now only 31 Manorial Courts still operating in the country which still have some degree of legal authority.

The Cricklade Leet's current legal responsibility is to manage the grazing rights of North Meadow. This is common land and is managed in partnership with 'Natural England.' North Meadow is an old, flower-rich hay meadow on the northern edge of Cricklade. It covers 160 acres and lies on the glacial flood plain of the River Thames and the River Churn. Unfortunately very few water meadows now remain along the upper Thames. Thus this area is of international importance and is protected as a 'Special Area of Conservation.' The meadow also supports Britain's largest population of snakeshead fritillary as well as 260 species of flora.

The role and responsibilities of the Manorial Court have altered over time with various civil authorities taking responsibilities and the Court Leet is now largely ceremonial, focused upon the care and protection of North Meadow.

This 'Schools Educational Package' focuses upon general Medieval life in a village (homes, food and farming), looking at a specific area (i.e. Cricklade), general customs in a Medieval village, the Manor Court and punishments, Manor Courts vs the King's Court.

These are primarily for KS3, however can be freely amended for other age groups and a range of abilities. Differentiated materials are included. The 'Schools Educational Package' includes a range of activities and resources including PowerPoints, worksheets and card sorting exercises.

The History National Curriculum at KS 2 & 3 recommend a local history study and one of the key concepts is looking at 'Change and Continuity.' Furthermore 'Chronology' encompasses a study of the key features of a period. These resources could be used as part of a depth study and as an aspect of the British History element "The Development of Political Power" in KS3. The National Curriculum at KS3 requires the development of the key processes: 2.1 Historical Enquiry, 2.2 Using Evidence and 2.3 Communicating about the Past.

These resources could be used in History or Geography lessons, furthermore to focus on Citizenship within the curriculum.

Bibliography:

- <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>
- <http://www.lhi.org.uk/>
- <http://www.crickladecourtleet.com/>



Teacher's Notes.



This 'Schools Educational Package' focuses upon KS3 however can be freely amended for other age groups. The resources can be used generally for 'Medieval Life,' the Manorial Court and also in conjunction with a study of Cricklade. These materials could be used in History, Geography and Citizenship lessons.

Foundation level PowerPoint slides have a red slide edge.

The work includes:

- A PowerPoint about Medieval life including peasants' houses, the manor house, Medieval food, crop rotation & the seasons.
- Worksheets about the open field village & manor house.
- An outline map of Cricklade and an exercise to add the key characteristics and features of the area in the Middle Ages.
- A card sort activity about the customs in a Medieval village.
- A PowerPoint about the Manor Court and activities.
- A worksheet about Cricklade Court Leet, punishments in a village, Manor Court vs King's Courts.
- A worksheet comparing the Manor Court of Cricklade today & in the Middle Ages.

Peasant Life:

- See **PowerPoint about Medieval life:**
- A starter activity (slides 1-2) making deductions from a Medieval picture showing the lord of the manor and peasants working in the background, he has returned from hunting.
- A line drawing of a peasant's cottage (slides 3-9)-pupils could describe this to their neighbour & label it. They then categorise the items in the picture into 'items connected with work,' 'personal possessions' and 'items for the home.' There are then questions about living conditions.
- See **Worksheet about 'A Typical Medieval Manor House'** (slide 10-11)- working with a partner draw a plan, each pair has a different set of instructions which they use to alternatively add a detail or label. Further research could be to establish the accuracy of their drawing or a pictorial/written source could be provided for the class. They could also compare a manor house to a peasant's house.

For Foundation level students see the worksheets in the 'Peasant Life folder' (the document is called 'Manor House). This includes a map of a manor house and descriptions that they can use to complete their plan.

- Re-visiting the Medieval picture (slides 12-13) used in the starter activity & linking this to food production in a village.
- Peasant food vs noble food (slides 14-19), a sorting exercise. Slide no 18 is numbered to show the order of the movement as it shows the answers. You could ask the class 'who ate this food?' it will then move to the correct side. Slide 19 also shows the answers & is animated, it is colour coded which might be easier for checking answers.
- See **Worksheet about 'Open-Field Villages'** - Information about villagers with activities comparing a cottar/villein & freeman.
- Slide for foundation level showing a pyramid (slide 21) & statements for a lord, freeman, villein & cottar. Correct order is BADC. This could be used instead of the worksheet about 'Open-Field Villages.' Drag the statements to correspond with the correct segment of the hierarchy.
- Crop rotation (slides 22-27) and why it was used.
- The peasant's year-see below for further activities that link to this.
- See **outline map of Cricklade**-info on next page

Peasant Life:

- **Other resources which might be useful include-**
 - A homework task 'The Poor Peasant' by Mr Yelland on <http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk> about William Langland's poem 'Piers the Ploughman.'
 - The Luttrell Psalter by Mr Webb on the same website.
- For copyright reasons & electronic media constraints I could not include certain images, however it is fine to use the following in a classroom context:
 - See 'The Victoria & Albert' website (<http://www.vam.ac.uk/>) for a collection of images under glass/ Medieval glass, there are some lovely images of roundels showing the months of the year (Labours of the Months.)
 - The British Library's website (<http://www/bl.uk/>) in its Learning section/History/Medieval Realms has a medieval Book of Hours showing 12 illuminated manuscript scenes from 'The Golf Book,' as it is known, and a related activity.



The Manor Court:

- A **card sort exercise— ‘Customs in a Medieval Village.’** matching up pictures showing forbidden activities by the lord of the manor, an explanation and extracts from manorial court rolls. The extracts from the manorial court rolls sources are not provided for each forbidden activity. Answers are on the accompanying **‘Manor Court’ PowerPoint** and the layout is correct before they have been cut out.



