

Exploring diversity through a personal story

*What does the life of
Licoricia of
Winchester reveal
about how medieval
society treated its
Jewish community?*

KS3 historical enquiry 1 on the experience of the Jewish medieval minority built around questions of historical significance

*What does the life of
Licoricia of
Winchester reveal
about how medieval
society treated its
Jewish community?*

Enquiry 1 Lesson 2





Look at this artist's reconstruction by Lucille Dweck of the Great Hall in Winchester.

Can you spot Licoricia?

Can you spot the king?

What would you be able to see and hear going on here?
What questions do you have?

Read Licoricia's story to find out when Licoricia would have been visiting the Great Hall.

What does the life of Licoricia of Winchester reveal about how the Jewish community were treated in the medieval period?



When were the best/worst times in my life?

Step 1:




1. Read or listen to Licoricia's story. As you read tick whether she is thriving, succeeding, managing, struggling, suffering or dying at each stage.
2. Highlight or underline any parts of Licoricia's story that will be most useful for visitors to the statue.

Hampshire Services **Licoricia's story** Step 1 student resource 7

Dying
Suffering
Struggling
Managing
Succeeding

1. Licoricia was married to Abraham with at least three sons. They were partners in a financial business in Winchester and mainly in Kent.									
2. In 1225 Abraham was falsely accused of being involved in a child murder. Abraham went to trial along with other Jewish men, Licoricia would have been very scared. Luckily, he was not found guilty (Jews all over the country were often victims of being falsely accused of the murder of Christian children because medieval people were suspicious of people with different beliefs and were jealous of their protection from the king. Many thought this would cancel the debt they owed to the accused Jews).									
3. By 1234 Abraham had sadly died. We know that Licoricia was living in Winchester as a young widow with her children.									
4. Licoricia had enough money and business expertise to run a money lending business with the help of other business partners. (Often Jewish widows took the business after their husband's death).									
5. Soon Licoricia had become one of the most successful Jewish business owners in Winchester in her own right. She lent larger amounts like £10 to the monks at St Swithun's in Winchester (£10 was worth £7,000 at the time and would have bought 13 horses or 1,000 days of wages).									
6. During this time Licoricia met David of Oxford a very wealthy business man and fell in love. Historian Schama argues Licoricia would have been very attractive in splendid silk clothes. She travelled in style all over the country to meet with wealthy clients. David's success must have also been attractive. He lent as little as one mark to students and as high as £300 to wealthy landowners. He also arranged loans for the King Henry III and his sister.									
7. In 1242 King Henry III made sure the Jewish leaders allowed David to get a divorce to marry Licoricia. The king's help shocked many Jews and Christians. The gift of horses David had given to the king (like giving the king a sports car) and the £100 gift might have helped!									
8. Licoricia married David, moved to Oxford and had a little boy called Asher, they nicknamed Sweetman, and ran their business together with clients all over the country.									
9. In 1244 David sadly died after only two years of marriage to Licoricia. After his death, all the archa chests across England were taken to the Jewish Exchequer in London for assessment. Licoricia was immediately imprisoned in the Tower of London until the king decided how much of David's property and money he was going to take.									
10. Licoricia had to pay 5,000 marks (today about £3,000,000) to keep some of David's property and business. He then forced her to pay another £2,500 (enough money to build and equip 250 war ships). The king kept David's best stone house in Oxford (as a house for poor Jews who were promised help if they converted to Christianity).									
11. Licoricia moved back to the centre of Winchester with baby Asher and regrew her business. She lived on Shoemakers Street (later named Jewry Street) with her sons who were involved in business and trade. Times were harder as in 1244 the king had tallaged a third of everything Jews had.									
12. Licoricia helped the king and queen with their finances like David had done even after the way she had been treated. She would have gone to the Great Hall in Winchester to meet with the king and other officials. She also argued in court to help other Jewish people showing leadership in the community.									
13. 1264-5 was the English Civil War when a leading baron Simon de Monfort rebelled against the king and the way he raised money. The rebels took over the city of Winchester and burned the records in the archive to get rid of their debts, and all money lending was halted, seriously hurting Licoricia's business. A mob attacked Jewish homes putting her family in danger as they were seen as supporters of the king. Many Jewish people were killed.									
14. In 1275 Edward I passed a law called the Statute of Jewry that put many Jewish people into poverty and made it difficult for Licoricia to continue her business.									
15. In 1277 Bella, Licoricia's daughter, found the bodies of Licoricia and of Alice of Bicton, her Christian maid, stabbed to death in their home in Winchester on Jewry Street. The murder possibly took place during a robbery. Licoricia was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Winchester which was located just outside the city walls.									
16. In 1287 many Jewish people were held in prison until their families paid the huge tallage by Edward I. Asher, the little boy in the statue, was probably one of them. Graffiti written by Asher was found in the Jews' Tower and some historians think this was Licoricia's son who had grown up because his name was unusual.									
17. In 1290 King Edward I forced the Jewish community out of England after they were given a choice between converting or leaving. It is likely that Licoricia's son Asher was one of them. Many Jews left from the ports of Southampton and Dover. Some never made it as they were robbed, attacked and killed as they were leaving.									

