

Exploring diversity through a sense of place and time

What does the history of Winchester reveal about how Jews were treated in medieval England?

KS3 local history enquiry 2 on the experience of the Jewish medieval minority built around questions of historical significance

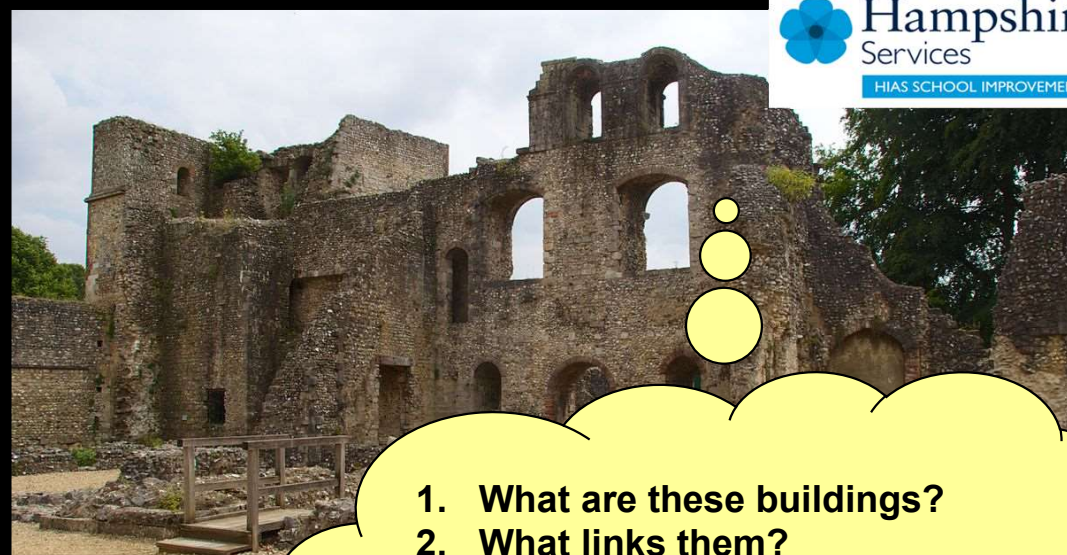


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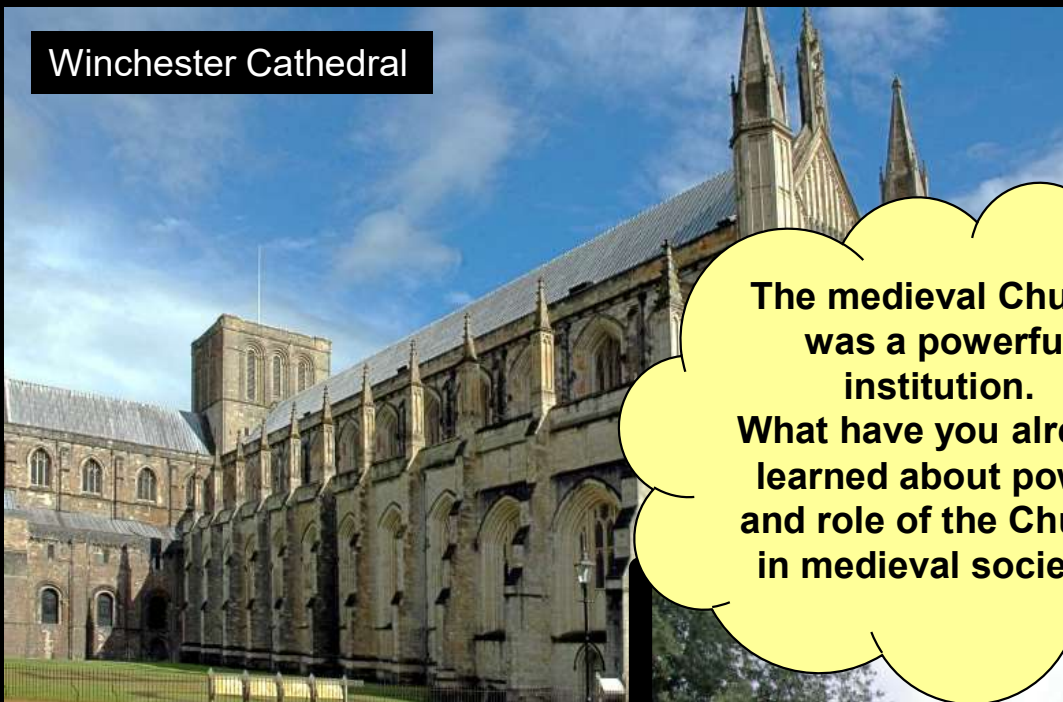
Enquiry 2 Lesson 1



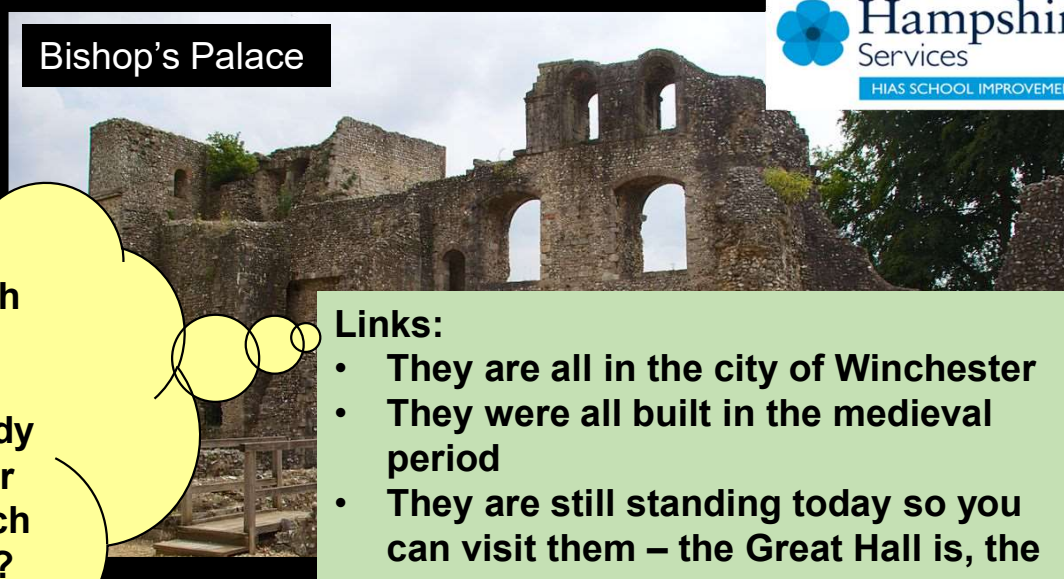
1. What are these buildings?
2. What links them?
3. Is there an odd one out?
4. Have you visited any of these places?



Winchester Cathedral



Bishop's Palace



The medieval Church was a powerful institution.
What have you already learned about power and role of the Church in medieval society?

Links:

- They are all in the city of Winchester
- They were all built in the medieval period
- They are still standing today so you can visit them – the Great Hall is, the castle is in ruins!
- They were owned by people of power and influence
- They were all had links to the medieval church – Bishops met the king in the Great Hall.

Kings Gate with the Church of St Swithun-upon-Kingsgate above




The Great Hall at Winchester Castle



The Old Chesil Rectory



What does the history of Winchester reveal about how Jews were treated in medieval England?



I am Licoricia of Winchester. I was part of a small **minority** of Jewish people living in medieval England. The Jewish population of medieval England is estimated as a maximum of 5,000 out of the approximately 3 million people in England (less than 1%). It is likely that no more than 200 Jews lived in Winchester in the 13th Century.

Winchester was my home. To understand more about my story, living in a medieval **minority**, you need to know more about the **medieval city** where I lived and the **relationship** between Jews and their **Christian neighbours, the king and the Church**.

You are going to find out what the history of Winchester reveals to historians about the **difficulties** the **Jewish community faced** in the 100 years before they were forced out of England in 1290, some of which I lived through. The treatment of Jews in Winchester is a window into how medieval Jews were treated across Britain and Europe.

Was does the history of Winchester reveal about how Jews were treated in medieval England?

I am **Richard of Devizes**, an **English chronicler** who lived in the priory attached to Winchester Cathedral during the medieval period. I wrote about 12th Century events in my *Chronicles*.

I described Winchester as the “*city of cities*” in 1190 because it was a place of **importance** that attracted people to live there, including Jews.



Was Winchester really an attractive place to live if you were Jewish?

More Jews did move to Winchester during the medieval period. Many were forced out of their towns and cities, like the Jewish communities in Romsey in 1234 and Southampton in 1236. Winchester was also one of only 27 towns where Jews were allowed to live in the second half the **thirteenth century** (1200s). This was because the king wanted to make sure that his Jews lived where there was an archa or chest to lock away Jewish documents. Let's find out what historians know about medieval Winchester to see whether Jews forced to move there may have been attracted to or alarmed about the idea of moving there.



Attracted or alarmed: was Winchester really an attractive place to live if you were Jewish?



Step 1: Read what historians know about Winchester's medieval past to help you make notes on what might have **attracted** Jews and what would have **alarmed** medieval Jews wanting to live there.

You can read this in pairs or work in expert groups and feed back to home groups.

Should I go to live in Winchester?

The things that would **attract** me to Winchester are ...



Should I be worried about how I might be treated?

The things that **alarm** me about living in Winchester are ...

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Attracted or alarmed: was Winchester really an attractive place to live if you were Jewish?



Key term:
prosperous – being successful or becoming wealthy

The Great Hall, Winchester Castle



Key terms:
pilgrimage – a special religious journey
convert – to change something

Ruins of the Bishop's Palace, Wolvesey Castle

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1. Winchester was a Royal city

Kings had lived in Winchester as well as London since William the Conqueror. **Winchester Castle** was as grand as the London palace and included the **Great Hall**. It was where the king kept his **royal treasure**. There was also a **Royal mint** that made coins. All this made Winchester a very important and a very rich, **prosperous** city. Winchester was one of only 27 towns where Jews were forced to live later in the medieval period as they had a royal chest called an **archa** to lock away Jewish documents. The king promised to protect Jews in Winchester Castle but could also demand large sums of money, called a **tallage** from them at any time.