There is also a layout (pages 8 –10) that just shows the pictures & sources, this might be useful for making the cards easier to cut out.

Picture	Description	Source
A	8	Source 2
B	3	Source 6
C	4	Source 10
D	10	Source 1
E	9	Source 7
F	5	Source 3
G	11	
H	6	Source 8
I	12	Source 4
J	2	
K	7	Source 5
L	1	Source 9

The Manor Court –
Check your answers.

- The ex-tracts (pages 5-6) from manorial court rolls could be included in the sorting exercise as ‘red herrings,’ pupils could draw their own pictures and summarise in their own words which customs are being broken. Alternatively the activity could be simplified if you removed these or reduced the number of them. *These sources are not numbered.*

[*A further simplification would be to have the source & description together on one card, thus don't cut them out separately. Pupils would then just match them up with the picture.]

- The **PowerPoint ‘Manor Court’** contains activities to do with the rules or customs of a Medieval village. The reeve's report (Activity 4) could be done as a role play exercise.
- The **worksheet ‘Cricklade Court Leet’** compares a Manor Court with the King's Courts. There are questions on the worksheet. For younger children a role play activity, which was teacher led, about punishments and the villagers' roles would make this more accessible (e.g. “You'll never guess what I have just seen...”). Perhaps a Venn diagram on a SmartBoard would be another option where the statements were dragged to the correct side depending on whether the punishment would have been dealt with in the King's Court or the Manor Court.
- The document ‘Medieval vs Modern Court Leet’/**worksheet ‘The Manor Court of the Hundred & Borough of Cricklade’** compares the role of the Court Leet today with its Medieval role, answers enclosed on the next pages. The use of appropriate tenses will be spotted swiftly by many and help them categorise the statements.

- Further information about Manorial Court Rolls can be found at-
-<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/seth/hec1248.html>
-www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk
-<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

-Ed Emilie Amt, ‘Women's Lives in Medieval Europe, (Routledge, 1993).
-Martyn Whittock, ‘Life in the Middle Ages,’ (Robinson, 2009).



Cricklade Map:

- **See map of Cricklade and worksheet 'Cricklade Medieval Map.'** One map shows the town centre of Cricklade and the other the outlying areas.
- An outline map of Cricklade in the Middle Ages. Pupils to add details and further features to this map, they can also include a key.

They could then compare this to the Medieval Chertsey map (see below on National Archives Learning Curve website) to look at how they used pictorial representation etc—historical interpretation. A modern OS map (Explorer 169) could be used to consider 'continuity and change.'

- When they have completed filling in the map of Medieval Cricklade they could use the second map that shows an enlarged image of the town centre to fill in more details about the town centre.
- Further info: most people did not travel more than 5 miles from their homes or a maximum of 10 miles. Cricklade in the Middle Ages had a population of approx 700 people.

Cricklade Map & History:

- Further maps can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getcom.php?id=74> one is an 1837 Tithe Award Map showing Burbage plots. Also Google Images has a map showing Cricklade parish boundaries courtesy of Friends of St Mary's Church, Cricklade.
- The Cricklade Museum website (<http://www.cricklademuseum.org>) provides further detail about the area.
- 'Cricklade' by Diana Holmes, Sutton Publishing, 1993.
- The National Archives Learning Curve website (<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/index/snapshots.htm>) has work on Chertsey looking at a rare Medieval map, this might be of interest as part of a discussion about pictorial representation and about the reliability and usefulness of Medieval maps. Using the Chertsey Medieval map pupils could make inferences about medieval village life.
- The Standards Site (<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/history/his18/?view=get>) has a scheme of work for Key Stage 1&2 about map work and studying a local area (What was it like to live here in the past? What is our area like today? What do pictures and photographs tell us about past life in our area?). This work could be used in conjunction with the Medieval map in the resources pack.
- The map activity is to provide a flavour of what life was like in a medieval town, there are many uncertainties about medieval Cricklade (limited evidence available) and thus this is merely an impression. However Cricklade had more than one manor and the lord of the manor did not reside in Cricklade. For more information about this see the publications below.

- **For further details about medieval Cricklade see:**

-Cricklade Historical Society Bulletin, particularly:

- Bulletin volIII, no5, Jun 1980: 'The Beginnings,' Dr.T.R. Thomson.
- Bulletin no4, vol IV, Feb 2003: 'The Domesday View of the Cricklade Countryside,' Bruce.V.Jones.
- Bulletin no5, vol IV, Feb 2004: 'Medieval Cricklade-A Challenge,' Robin Williams.
'Notes on Domesday Entries,' Dr Thompson.

-Further articles held by Cricklade Museum include:

- 'The Manor of Abingdon Court,' Tom Ramsden-Binks.
- 'Early History of Cricklade,' Tom Ramsden-Binks.
- CRDWH:4907 'The Cricklade Manors.'

-'Narmead North Meadow, Cricklade, Wiltshire,' Tom Ramsden-Binks, (2006 Cricklade Historical Society)

-Cricklade,' Diana Holmes, Sutton Publishing, 1993. ISBN: 0 7509 0494 1

**Many thanks for Cricklade Museums curator Chris Morley for his advice
and for highlighting these publications.**

Acknowledgments: Many thanks to David Tetlow (the Chairman of Cricklade Council) and to Chris Morley (the curator at Cricklade Museum) their help.

All pictures are by Ray Fishwick and are originally from 'History Scene 2' by Peter Moss and by kind permission of Collins Educational Publishers.