Which words best describe Licoricia's experience in the Medieval period

- **thriving** – I am doing very well 
- **succeeding** – I am doing quite well
- **managing** – I am doing ok 
- **struggling** – I am finding life difficult
- **suffering** – I am finding life painful 
- **dying** – I am losing my life

ages please see permissions page.

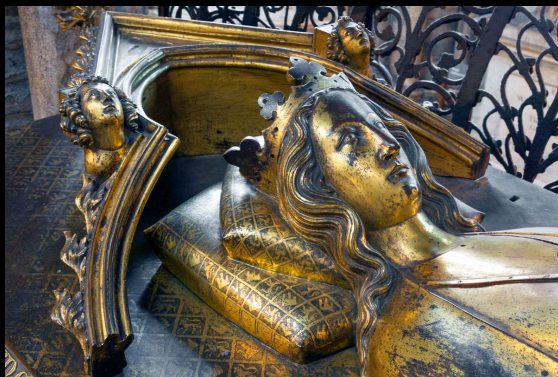
Licoricia's story

1. Licoricia was married to Abraham with least three sons. They were partners in a financial business in Winchester and mainly in Kent.					
2. In 1225 Abraham was falsely accused of being involved in a child murder. Abraham went to trial along with other Jewish men, Licoricia would have been very scared. Luckily, he was not found guilty (Jews all over the country were often victims of being falsely accused of the murder of Christian children because medieval people were suspicious of people with different beliefs and were jealous of their protection from the king. Many thought this would cancel the debt they owed to the accused Jews).					
3. By 1234 Abraham had sadly died. We know that Licoricia was living in Winchester as a young widow with her children.					
4. Licoricia had enough money and business expertise to run a money lending business with the help of other business partners. (Often Jewish widows took the business after their husband's death).					
5. Soon Licoricia had become one of the most successful Jewish business owners in Winchester in her own right. She lent larger amounts like £10 to the monks at St Swithun's in Winchester (£10 was worth £7,000 at the time and would have bought 13 horses or 1,000 days of wages).					
6. During this time Licoricia met David of Oxford a very wealthy business man and fell in love. Historian Schama argues Licoricia would have been very attractive in splendid silk clothes. She travelled in style all over the country to meet with wealthy clients. David's success must have also been attractive. He lent as little as one mark to students and as high as £300 to wealthy landowners. He also arranged loans for the King Henry III and his sister.					
7. In 1242 King Henry III made sure the Jewish leaders allowed David to get a divorce to marry Licoricia. The king's help shocked many Jews and Christians. The gift of horses David had given to the king (like giving the king a sports car) and the £100 gift might have helped!					
8. Licoricia married David, moved to Oxford and had a little boy called Asher, they nicknamed Sweetman, and ran their business together with clients all over the country.					
9. In 1244 David sadly died after only two years of marriage to Licoricia. After his death, all the archa chests across England were taken to the Jewish Exchequer in London for assessment. Licoricia was immediately imprisoned in the Tower of London until the king decided how much of David's property and money he was going to take.					
10. Licoricia had to pay 5,000 marks (today about £3,000,000) to keep some of David's property and business. He then forced her to pay another £2,500 (enough money to build and equip 250 war ships). The king kept David's best stone house in Oxford (as a house for poor Jews who were promised help if they converted to Christianity).					
11. Licoricia moved back to the centre of Winchester with baby Asher and regrew her business. She lived on Shoemakers Street (later named Jewry Street) with her sons who were involved in business and trade. Times were harder as in 1244 the king had tallaged a third of everything Jews had.					
12. Licoricia helped the king and queen with their finances like David had done even after the way she had been treated. She would have gone to the Great Hall in Winchester to meet with the king and other officials. She also argued in court to help other Jewish people showing leadership in the community.					
13. 1264-5 was the English Civil War when a leading baron Simon de Monfort rebelled against the king and the way he raised money. The rebels took over the city of Winchester and burned the records in the archive to get rid of their debts, and all money lending was halted, seriously hurting Licoricia's business. A mob attacked Jewish homes putting her family in danger as they were seen as supporters of the king. Many Jewish people were killed.					
14. In 1275 Edward I passed a law called the Statute of Jewry that put many Jewish people into poverty and made it difficult for Licoricia to continue her business.					
15. In 1277 Bella, Licoricia's daughter, found the bodies of Licoricia and of Alice of Bicton, her Christian maid, stabbed to death in their home in Winchester on Jewry Street. The murder possibly took place during a robbery. Licoricia was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Winchester which was located just outside the city walls.					
16. In 1287 many Jewish people were held in prison until their families paid the huge tallage by Edward I. Asher, the little boy in the statue, was probably one of them. Graffiti written by Asher was found in the Jews' Tower and some historians think this was Licoricia's son who had grown up because his name was unusual.					
17. In 1290 King Edward I forced the Jewish community out of England after they were given a choice between converting or leaving. It is likely that Licoricia's son Asher was one of them. Many Jews left from the ports of Southampton and Dover. Some never made it as they were robbed, attacked and killed as they were leaving.					

The king took the equivalent of £3,000,000 from Licoricia after the death of David and spent it on building a new chapel in Westminster Abbey in London. You can still see the shrine to Edward the Confessor and the tombs of Edward I and his wife Eleanor of Castile paid for by Licoricia and David. Jewish tallages and loans also helped to build Westminster Abbey and many churches.



Shrine to Edward the Confessor



Eleanor of Castile's tomb



Edward the Confessor's tomb



Westminster Abbey

For copyright on images please see permissions page.

Winchester Great Hall and Winchester Castle ruins

In what way does Licoricia's story reflect the changes in the king's policy towards the Jews? Why was 1244 such a low point for Licoricia and other Jews before the terrible events of 1290?



This is a photo of graffiti carved into the walls of the West Gate where people were imprisoned next to the castle.

Similar graffiti was found in the castle ruins by a historian in the 1600s.

The graffiti could be by the son of Licoricia as the name Asher is unusual and the date given fits the time of Edward I's 1287 tallage. It read,

All the Jews of the land of the isle were imprisoned. I, Asher inscribed this.

At times of attack Jews would see refuge in Jews Tower at the castle. They were also imprisoned there by kings to make sure their families paid these taxes.

What does the life of Licoricia of Winchester reveal about how the Jewish community were treated in the medieval period?

Step 2: Use your completed worksheet to explain the answers to these questions:

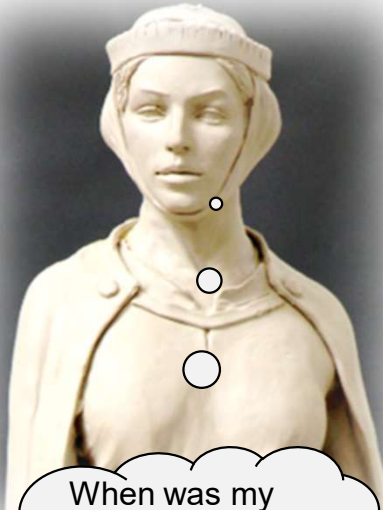
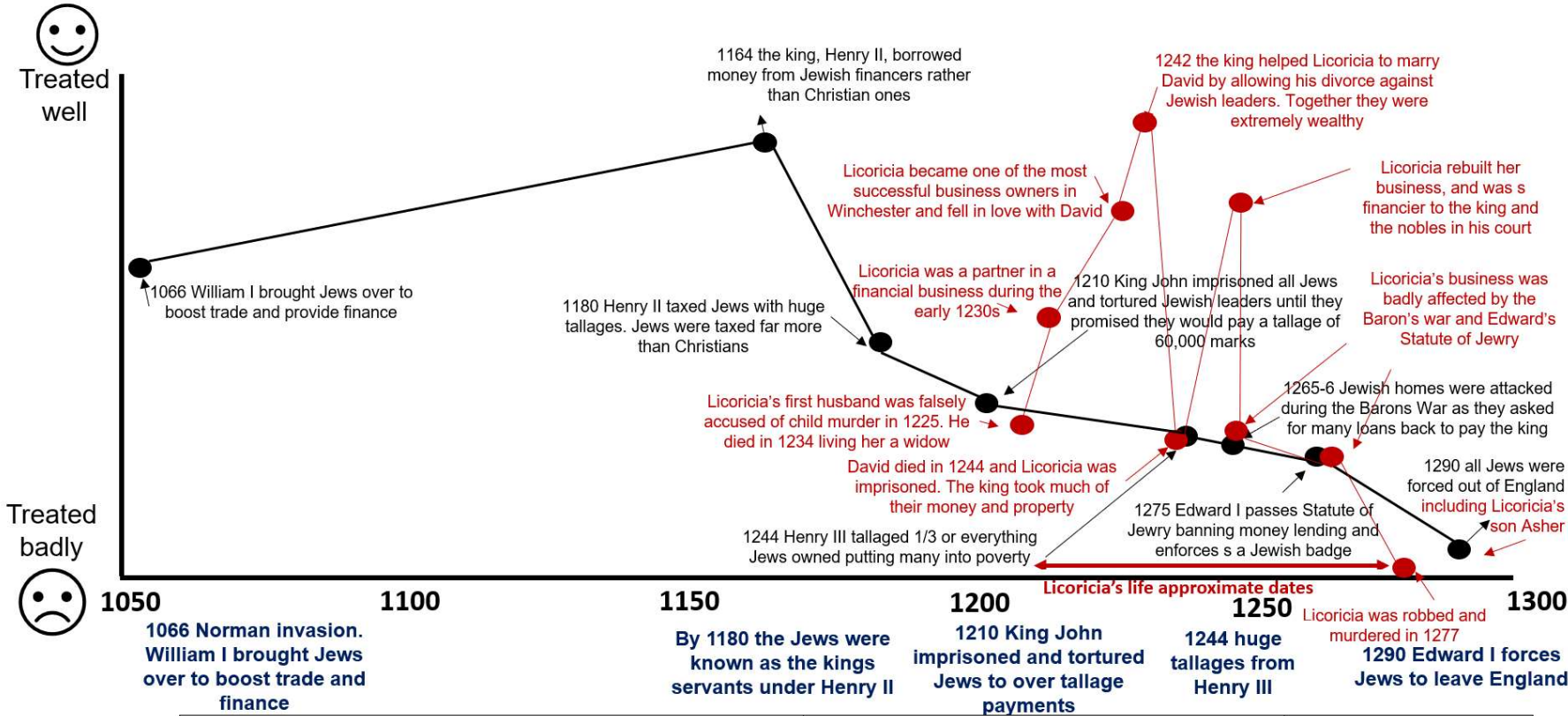
1. what were some of the worst problems that Licoricia faced?
2. What were Licoricia's greatest successes?
3. How did she help other Jews?



Hampshire Services		Licoricia's story		Step 1 student resource 7		Dying	Suffering	Struggling	Managing	Succeeding	Thriving
1.	Licoricia was married to Abraham with least three sons. They were partners in a financial business in Winchester and mainly in Kent.										
2.	In 1225 Abraham was falsely accused of being involved in a child murder. Abraham went to trial along with other Jewish men, Licoricia would have been very scared. Luckily, he was not found guilty (Jews all over the country were often victims of being falsely accused of the murder of Christian children because medieval people were suspicious of people with different beliefs and were jealous of their protection from the king. Many thought this would cancel the debt they owed to the accused Jews).										
3.	By 1234 Abraham had sadly died. We know that Licoricia was living in Winchester as a young widow with her children.										
4.	Licoricia had enough money and business expertise to run a money lending business with the help of other business partners. (Often Jewish widows took the business after their husband's death).										
5.	Soon Licoricia had become one of the most successful Jewish business owners in Winchester in her own right. She lent larger amounts like £10 to the monks at St Swithun's in Winchester (£10 was worth £7,000 at the time and would have bought 13 horses or 1,000 days of wages).										
6.	During this time Licoricia met David of Oxford a very wealthy business man and fell in love. Historian Schama argues Licoricia would have been very attractive in splendid silk clothes. She travelled in style all over the country to meet with wealthy clients. David's success must have also been attractive. He lent as little as one mark to students and as high as £300 to wealthy landowners. He also arranged loans for the King Henry III and his sister.										
7.	In 1242 King Henry III made sure the Jewish leaders allowed David to get a divorce to marry Licoricia. The king's help shocked many Jews and Christians. The gift of horses David had given to the king (like giving the king a sports car) and the £100 gift might have helped!										
8.	Licoricia married David, moved to Oxford and had a little boy called Asher, they nicknamed Sweetman, and ran their business together with clients all over the country.										
9.	In 1244 David sadly died after only two years of marriage to Licoricia. After his death, all the archa chests across England were taken to the Jewish Exchequer in London for assessment. Licoricia was immediately imprisoned in the Tower of London until the king decided how much of David's property and money he was going to take.										
10.	Licoricia had to pay 5,000 marks (today about £3,000,000) to keep some of David's property and business. He then forced her to pay another £2,500 (enough money to build and equip 250 war ships). The king kept David's best stone house in Oxford (as a house for poor Jews who were promised help if they converted to Christianity).										
11.	Licoricia moved back to the centre of Winchester with baby Asher and regrew her business. She lived on Shoemakers Street (later named Jewry Street) with her sons who were involved in business and trade. Times were harder as in 1244 the king had tallaged a third of everything Jews had.										
12.	Licoricia helped the king and queen with their finances like David had done even after the way she had been treated. She would have gone to the Great Hall in Winchester to meet with the king and other officials. She also argued in court to help other Jewish people showing leadership in the community.										
13.	1264-5 was the English Civil War when a leading baron Simon de Monfort rebelled against the king and the way he raised money. The rebels took over the city of Winchester and burned the records in the archive to get rid of their debts, and all money lending was halted, seriously hurting Licoricia's business. A mob attacked Jewish homes putting her family in danger as they were seen as supporters of the king. Many Jewish people were killed.										
14.	In 1275 Edward I passed a law called the Statute of Jewry that put many Jewish people into poverty and made it difficult for Licoricia to continue her business.										
15.	In 1277 Bella, Licoricia's daughter, found the bodies of Licoricia and of Alice of Bicton, her Christian maid, stabbed to death in their home in Winchester on Jewry Street. The murder possibly took place during a robbery. Licoricia was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Winchester which was located just outside the city walls.										
16.	In 1287 many Jewish people were held in prison until their families paid the huge tallage by Edward I. Asher, the little boy in the statue, was probably one of them. Graffiti written by Asher was found in the Jews' Tower and some historians think this was Licoricia's son who had grown up because his name was unusual.										
17.	In 1290 King Edward I forced the Jewish community out of England after they were given a choice between converting or leaving. It is likely that Licoricia's son Asher was one of them. Many Jews left from the ports of Southampton and Dover. Some never made it as they were robbed, attacked and killed as they were leaving.										

