



HIAS Primary History post-1066 resources.

Enquiry 2: What does the story of Licoricia of Winchester reveal about the medieval world?

Step 4: How should we tell the story of Licoricia in a podcast for visitors to the Licoricia statue?

20 July 2024

Sarah Herryty HIAS History Advisor

What have you learned about the medieval world?

Draw an arrow to match up the heads and tails of these sentences

Medieval kings travelled from place to place with their noblemen and royal household...

...royal castle or residence to visit at Christmas.

Winchester Castle was King Henry's favourite ...

...to rule their kingdom and foreign lands.

The Catholic Church and most Christians at the time were prejudiced against Jewish people and ...

...believed Christians and Jews should be kept apart.

The Catholic Church was a powerful...

...many trades and jobs were banned for Jews.

Jewish people were an important part of English society. For example, they traded in goods ...

... like spices, wines, gems and metals from faraway places like China and India.

Jews worked as doctors, midwives and lawyers but ...

...raising money for the king to fight wars, build castles and cathedrals.

Only 1% of Jewish people like Licoricia worked as financiers. They played an important role in...

...organisation led by the Pope.

Jewish people had migrated from France to England...

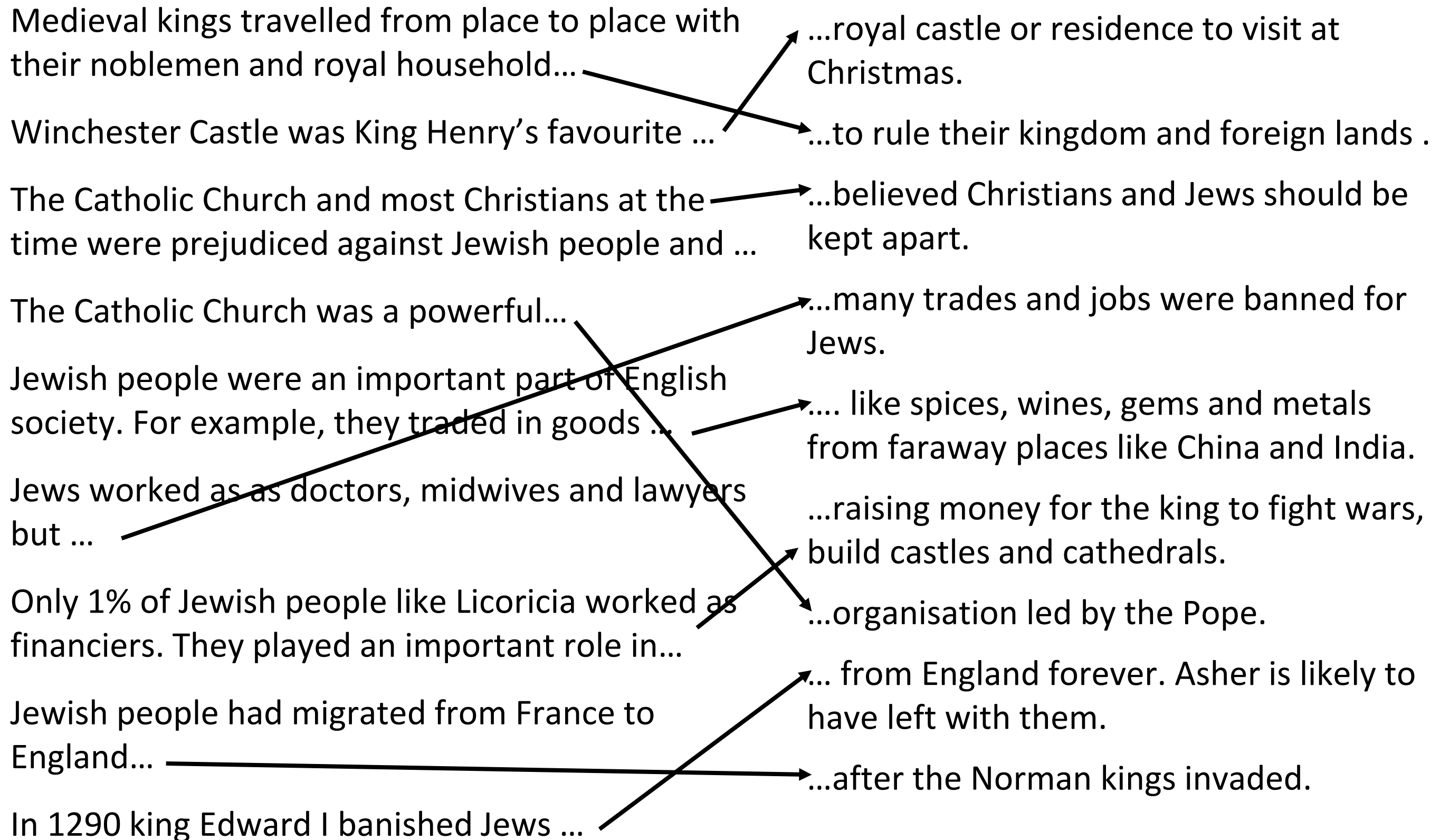
... from England forever. Asher is likely to have left with them.