2. Winchester was a centre of Church power

Winchester Cathedral was one of the largest **cathedrals** in **Europe** and was seen as a holy place where people came to visit on a special journey called a **pilgrimage**. Some of the most powerful church leaders, called **Bishops**, lived here and ruled large areas of the city. They were very wealthy and could borrow large sums of money from Jewish lenders. **Bishop's Palace, Wolvesey Castle** was one of the largest houses in England. There were 30 **churches**, three church hospitals, two **abbeys** and five **friaries** in the city.

All the leaders of these churches were part of a massive Christian organisation across Europe called The Church. It was led by a powerful leader called the **Pope** who lived in Rome. The **Church** tried to get rid of any religion that was not Christianity. Jews were seen as '**other**' **non-Christian** people who were a **threat** to Christianity. Therefore, the Church leaders in Europe met with the Pope to agree ways to keep Jews **separate** from Christians and **convert** them from the Jewish religion to Christianity.

Attracted or alarmed: was Winchester really an attractive place to live if you were Jewish?

Key term:
trade – buying and selling goods



A medieval market

Key term:
cosmopolitan – including people from many countries



Jews from medieval Europe

3. A Merchant's city

Winchester was a **busy centre of trade** where people could **prosper**. There was a **weekly market** and each year people from all over England came to the **Church trade fair**. Here there were **goods** to buy from all over the world, including pottery, silks, velvets, furs, spices, falcons and monkeys. There were shops or **trading booths** on the High Street where local **craftsmen** sold what they had made out of **wood, iron, copper and bone** and traders sold items like **wool and linen cloth**. Traders joined trade groups called **guilds** that met at the **Guildhall** to fixed **prices and wages**. Only **guild members** were allowed to trade in the city but **Jews** were not allowed to join so could not work in many trades. Wealthy businessmen and local traders often borrowed money from Christian and Jewish money lenders.

4. A Cosmopolitan city

In Winchester you would have heard people speaking in different **accents** from countries like **France, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy**. **French** people including **French Jews** had settled in Winchester after the 1066 Norman invasion. They were brought over by William the Conqueror to encourage trade so Jews might feel at home here. One Jew came to England from Russia known as Isaac the Russian of Hampshire. People from all over the world had moved to Britain during the Roman Empire including Black Romans from Africa. Later, Saxons, Angles, Jutes and Vikings from Northern Europe settled in Britain. However, many English people still viewed people from other countries or even other towns as suspicious foreigners.

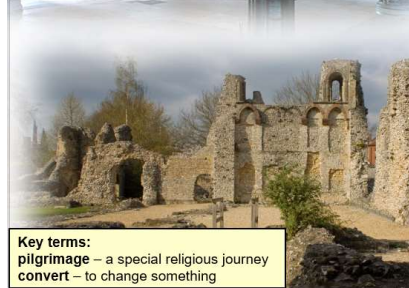
Step 1: What would attract or alarm medieval Jews moving to Winchester?

The things that would attract me to Winchester are ...



Key term:
prosperous – being successful or becoming wealthy

The Great Hall, Winchester Castle



Key terms:
pilgrimage – a special religious journey
convert – to change something

Ruins of the Bishop's Palace, Wolvesey Castle



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Jews from medieval Europe

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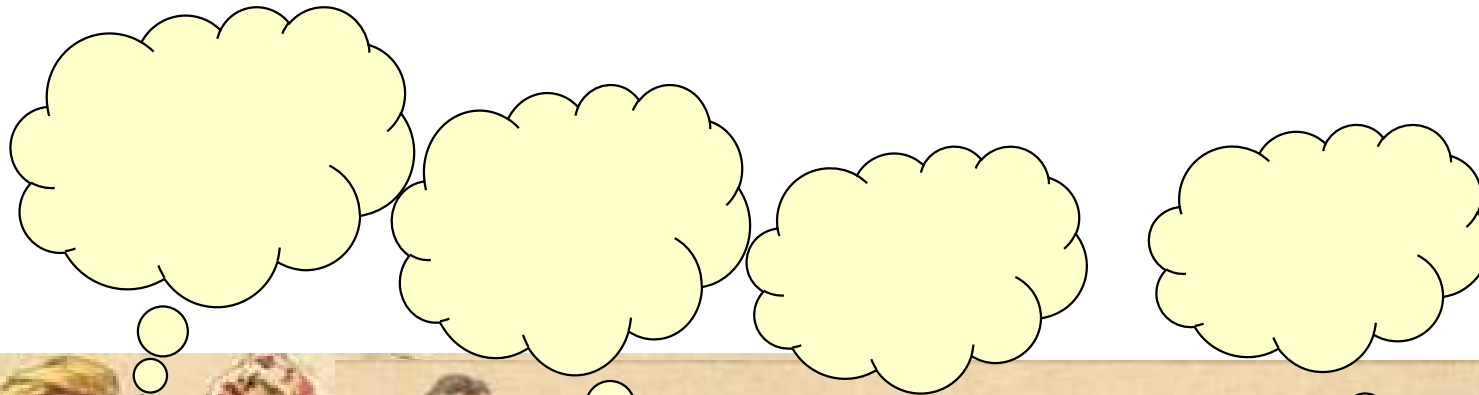
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The things that alarm me about living in Winchester are ...

Think: How do you think medieval Jews would want to be treated in Winchester?

This checklist might help you



Checklist

Medieval Jews were treated well if they were:

- 1. treated with the same **respect** and **equality** as Christians?
- 2. able to live in **safety** and choose where to live?
- 3. able to safely practice their **religion** in a **synagogue** and in their homes?
- 4. able to choose any job or **profession** and stay out of **poverty**?

Step 2 student resource

What happened to Jews that moved to Winchester during the 13th Century?
How were they treated?



First Colour code the timeline events using the criteria to see how Jews were treated against our criteria.



Which statement is correct?
Treatment of the Jews in the 13th century...

A. grew worse as persecution increased the 13th Century

B. got better as their treatment improved over the 13th Century.

Timeline

- 1205:** An official document from the Pope called a **Papal Bull** stated that Jews should be servants to Christians forever, complaining that some Jews had Christian servants in their homes.
- 1215-1217:** Winchester was twice **captured** by the French. The most violent **attacks** were on the Jews and their property.
- 1225:** There was a false **accusation** of child murder against the Jews in Winchester. Winchester Jews were falsely accused of at least three or four child murders.
- 1215:** The Church wanted Jews and Muslims to wear special clothes so that Christians and Jews did not mix or have relationships by mistake. This became **compulsory** later.
- 1232:** Henry III set up a house for Jews who **converted** to Christianity. He encouraged Jews to convert.
- 1236:** The Jews of Southampton were forced out of the city, many moved to Winchester.
- 1241:** The King taxed the Jews heavily with huge **tallages**, which began to put many Jews into real poverty.
- 1264:** The Jews of Romsey were forced out of the town, many moved to Winchester.
- 1264-1265:** Simon de Montfort attacked and robbed Winchester when he pillaged the city during the Baron's War against the king. A lot of Jewish property was destroyed and many Jews were killed.
- 1275:** A new law called the *Statute of Jewry* banned the building of new synagogues and tried to force Jews to wear a Jewish badge and keep separate from Christians. The king's mother also forced Jews from her towns.
- 1280:** All Jews were forced to attend weekly talks, called **sermons**, to persuade them to **convert to Christianity**
- 1282:** The Jewish religion was banned even in the home.
- 1287:** All Jews were **imprisoned** until the massive **tallage** of 20,000 marks was paid which put even more Jews into real poverty.
- 1290:** The Jews of England including Jews in Winchester were forced out of the country and many died.

Next write like a historian using the phrases below and evidence from the timeline to help you explain whether Jews were treated well in medieval Winchester.

Evidence suggests that ...

Jews were/were not treated with **respect and equality** and had the same rights as Christians

Jews lived/could not live peacefully with their **Christian Neighbours** without fear of attack

Jews had/did not have the **religious freedom** to practice their religion in in the synagogue and their homes

Jews had/did not have the **freedom to choose a trade or profession** and could/could not avoid **poverty**

For example...

What happened to Jews that moved there during the 13th century? How were they treated?



Think: what does the evidence from the timeline tell us?

Evidence suggests that ...

Jews were/were not treated with respect and equality and had the same rights as Christians

Jews lived/could not live peacefully with their Christian Neighbours without fear of attack

Jews had/did not have the religious freedom to practice their religion in in the synagogue and their homes

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1280: All Jews were forced to attend weekly talks, called **sermons**, to persuade them to **convert to Christianity**.

1282: The Jewish religion was **banned** even in the home.

1287: All Jews were **imprisoned** until the massive **tallage** of 20,000 marks was paid which put even more Jews into real poverty.

1290: The Jews of England including Jews in Winchester were forced out of the country and many died.

The right column shows how a historian would describe the opposite to our criteria on the left?

Step 3: Can you use these phrases to talk like a historian and describe the treatment of the Jews in the 13th Century?



1. Jews were treated with **respect and equality**, having the same rights as Christians.

2. Jews were able to live in **safety** and choose where to live.

3. Jews had **religious freedom** to practice Judaism in their **homes** and meet in the **synagogue** safely.

4. Jews had the **freedom to choose a job, trade or profession** and could **avoid poverty**.

might
rarely
often
frequently
generally
mostly
could expect
increasingly
throughout
for example

1. **Jews suffered inequality** – they were treated worse. Jews were **'othered'** - being treated as outsiders. Jews were **persecuted or mistreated**– treated badly
Jews were dehumanised - treated as less than human.

2. Jews lived in **fear of persecution** – in danger of being **attacked**.
Jews were forced to live in Jewish only areas, known later as ghettos (not in medieval Winchester).

3. Jews **suffered religious persecution** - stopped from practicing their religion or were mistreated because of their beliefs.

4. **Jews suffered exploitation** - this might mean that they were **forced to work in a job** / profession or were treated unfairly so others could make money from their work, Jews were **impoverished** - to be made poor.

Going deeper alternative to step 2

What does the history of Winchester reveal about how Jews were treated in medieval England?

Step 2: How did new laws and other events in Winchester's medieval history affect the treatment of the Jews?

Sort out the information cards under these headings to help you answer the questions. Some cards may go under more than one question.



Were Jews treated with respect and equality?	Could Jews practice their religion without persecution?
Could Jews live in safety?	Did Jews have the freedom to choose any job or career and avoid poverty?