For copyright on images please see permissions page.

How was Licoricia's life affected by the king?



When was my life affected the kings' decisions?

How does the story of my family compare to the changing experience of Jews in England?

I was unusual as a successful financier. Most Jewish people were not money lenders. They had to find other ways to earn a living and pay their share of the huge tallage demands from the king.

On the next slide you will find out what jobs or professions were available to Jews at the time of Henry III (1207-1272) when I was alive. How many people were successful financiers like me?

Step 4: As you read the next slide, highlight the facts that you would choose to include in your visitor booklet to help people understand more about the working life of the Jewish community in England.



For copyright on images please see permissions page.



For copyright on images
please see permissions page.

Step 1 student resource 6

Step 4: Highlight the facts that you would choose to include in your visitors' booklet to help people understand more about the Jewish community in England.

Under **Henry III (1207-1272)** most of us found a way to **survive**, and some even **thrived**, doing a wide range of jobs. English Jews became successful doctors and lawyers used by both Jews and Christians, others were **scholars, rabbis** and poets. There were also Jewish midwives, wet nurses, **scribes**, artists, **merchants** in wine, wheat and wool, cheesemakers, fishmongers, metal workers like goldsmiths and silversmiths, leather workers, ladder makers, pawnbrokers, singers and dancers. There were soldiers, some of whom became fencing masters.

The education of girls was important to Jews, and girls could have **careers**. Female Jewish doctors were found in most of the countries of western and central Europe. Some Jewish women were scribes in the family business and others learned to be **financiers** from their family or husbands.

There were many Jews who were **poor**. Because of our religion we were not allowed to own any land for long periods or join many trades and their organisations, called **guilds**. We were still expected to provide the king with money. We were allowed to set up **financial businesses** similar to a bank today so being a financier was a way of earning money for the family and helped pay the **tallages**.

People needed cash for building and businesses in the form of **mortgages** and **loans**. Church leaders taught that Christians lending money to other Christians and charging **interest** to make money was wrong and a sin against God. Many people preferred to loan money from Jewish money lenders especially as it could be more expensive to borrow from Christian money lenders. Jewish lenders could let people pay less in each instalment if they needed to and pay back less if they paid early which made them more attractive than Christian lenders.

Only about **1%** of Jewish people were successful financiers like me but we were very noticeable because it meant lending money to the king and other powerful people. I often met with the king in Winchester's **Great Hall**. It also meant that some of us became very wealthy ... well in the early days of Henry III's reign ... you have seen from my story that my life was not always easy!

What would a historian learn when looking at the life of Licoricia?

Step 5 Recap: How would historians answer these questions?

1. Why were Jewish people living in England?
2. How were you treated if you had a different religion?
3. What did it mean for Jews to be *servants of the king*?
4. How were Jewish people treated by the king?
5. Did any Jewish people have power or success?
6. What jobs did Jewish people have?
7. What problems did Jewish people face?
8. How did the powerful Church treat people who were Jewish?

Think: What does Licoricia's life reveal about the lives of Jewish people in medieval England?

Tally sticks are memory aids



Write on your copy of the tally sticks what you think visitors to Licoricia's statue should remember about Licoricia and her Jewish community.



Add your new sticks to your medieval key ring!



What would a historian learn when looking at the life of Licoricia?