In 1290 king Edward I banished Jews ...

...after the Norman kings invaded.

What have you learned about the medieval world?

Draw an arrow to match up the heads and tails of these sentences




Look at the photo from the unveiling of Licoricia's statue in 2022.

 Think. Who might these visitors be?



Leaders of different faiths came including leaders of the Jewish, Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, Quaker, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Bahai communities.

 Think. Why are these leaders standing together?

They hope the statue will encourage others to be kind and respectful to each other, accepting people who have different beliefs.

Today, faith leaders, including the Catholic Church, speak out against prejudice.

Did you know?

There are many different faiths and Churches in England today. People are free to have their own beliefs.

Sadly, there are still some people who still treat others badly because of their beliefs or backgrounds.

Step 4

Visitors to Winchester want to know more about the people in the statue!
Your challenge is to make a podcast to share with listeners what historians know about Licoricia and Asher.



Did you know?
King Charles visited the statue in 2022 with some Hampshire school children. Why is it important Jewish people in medieval England are not forgotten?



People want to know:

- Her interesting story and when the statue was built.
- What her story tells us about the experiences of Jewish people who lived here and the dangers they faced.
- What historians really know about her from historical evidence.
- Why historians writing about her today think she is historically significant.

Podcast planner

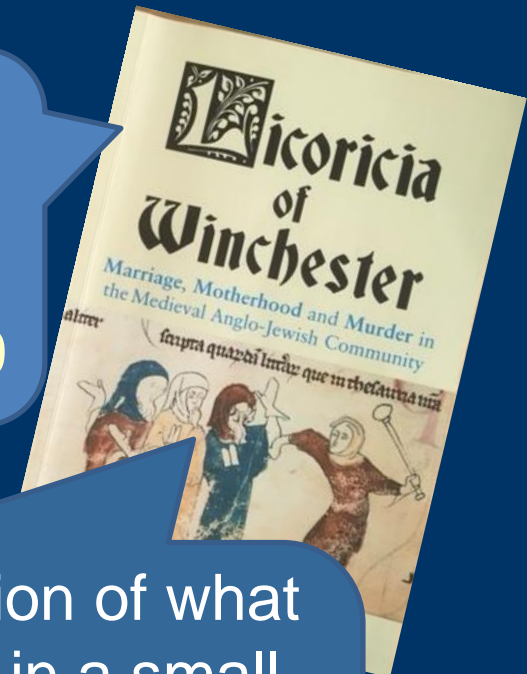
1. Introduction. Start your podcast introduction by describing Licoricia. Choose a quote from one historian to help you grab the listener's attention.

Tough as nails, twice *widowed* ... who survived three spells in the Tower of London only to be murdered.

Simon Schama 2013



The *most important* Jewish woman in medieval England.
Robert Stacey 2009

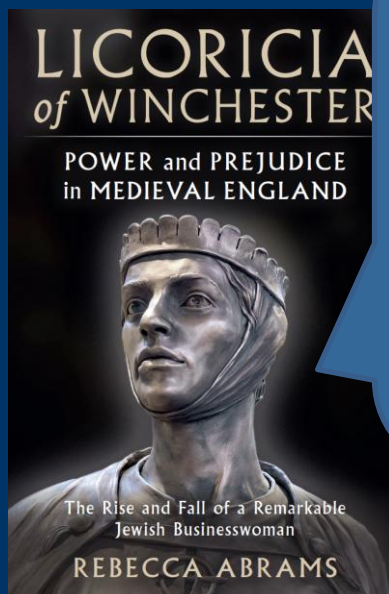


Courageous, strong minded and strong willed, she was an astute and able businesswoman, a powerful *matriarch* and a leading member of Winchester Jewry.
Rebecca Abrams 2022

Licoricia gives an impression of what it was like to be a woman in a small *persecuted* group, living at a time when relationships [between Jewish and Christian people] grew worse.
Suzanne Bartlet 2015

Because she had such a good relationship with the king, she was also able to talk to the king on behalf of other Jews, if they were in trouble. The towns and cities of medieval England were home to a *diverse* range of different people doing different kinds of work, and until 1290 this included Jewish men and women. They are just as important as their Christian neighbours.

Dr Emma Cavell 2022



1. Listen to this podcast



Henry III

4 minutes

<https://youtu.be/7Pp7mR4a0Co>

What makes a good podcast?