Checklist

Medieval Jews were treated well if they were:

1. treated with the same **respect** and **equality** as Christians?
2. able to live in **safety** and choose where to live?
3. able to safely practice their **religion** in a **synagogue** and in their homes?
4. able to choose any job or **profession** and stay out of **poverty**?

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How did new laws and other events in Winchester's medieval history affect the treatment of the Jews?

<p>Were Jews treated with respect and equality?</p>	<p>Could Jews practice their religion without persecution?</p>
<p>Could Jews live in safety?</p>	<p>Did Jews have the freedom to choose any job or career and avoid poverty?</p>

The diagram consists of a circle divided into four equal quadrants by a vertical and a horizontal line. The quadrants are colored as follows: top-left is green and labeled 'Respect and equality'; top-right is yellow and labeled 'Religious freedom'; bottom-left is blue and labeled 'Safety'; bottom-right is red and labeled 'Freedom to chose an occupation and avoid poverty'. Two curved arrows are positioned at the center of the circle, one pointing from the top-left quadrant to the top-right, and another pointing from the top-right quadrant to the bottom-right, indicating a clockwise flow of the cycle.

**Going deeper
card sort
for step 2**

<p>1. Jews were often imprisoned or executed unfairly. Jews could be falsely accused of child murder and coin clipping. Many Jews were imprisoned before the king's taxes were collected to make sure they paid.</p> <p>Often whole families had to stay in prison until the king's taxes on Jews were paid by their family or the Jewish community. Their homes could be searched and valuables taken while they were away. Graffiti was left by Jews imprisoned in Winchester in 1287.</p>	<p>2. Winchester was attacked four times. Each time the worst attacks were on the Jews and their homes, killing hundreds of Jews</p> <p>The first two attacks were part of the French invasion 1215-1217. The last two were by armies in the Baron's War against the king in 1265-66.</p>	<p>3. All Jews were forced to leave England in 1290 and many died. Jewish communities in some towns were forced out sooner like Jews in Southampton in 1236.</p>	<p>4. Many Jews and Christians lived peacefully together. Some might have lived without any experiencing any violent hatred. However the 1200s were especially violent. (Christians in one town tried to protect Jews when they were under attack).</p>
<p>5. Trade and property laws forced many Jews into royal money lending. Jews could not own land or join Christian guilds so Jews could not work in the safest trades or jobs like farming.</p> <p>Some Jews were still able to do other work such as doctors and midwives. Some Jewish traders such as merchants, artists and metal workers made good money until after 1244 when Jewish taxes increased.</p>	<p>6. Tax Laws meant that the king could heavily tax Jews at any time with a tallage. Financiers that did become wealthy by lending money to the rich often paid the taxes of poorer Jews and could lose it all to the king or queen.</p>	<p>7. After 1244 the king's taxes on the Jews were so big that all Jews struggled to make a living. By 1290 they had left all Jews very poor.</p>	<p>8. Laws against the Jewish religion increased. Jews could meet in a synagogue and follow their beliefs until this was banned in 1282, even in homes.</p> <p>In 1280 all Jews were forced to go to hear special church sermons every week. These talks were to try and convert Jews into Christians.</p> <p>In 1290 all Jews were given the choice to convert or leave England.</p>
<p>9. In 1205 a letter from the Pope called a Papal Bull stated that Jews should be <i>servants</i> to Christians forever, complaining that some Jews had Christian servants in their home.</p> <p>This meant that Jews were not seen as equal to Christians.</p> <p>Some Christians would have believed the Church teaching that Jews were outsiders to keep away from.</p>	<p>10. Some Jews and Christians were friendly and showed each other respect. Jews and Christians in Winchester were living in the same streets. They drank in the same pubs and traded together. Licoricia had a Christian servant which was forbidden by the church.</p> <p>The Bishop of Winchester entertained some Jews in his castle.</p>	<p>11. Jews who did not experience violence would have been treated as outsiders by many. Treatment of the Jews grew worse at the time of the Crusades. These were wars between Christians and Muslims to control their holy city of Jerusalem. Jews were seen as religious enemies in England because they were not Christians.</p>	<p>12) Laws of separation tried to keep Jews away from Christians.</p> <p>From 1215 the Church wanted Jews and Muslims to wear special clothes so that Christians would not start a relationship with them by mistake. These symbols to identify Jews became compulsory later.</p> <p>Not all Christians agreed with or followed these laws.</p>

<p>1. Jews were often imprisoned or executed unfairly. Jews could be falsely accused of child murder and coin clipping. Many Jews were imprisoned before the king's taxes were collected to make sure they paid.</p> <p>Often whole families had to stay in prison until the king's taxes on Jews were paid by their family or the Jewish community. Their homes could be searched and valuables taken while they were away. Graffiti was left by Jews imprisoned in Winchester in 1287.</p>	<p>2. Winchester was attacked four times. Each time the worst attacks were on the Jews and their homes, killing hundreds of Jews</p> <p>The first two attacks were part of the French invasion 1215-1217. The last two were by armies in the Baron's War against the king in 1265-66.</p>	<p>3. All Jews were forced to leave England in 1290 and many died. Jewish communities in some towns were forced out sooner like Jews in Southampton in 1236.</p>	<p>4. Many Jews and Christians lived peacefully together. Some might have lived without any experiencing any violent hatred. However the 1200s were especially violent. (Christians in one town tried to protect Jews when they were under attack).</p>
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How did laws and other events in Winchester's medieval history affect the Jews in the 13th Century?