1. Jews lived in medieval England because William the Conqueror had brought them over from France to encourage **trade**.
2. The majority of people in England were Christian. This meant that people who were Jewish were in the **minority**. They were treated differently because of their religion. Jews were encouraged to **convert** to Christianity and stay away from Christians.
3. Jews had a different **position** in medieval society as *servants of the king* to give the king money as a private **income** and were increasingly **exploited** for more money.
4. Jews were frequently **oppressed** by the king with heavy **tallages** and **imprisonment** until they paid. Eventually the king forced all Jews to leave England in 1290.
5. A **few Jewish financiers**, like Licoricia, were very **successful** and **influential** at times in their life as they could provide finance for the king, especially at the start of the 13th Century, but could also lose everything to the king.
6. Jews **contributed to society** as doctors, lawyers, **scholars** and **rabbis**, artists, **merchants**, cheesemakers, fishmongers, skilled metal workers, leather workers, ladder makers, pawnbrokers, singers and soldiers as well as financiers who provided useful loans and mortgages.
7. Jews suffered **persecution**. People and their homes could be attacked by local people or enemies of the king like the rebels in the Civil War. People tried to destroy evidence of **debts** and steal property.
8. Jews faced **religious persecution** as the Church wanted to defend Christianity. The Church was very powerful and pressured Jews to **convert** to Christianity. In 1290 Jews were given the choice to convert or leave England by the king. It is likely that Licoricia's son Asher would have been forced to leave at this time.

Think: What does Licoricia's life reveal about the lives of Jewish people in medieval England?

Tally sticks are memory aids



Write on your copy of the tally sticks what you think visitors to Licoricia's statue should remember about Licoricia and her Jewish community.



For copyright on images please see permissions page.

What can we learn from this extract of a Jewish poem that has survived from the late 13th Century by poet, Meir ben Elijah of Norwich?
He lived in England in the late 13th Century.

*The land exhausts us by demanding payments, and the
people's disgust is heard
While we are silent and wait for the light.
You [GOD] are mighty and full of light,
You turn the darkness into light.
They make our yoke heavier,
they are finishing us off.
They continually say of us, let us despoil them until the
morning light.*

Think:
what does he say is
happening to
Jewish people?



His poem of protest tells us something of how Jewish people living under this persecution and fear must have felt. Click here to see a photo of Meir ben Elijahs' house and further information about medieval people with a Jewish faith living in England.

Image copyright permissions: enquiry 1 lesson 2

All pages Images of **Licoricia**: Images of the maquette with kind permission from the sculptor, Ian Rank-Broadley and The Licoricia of Winchester Appeal.

Page 1 Painting of Licoricia by Lucille Dweck with kind permission of Licoricia of Winchester Appeal charity, Licoricia.org.

Page 6 Photos with permission purchased from Westminster Abbey: photos of **the tomb of Edward I, the Edward the Confessor shrine** financed by Licoricia and David of Oxford, and the **tomb of Eleanor of Castile** (Edward I's first wife), © Westminster Abbey.

Photo of **Westminster Abbey** https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Westminster_abbey_westfront_london arp.jpg. Attribution: Arpingstone, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons under the license <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

Page 7 Photo of **Winchester Great Hall** and **Winchester castle ruins** https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/20/Great_Hall%2C_Winchester_-_geograph.org.uk from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Great_Hall,_Winchester_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1325333.jpg. Attribution: Stephen McKay / Great Hall, Winchester.

Photo of **graffiti at Winchester West Gate** taken by S Herrity with permission. You are free to use this image.

Page 12 and 13 Repeated diagram of a tally stick [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EB1911_Tally_-_tally_stick_\(diagram\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:EB1911_Tally_-_tally_stick_(diagram).jpg) by Unknown author Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Photo of tally sticks https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Medieval_tally_sticks.jpg from Winchester City Council Museums, CC BY-SA 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0> via Wikimedia Commons.

The Photo of tally sticks strung together from the Swiss Alpine Museum, CC BY 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0> , via Wikimedia Commons.