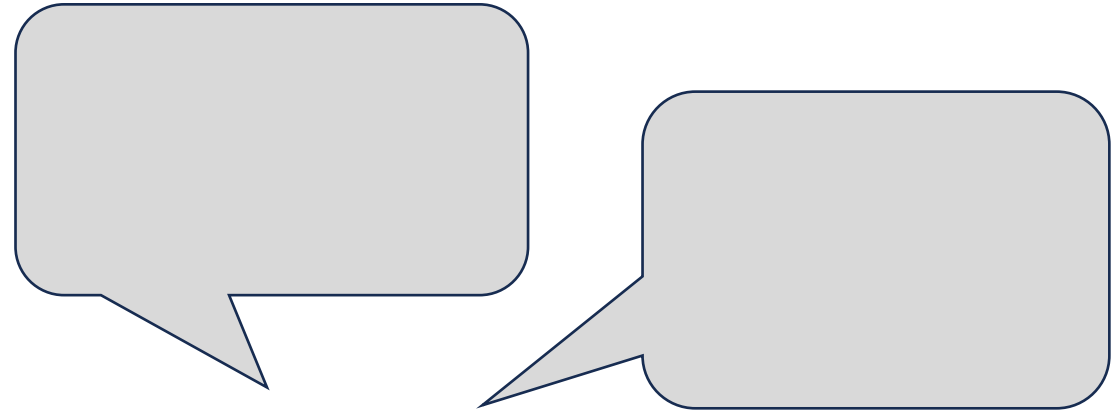
-
-
-
-
-



2. Let's think and start to plan our history podcast

What parts of the story of Licoricia and the other Jewish people living in medieval England do you think it is important to tell?

Share your ideas.



3. Look back at the historian's quotes.

Can you spot any suggestions that Licoricia is **significant** in history?

Let's look at what one historian explains are the reasons she believes Licoricia is significant...

Guided reading:

Why do historians writing about Licoricia today claim she is historically significant?

Historical significance is how about why historians and others **believe and argue** that a person or events is significant in history. It does not mean that everyone agrees they are important or thinks they are famous!

Our challenge: Can we work out why historian Emma Carvell thinks Licoricia is significant?

Which of the 5 'R's does historian Emma Carvell use to support her claim that Licoricia is significant?

1. She is **remembered** today?
2. She was **remarkable** or special for her time?
3. Her actions helped people or **resulted** in change?
4. Her experiences are similar to other people's experiences (perhaps even today) so they are **resonant**?
5. Her story helps us find out about the past so it is **revealing**?

| Reasons given for significance | Line number | <i>Was Licoricia of Winchester historically significant?</i> by Dr Emma Cavell, Senior Lecturer, History, Swansea University | Meanings of new words |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| | 1 | Undoubtedly Licoricia is significant not just because of her success in business, but because she is a rare example of a Jewish woman of medieval England who is known about even today. In general, historical sources say less about women than about men and even less on Jewish women can be found. | |
| | 2 | | |
| | 3 | | |
| | 4 | | |
| | 5 | The Jews represented a <u>minority</u> population in England between 1066 and 1290. Their lives were concentrated in the main towns and cities of medieval England – like Winchester, a city with a rich medieval Jewish history. In addition, their activities were recorded in a limited range of documents, and many of these have been lost or destroyed. Yet Licoricia stands out in the records that survive and was pretty famous in her own day. | |
| | 6 | | |
| | 7 | | |
| | 8 | | |
| | 9 | | |
| | 10 | She was extraordinarily wealthy, between 1244, when David died, and her own death in 1277, Licoricia lent money to people from all over southern England, including the king (Henry III) and queen (Eleanor of Provence), and Simon de Montfort. Henry III sometimes even protected her from the worst of the royal though he also extracted vast sums of money from her over her working life! | |
| | 11 | | |
| | 12 | | |
| | 13 | | |
| | 14 | Because she had such a good relationship with the king, she was also able to talk to the king on behalf of other Jews, if they were in trouble. It is chiefly for her business activities, her good relationship with the king, and also her horrible, unsolved murder, that we remember Licoricia. | |
| | 15 | | |
| | 16 | | |
| | 17 | There were one or two other Jewish businesswomen of the thirteenth-century who stand out in the records, but none as exciting as Licoricia. It is important to remember, too, that the towns and cities of medieval England were home to a diverse range of different people doing different kinds of work, and until 1290 this included Jewish men and women. They are just as important as their Christian neighbours. Some, like Licoricia, were also quite famous! | |
| | 18 | | |
| | 19 | | |
| | 20 | | |
| | 21 | | |
| | 22 | | |

Guided reading:

Why do historians writing about Licoricia today claim she is historically significant?