Going deeper Step 2
summary

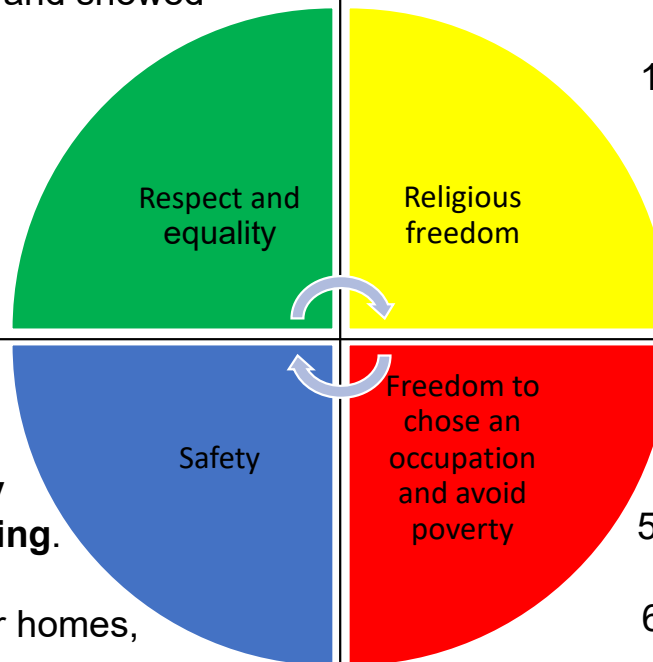
Were Jews treated with respect and equality?

9. In 1205 a letter from the Pope called a **Papal Bull** stated that Jews should be *servants* to Christians.
10. Some Jews and Christians were friendly and showed each other respect.
11. Jews who did not experience violence would have been treated as outsiders by many. Jews were seen as religious **enemies** in England during the Christian **Crusades** of the 13th Century.

Could Jews practice their religion without persecution?

8. **Laws against the Jewish religion** increased during the 13th Century. Jews could meet in a synagogue and follow their beliefs until this was banned in 1282, even in homes.

12. From 1215 **Laws of separation** tried to keep Jews away from Christians.



Could Jews live in safety?

1. Jews were often **imprisoned or executed** unfairly. Jews could be **falsely accused** of child murder and **coin clipping**.
2. In Winchester was attacked four times. worst attacks were on the Jews and their homes, killing hundreds of Jews.
3. All Jews were **forced to leave England in 1290** and many died.
4. Many Jews and Christians lived **peacefully together**.

Did Jews have the freedom to choose any job or career and avoid poverty?

5. **Trade and property laws** meant Jews could not work in the safest jobs.
6. **Tax Laws** meant that the king could heavily tax Jews at any time with a **tallage**.
7. After 1244 the king's taxes on the Jews were so big that all Jews struggled to make a living. By 1290 they had left all Jews very poor.

What happened to Jews that moved there during the 13th Century? How were they treated?



Think: Were Jews treated well during the 13th Century?

Treatment of the Jews in the 13th Century ...

- A. got better as their treatment improved over the 13th Century
- B. grew worse as persecution increased the 13th Century
- C. was poor as persecution continued throughout the 13th Century
- D. gradually worsened over the 13th Century
- E. rapidly worsened as persecution increased over the 13th Century.

Think: Which phrase best describes how Jews were treated in the 13th Century over time?

Timeline

1205: An official document from the Pope called a **Papal Bull** stated that Jews should be servants to Christians forever, complaining that some Jews had Christian servants in their homes.

1215-1217: Winchester was twice **captured** by the French. The most violent **attacks** were on the Jews and their property.

1225: There was a **false accusation** of child murder against the Jews in Winchester. Winchester Jews were falsely accused of at least three or four child murders.

1215: The Church wanted Jews and Muslims to wear special clothes so that Christians and Jews did not mix or have relationships by mistake. This became **compulsory** later.

1232: Henry III set up a house for Jews who **converted** to Christianity. He encouraged Jews to convert.

1236: The Jews of Southampton were forced out of the city, some moved to Winchester.

1241: The King taxed the Jews heavily with huge **tallages**, which began to put many Jews into real poverty.

1264: The Jews of Romsey were **forced out** of the town, many moved to Winchester.

1264-1265: Simon de Montfort attacked and robbed Winchester when he pillaged the city during the Baron's War against the king. A lot of Jewish property was destroyed and many Jews were killed.

1275: A new law called the *Statute of Jewry* banned the building of new synagogues and tried to force Jews to wear a Jewish badge and keep separate from Christians. The king's mother also forced Jews out of her towns and sold their houses to make money.

1280: All Jews were forced to attend weekly talks, called **sermons**, to persuade them to **convert to Christianity**.

1282: The Jewish religion was **banned** even in the home.

1287: All Jews were **imprisoned** until the massive **tallage** of 20,000 marks was paid which put even more Jews into real poverty.

1290: The Jews of England including Jews in Winchester were forced out of the country and many died.

Going deeper Step 3

The right column shows how a historian would describe the opposite to our criteria on the left?

Step 3: use these phrases and evidence from your timeline to write like a historian to explain whether Jews in the 13th Century were treated well?