Terms and Conditions

Copyright notice

This publication is copyright of Hampshire County Council © 2021. All rights reserved.
Any redistribution or reproduction of part or all of the contents in any form is prohibited other than the following:

You are welcome to:

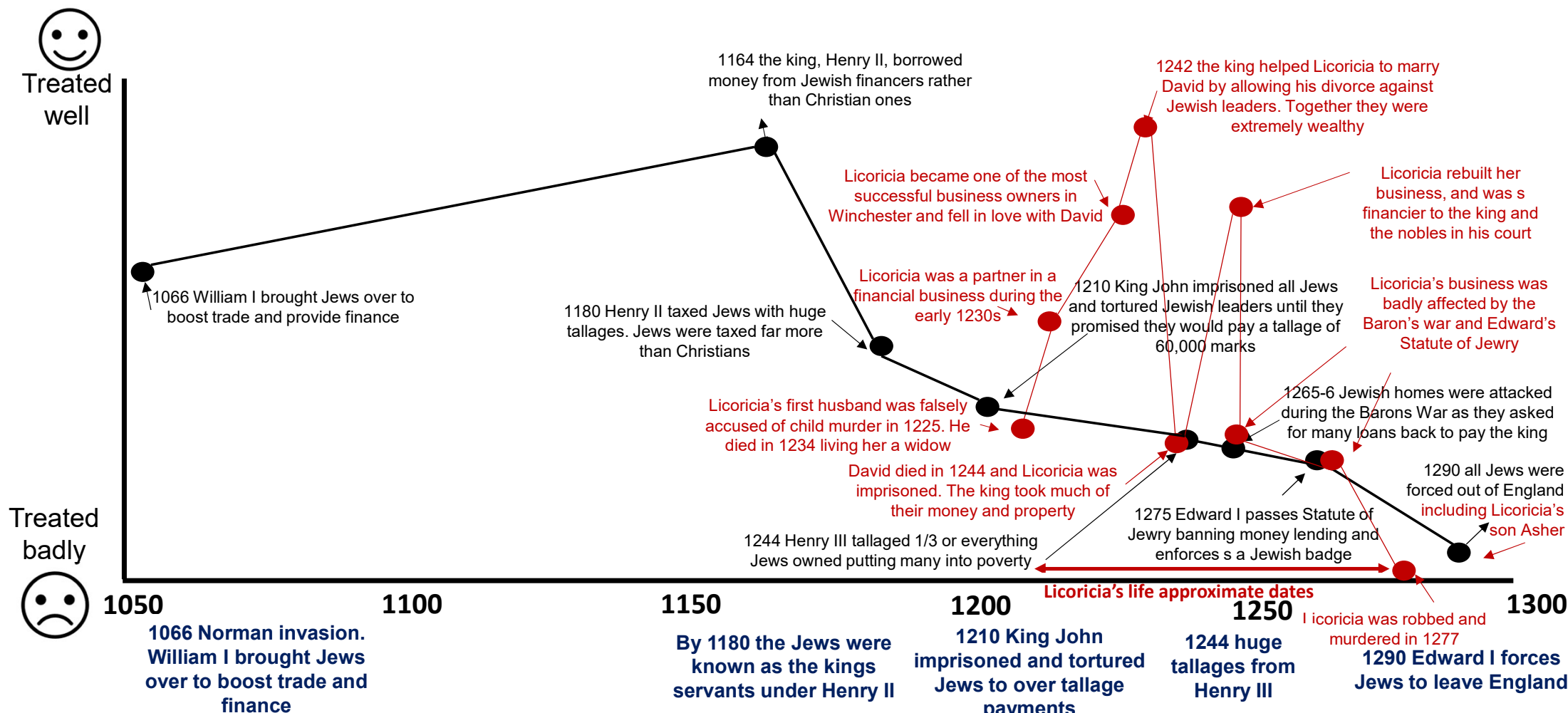
- download this resource
- save this resource on your computer
- print as many copies as you would like to use in your school.

You may not:

- claim this resource as your own
- sell or in any way profit from this resource
- store or distribute this resource on any other website or another location where others are able to electronically retrieve it
- email this resource to anyone outside your school or transmit it in any other fashion
- amend this electronic resource as it has been approved for use in secondary schools by HIAS and Licoricia.org.



Step 3: Add a line on your graph to show what happened to the treatment of Licoricia over time



<p>1066-1180 The kings were borrowers</p>	<p>1180-1275 The kings were unfair tax collectors</p>	<p>The king was a liquidator 1275-1290</p>
---	---	--