# Behind the Castle Gates

## Life in Medieval England

### YEAR 5 | USEFUL WEBSITES

Click the blue titles to open each website. Explore with a teacher or parent.

### LIFE BEHIND THE GATES

**English Heritage: Life in a castle**

Explore the people who lived and worked in castles, from lords to servants. Read selected sections with an adult.

**Compare: how did rich and poor people live?**



### HISTORY DETECTIVES

**National Archives: Castle mysteries**

Explore a recorded session about castle design and the communities around castles. Watch selected parts with a teacher or parent.

**Ask: what clues show how a castle was used?**



### THE BLACK DEATH ARRIVES

**Oak National Academy: The arrival**

Find out how plague reached medieval communities. A secondary-school resource: ask a teacher or parent to choose suitable extracts.

**Try it: sequence the key events.**



### HOW DID LIFE CHANGE?

**Oak National Academy: The impact**

Explore how the Black Death affected work and society. A secondary-school resource to discuss in selected extracts with an adult.

**Discuss: why could some workers ask for more?**



### TINY LIVING THINGS

**e-Bug: Introduction to microbes**

Explore KS2 activities about microbes, including bacteria. Ask an adult to help choose an activity and follow the instructions.

**Think: are all microbes harmful?**



### PICTURE THE PAST

**English Heritage: Medieval castle**

Look closely at a detailed castle illustration. Download the colouring sheet, spot everyday activities and discuss the people's jobs.

**Try it: write a day in a servant's life.**



**BIG QUESTION: How did the Black Death change medieval life?**

TOPIC CHALLENGE: Create a before-and-after picture showing changes in a medieval community.