1. Jews were treated with **respect and equality**, having the same rights as Christians.

2. Jews were able to live in **safety** and choose where to live.

3. Jews had **religious freedom** to practice Judaism in their **homes** and meet in the **synagogue** safely.

4. Jews had the **freedom to choose a job, trade or profession** and could **avoid poverty**.

might

rarely

often

frequently

generally

mostly

could expect

increasingly

throughout

for example

1. **Jews suffered inequality** – they were treated worse. Jews were **'othered'** - being treated as outsiders. Jews were **persecuted or mistreated**– treated badly **Jews were dehumanised** - treated as less than human.

2. Jews lived in **fear of persecution** – in danger of being **attacked**. Jews were forced to live in Jewish only areas, known later as ghettos (not in medieval Winchester).

3. Jews **suffered religious persecution** - stopped from practicing their religion or were mistreated because of their beliefs.

4. **Jews suffered exploitation** - this might mean that they were **forced to work in a job** / profession or were treated unfairly so others could make money from their work, Jews were **impoverished** - to be made poor.

Teacher version: What does the history of Winchester reveal about how Jews were treated in medieval England? How did laws and other events in Winchester's medieval history affect the Jews?

Were Jews treated with respect and equality?

9. In **1205** a letter from the Pope called a **Papal Bull** stated that **Jews should be servants to Christians forever**, complaining that some Jews had Christian servants in their homes. This meant that Jews were not seen as equal to Christians.

10. Jews and Christians in Winchester were living in the same streets as neighbours. They ate and drank in the same pubs or worked together in trade and as servants. Licoricia had a Christian servant. The Bishop of Winchester entertained some Jews in his castle. (Christians in another town went to a Jewish wedding despite being threatened by the Church which shows Christians and Jews had good relations). Jews and Christians were known to enjoy debating with one another.

11. Jews who did not experience violence would have been **treated differently** due to their different religion **and laws made to keep Jews and Christians separate**. Some Christians would have believed the Church teaching that **Jews were outsiders** to keep away from. During the Christian **Crusades** to win control of Jerusalem from Turkish invaders, Jews were even seen as religious **enemies at home**.

Could Jews live in safety?

1. Jews were imprisoned after false accusations of child murder and coin clipping which was taking some of the precious metal from the coins before using them. If you were found guilty everything you owned would be taken away, confiscated to be given to the king. Sometimes whole families were arrested while their homes were ransacked to take anything of value.

2. In 1215-1217 Winchester was captured by the French, twice. The worst attacks were focussed on the Jews and their property. In 1265-66 Winchester was pillaged by armies twice in the Baron's War. Many Jewish homes and belongings were destroyed as the armies focussed on the Jewish quarter of the city. Hundreds of Jews were killed during the Barons war. In 1190 there were also massacres of many more Jews during the coronation of King Richard I but not in Winchester or London and most of the other towns with archa chests.

3. All Jews were forced to leave England in 1290 and many died. Jewish communities were forced out of Winchester later than in some other towns. Jews in Southampton were forced out in 1236. **The term expulsion is deliberately left out to avoid the negative behaviour connotations with school expulsion which might suggest that Jews deserved to be expelled.**

4. Some historians point out that there were long periods in Winchester and other places when many Jews and Christians lived peacefully together. Some might have lived without any experiencing any violent hatred. There are examples of Jewish and Christian communities cooperating together. Some Jewish neighbours looked after Jewish belongings if they were attacked (Christians in one town tried to protect Jews when they were under attack).

Could Jews practice their religion without persecution?

8. A Jewish synagogue was allowed to be built in Winchester **and Jews could practice their religion** until 1282 **when it was banned** even in **private homes**. During this time **intolerance** grew. In **1232** King Henry III set up a **house for Jews who converted to Christianity** to encourage Jews to convert. In **1280** all Jews were **forced** to attend **weekly conversion sermons**. In **1290** **were given the choice to convert or leave** England.

12. From 1215 the Church wanted Jews and Muslims to wear special clothes so that Christians would not start a relationship with a Jew by mistake. These symbols to identify Jews became compulsory later. Not all Christians agreed with or followed **the laws of separation**.

Did Jews have the freedom to choose any job or career and avoid poverty?

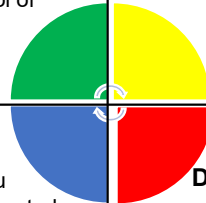
5. Trade and property laws were designed to force Jews into royal money lending therefore Jews could not work in the best, safest jobs. They were not allowed to own land before 1275, and so could not be farmers or grow food. There were also laws against buying food from Jews. Jews were excluded from Christian guilds and therefore many trades and their.

Despite this, some Jews were able to do other work such as physicians, leather workers and even sword fencing masters. Winchester was a thriving place for Jewish traders such as merchants, artists and metal workers. Jews struggled to make a living during times of persecution especially after 1244 when tallage demands increased, forcing many into poverty.

6. Tax laws meant the king could arbitrarily tax Jews. During times when they were not heavily persecuted some of those working in finance were able to become wealthy lending to the rich. However, they were heavily taxed many times throughout the thirteenth century and could lose all wealth to the king. The richer Jews often paid the taxes of the poorer. Winchester had the 6th richest Jewish community in England at the start of the 13th century

7. By 1290 this community like other Jewish communities were impoverished. Queen Eleanor of Castille ruthlessly pursued her rights to 10% of Jewish fines and property of Jews who were executed, to boost her supply of Queen's Gold.

Excavations at the cemetery revealed that the majority of Jews living in Winchester were poor. Many suffered with diseases associated with poverty like rickets. Although some Jews had better than average diets, that diet depended on the King as he owned everything they had. Some were rich for a period but then could lose it all to the King.



Step 1: What would attract or alarm medieval Jews moving to Winchester?

You are expert group 1.

In your group read and discuss what Jews might find attractive and alarming about living in medieval Winchester and record your notes in the table below ready to feedback to your home group.



1. Winchester was a Royal city

Kings had lived in Winchester as well as London since William the Conqueror. **Winchester Castle** was as grand as the London palace and included the **Great Hall**. It was where the king kept his **royal treasure**. There was also a **Royal mint** that made coins. All this made Winchester a very important and a very rich, **prosperous** city. Winchester was one of only 27 towns where Jews were forced to live later in the medieval period as they had a royal chest called an **archa** to lock away Jewish documents. The king promised to protect Jews in Winchester Castle but could also demand large sums of money, called a **tallage** from them at any time.

Group	Attracted	Alarmed
Expert Group 1 A royal city		
Expert Group 2 A centre of Church Power		
Expert Group 3 A city of merchants		
Expert Group 4 A cosmopolitan city		

Step 1 resource (alternative expert and home group format)

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Step 1: What would attract or alarm medieval Jews moving to Winchester?

You are expert group 2.

In your group read and discuss what Jews might find attractive and alarming about living in Winchester and record your notes in the table below ready to feedback to your home group.



The ruins of Bishop's Palace, Wolvesey Castle

2. Winchester was a centre of Church power

Winchester Cathedral was one of the largest **cathedrals** in **Europe** and was seen as a holy place where people came to visit on a special journey called a **pilgrimage**. Some of the most powerful church leaders, called **Bishops**, lived here and ruled large areas of the city. They were very wealthy and could borrow large sums of money from Jewish lenders. **Bishop's Palace**, **Wolvesey Castle** was one of the largest houses in England. There were 30 **churches**, three church hospitals, two **abbeys** and five **friaries** in the city.

All the leaders of these churches were part of a massive Christian organisation across Europe called The Church. It was led by a powerful leader called the **Pope** who lived in Rome. The **Church** tried to get rid of any religion that was not Christianity. Jews were seen as '**other**' **non-Christian** people who were a **threat** to Christianity. Therefore, the Church leaders in Europe met with the Pope to agree ways to keep Jews **separate** from Christians and **convert** them from the Jewish religion to Christianity.

Group	Attracted	Alarmed
Expert Group 1 A royal city		
Expert Group 2 A centre of Church Power		
Expert Group 3 A city of merchants		
Expert Group 4 A cosmopolitan city		

Step 1 resource (alternative expert and home group format)

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Step 1: What would attract or alarm medieval Jews moving to Winchester?

You are expert group 3.

In your group read and discuss what Jews might find attractive and alarming about living in Winchester and record your notes in the table below ready to feedback to your home group.



3. A Merchant's city

Winchester was a **busy centre of trade** where people could **prosper**. There was a **weekly market** and each year people from all over England came to the **Church trade fair**. Here there were **goods** to buy from all over the world, including pottery, silks, velvets, furs, spices, falcons and monkeys. There were **shops or trading booths** on the High Street where local **craftsmen** sold what they had made out of **wood, iron, copper and bone** and traders sold items like **wool and linen cloth**. Traders joined trade groups called **guilds** that met at the **Guildhall** to fixed **prices and wages**. Only **guild members** were allowed to trade in the city but **Jews** were not allowed to join so could not work in many trades. Wealthy businessmen and local traders often borrowed money from Christian and Jewish money lenders.

Group	Attracted	Alarmed
Expert Group 1 A royal city		
Expert Group 2 A centre of Church Power		
Expert Group 3 A city of merchants		
Expert Group 4 A cosmopolitan city		

Step 1 resource (alternative expert and home group format)

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Step 1: What would attract or alarm medieval Jews moving to Winchester?

You are expert group 4.

In your group read and discuss what Jews might find attractive and alarming about living in Winchester and record your notes in the table below ready to feedback to your home group.



Jews from Medieval Europe

4. A Cosmopolitan city

In Winchester you would have heard people speaking in different accents from countries like **France, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy**. **French people** including **French Jews** had settled in Winchester after the 1066 Norman invasion. They were brought over by William the Conqueror to encourage trade so Jews might feel at home here. One Jew came to England from Russia known as Isaac the Russian of Hampshire. People from all over the world had moved to Britain during the Roman Empire including Black Romans from Africa. Later, Saxons, Angles, Jutes and Vikings from Northern Europe settled in Britain. However, many English people still viewed people from other countries or even other towns as suspicious foreigners.

Group	Attracted	Alarmed
Expert Group 1 A royal city		
Expert Group 2 A centre of Church Power		
Expert Group 3 A city of merchants		
Expert Group 4 A cosmopolitan city		

Step 1 resource (alternative expert and home group format)

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