



Domesday Book

- The **Domesday Book** is the oldest government record held in the National Archives.
- In fact there are two Domesday Books – Little Domesday and Great Domesday.
- In 1086, King William I (the Conqueror) demanded a **record of all the land** in his new kingdom: who owned which property, who else lived there, how much the land was worth and therefore how much **tax** he could charge.

Feudal System

- The **feudal system** shows the **hierarchy** of different groups of people in medieval society.
- It allowed the King (and the Pope) to control the land in England.



The Black Death, 1348-50

- In 1348 - 50, the **Black Death** swept across Europe, perhaps killing up to half of the population.

The Peasants' Revolt, 1381

- In 1381, **peasants** rebelled against King Richard II.
- The peasants, led by Wat Tyler, were angry about a range of issues, such as low pay, the feudal system, and the introduction of a poll tax. They demanded changes.

Did you Know?

Salisbury Cathedral moved home!



The original cathedral, completed in 1091, was built at **Old Sarum**, the site of an **iron age hillfort** and a **Norman castle**.

By 1217, the bishop and priests were unhappy with the castle guards, the lack of water and the stormy weather. On 28th April 1220, the foundation stones were laid, two miles away, at its present site in **Salisbury**.

Facts for Life

- That medieval times lasted from c. 476CE to c, 1400/1450AD and are also referred to as the Dark Ages and the Middle Ages.
- That King John drew up the Magna Carta (Great Charter) in 1215, which meant that the king had to follow the law (and could not simply rule as he wished).
- That the original cathedral was at Old Sarum and legend has it that the Archer or Bishop determined the site of the new cathedral as it stands with the shooting of an arrow.

Key Vocabulary

Reeve	An official responsible for managing a manor, often elected by the peasants.
Tithe	A tax, typically one-tenth of crops or income, paid to the Church.
Demesne	The part of a manor land directly controlled and farmed by the lord.
Serf	A person bound to the land and obligated to work for the lord.
New Sarum	The original name of Salisbury, meaning "New Saresbyri".