

Medieval – A-level

Teacher notes

Session Overview

As a fortress, palace and prison the Tower of London has been at the centre of many key moments in history. Using the tower buildings students will investigate some of the key individuals and events of the Angevin period to answer the question 'How far did the Angevin Kings of England use the Tower of London to assert and consolidate their power from 1154 to 1216?'

Key individuals and events:

- King Henry II
- Thomas Becket
- William Longchamp
- William FitzStephen
- Tower as a palace/fortress/prison
- King Richard I
- King John
- Richard FitzNeal

Schedule

Your 90 minute session will consist of the following:

- 10 minute introduction to how the Tower site developed over time;
- 70 minute subject specific tour, engaging students through investigation of the built environment and analysis of documentary sources;
- 10 minute plenary during which students draw upon what they have learnt to reach their own conclusions about the topic.

Exam board links

This session has been designed to complement the study of the Angevin period, and particularly the following exam boards:

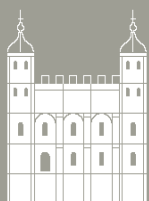
- **AQA - 2A:** Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154-1216
- **Edexcel - 2A.2:** England and the Angevin Empire in the reign of Henry II, 1154-89
- **OCR - Y103:** England 1199-1272 and **Unit Y303:** English Government and the Church 1066-1216

Session Objectives

- To explore, analyse, interpret and cross-reference different types of primary evidence (portraits/ buildings/ written evidence); evaluating the difficulties/ limitations of available evidence.
- To be able to explain the Tower's pivotal role in the various struggles of the Angevins against their enemies.
- To analyse and conclude the main function the Tower played in asserting and consolidating the Angevin Kings power from 1154-1216.

Meeting Points

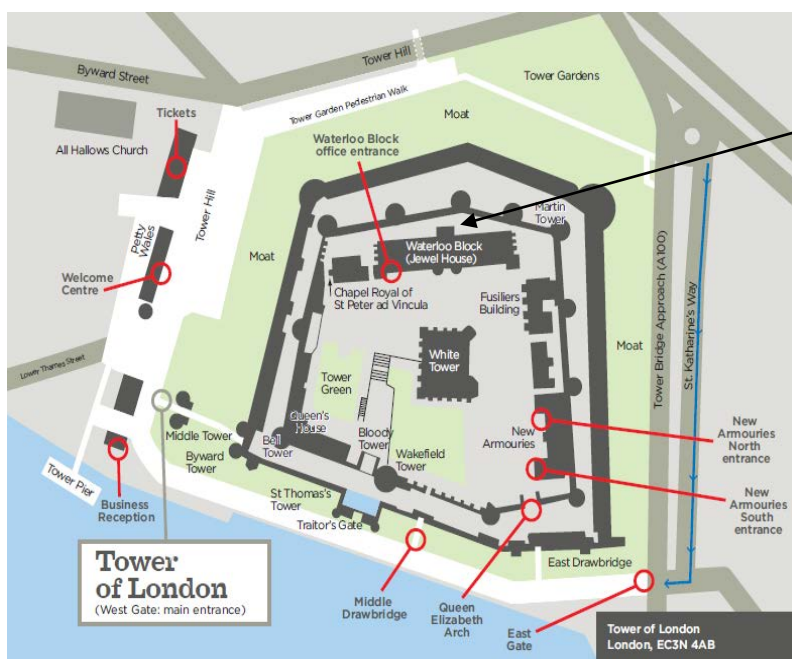
- Your presenter will meet you in the Learning Centre behind the Jewel House.
- Please refer to the map on the next page for details.



Directions to the Learning Centre in the Waterloo Block

Allow 15 minutes from the Welcome Centre to the Learning Centre.

1. Collect your admission wristbands from the [Welcome Centre](#).
2. Enter the Tower of London via [Middle Drawbridge](#) ([Groups Entrance](#)). After you have shown your wristband and had your bags checked, make your way to the Jewel House.
3. From the [Middle Drawbridge](#) turn right and walk towards then past the toilet block (on your right) and turn left through the [Queen Elizabeth Arch](#).
4. Keep walking straight ahead past the New Armouries restaurant (on your right) and the White Tower on your left towards the [Jewel House](#).
5. To access the [Learning Centre](#) you will need to go around the back of the Jewel House. Please do this using the path between the [Fusiliers Museum](#) and the [Jewel House](#).
6. Once around the back of the building you will come across a sign saying "**No entry, except for booked school parties**". Pass by this and the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) will be on your left.
7. Your session presenter should be waiting here for you, but if not please use the buzzer on the wall to contact the [Learning Centre](#).



Please make your way to the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) behind the [Jewel House](#)