Historical significance is how about why historians and others **believe and argue** that a person or events is significant in history. It does not mean that everyone agrees they are important or thinks they are famous!

Our challenge: Can we work out why historian Emma Carvell thinks Licoricia is significant?

| Which of the 5 'R's does historian Emma Carvell use to support her claim that Licoricia is significant? | Reasons given for significance | Line number | <i>Was Licoricia of Winchester historically significant?</i> by Dr Emma Cavell, Senior Lecturer, History, Swansea University | Meanings of new words |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. She is remembered today? | | 1 | Undoubtedly Licoricia is significant not just because of her success in business, but because she is a rare example of a Jewish woman of medieval England who is known about even today. | |
| 2. She was remarkable or special for her time? | | 2 | In general, historical sources say less about women than about men and even less on Jewish women can be found. | |
| 3. Her actions helped people or resulted in change? | | 3 | The Jews represented a minority population in England between 1066 and 1290. Their lives were concentrated in the main towns and cities of medieval England – like Winchester, a city with a rich medieval Jewish history. In addition, their activities were recorded in a limited range of documents, and many of these have been lost or destroyed. Yet Licoricia stands out in the records that survive and was pretty famous in her own day. | |
| 4. Her experiences are similar to other people's experiences (perhaps even today) so they are resonant ? | | 4 | She was extraordinarily wealthy , between 1244, when David died, and her own death in 1277, Licoricia lent money to people from all over southern England, including the king (Henry III) and queen (Eleanor of Provence), and Simon de Montfort. Henry III sometimes even protected her from the worst of the royal though he also extracted vast sums of money from her over her working life! | |
| 5. Her story helps us find out about the past so it is revealing ? | | 5 | Because she had such a good relationship with the king , she was also able to talk to the king on behalf of other Jews, if they were in trouble. It is chiefly for her business activities, her good relationship with the king, and also her horrible, unsolved murder, that we remember Licoricia. | |
| | | 6 | There were one or two other Jewish businesswomen of the thirteenth-century who stand out in the records, but none as exciting as Licoricia. It is important to remember, too, that the towns and cities of medieval England were home to a diverse range of different people doing different kinds of work, and until 1290 this included Jewish men and women. They are just as important as their Christian neighbours. Some, like Licoricia, were also quite famous! | |
| | | 7 | | |
| | | 8 | | |
| | | 9 | | |
| | | 10 | | |
| | | 11 | | |
| | | 12 | | |
| | | 13 | | |
| | | 14 | | |
| | | 15 | | |
| | | 16 | | |
| | | 17 | | |
| | | 18 | | |
| | | 19 | | |
| | | 20 | | |
| | | 21 | | |
| | | 22 | | |



Script for the podcast on Licoricia of Winchester



Lined writing area for the podcast script.

✓ Tick off these off when they are included in your podcast

Introduce Licoricia:

1. Describe who she was and when she lived.
2. Give a quote from a historian who has described her.

Describe the statue on Jewry Street in Winchester:

3. When was it built?
4. Who are the people and what are they holding?
5. Explain why the statue plinth says, 'Love your neighbour'

Give some facts about the medieval Jewish community:

6. Why did Jewish people move from France?
7. What jobs did they do that helped English society?
8. Give examples of the rules and Christian beliefs that made their life difficult.
9. What happened to all Jews in 1290?

Tell the story of Licoricia:

10. What do historians know about her life? What do they not know? What is possibly true? What are they certain about?
11. What problems did she face? How did she end up in the Tower of London?
12. How did she end up working for the King of England, Henry III?
13. How could she help Jewish people?

What do historians say about her significance?

14. Give 1-2 why some think she is significant in history

Use some of the 5 'Rs' to help you.

Image copyright permissions: Enquiry 2 Step 4

Page 1, 4, 5, 10 Photos of the statue of Licoricia and Asser, the kings visit and the photos of the unveiling ceremony with the religious leaders in attendance are kindly provided by the Licoricia of Winchester Appeal charity.

Page 6 Book cover *Licoricia of Winchester* by Suzanne Bartlet (2015) ISBN 978 0 85303 832 0 cover image used with kind permission of publishers Vallentine Mitchell. **Image within the book cover** of 14th century drawing of a man raising a club before three Jews in the margin of a Chronicle by Matthew Paris is from the British Library Collection: Cotton Nero D. II, f.183v with their kind permission.

Book cover *Licoricia of Winchester Power and Prejudice in Medieval England* by Rebecca Abrams cover used with kind permission of publishers, The Licoricia of Winchester Appeal.

Photo of Simon Schama https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/84/Simon_Schama_FT_Business_Book_of_the_Year_2013.jpg from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Simon_Schama_FT_Business_Book_of_the_Year_2013.jpg. Attribution: Financial Times, CC BY 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons.