

Showdown at Runnymede, 1215

Mission: King John taxes and imprisons whoever he likes. As a rebel baron, negotiate the charter that will limit his power. Read the actual clauses, watch the meters, and compare your choices with history.

Big question: How did Magna Carta limit the power of the king, and why does it matter today?

★ Warm-up: Class rules

Should the teacher follow class rules too?

If the teacher breaks a rule, what should happen? ✓ **Answers vary: rules apply to everyone.**

Who should decide new rules? ✓ **Answers vary: the group, by consent.**

Key vocabulary

Magna Carta	"Great Charter" (1215) limiting the English king's power.
Baron	A powerful noble who held land from the king.
Rule of law	The idea that everyone, even rulers, must obey the law.
Due process	Fair legal procedures before punishment.

1 Box 1

Negotiate the charter

In the simulator: Make all 6 decisions and read the legacy.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Read the meters

Which clause most increased the  "Rights under the law" meter?

☐ Clause 39: no imprisonment without lawful judgment ☐ Accepting a spoken promise ☐ Paying the taxes

✓ **Clause 39: no imprisonment without lawful judgment**

3 Box 3

Then and now

Match each Magna Carta idea to the American idea it inspired.

Sort: "No taxation without representation" · The right to a trial by jury · Due process of law (5th Amendment) · Congress must approve taxes

Clause 12 (consent for taxes)	Clause 39 (lawful judgment)
"No taxation without representation" Congress must approve taxes	The right to a trial by jury Due process of law (5th Amendment)

Who was protected?

At first, who did Magna Carta mostly protect?

☐ Nobles and free men, not serfs ☐ Every person in England ☐ Only the king

✓ **Nobles and free men, not serfs**

4 Box 4

Why it matters (RACE)

Why is Magna Carta important to Americans today? Quote a clause.

Answer

Look for: States the idea; at least 12 words

Cite

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 10 words

Explain

Look for: Connects to the U.S.; at least 14 words

5 Box 5

Legend: a charter for today Legend only

Write a "clause" for a student charter that limits the power of whoever makes the rules. Explain how it echoes Magna Carta.

Look for: at least 30 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did Magna Carta limit the power of the king, and why does it matter today?

Look for: In 1215, English barons forced King John to seal Magna Carta, which said the king must obey the law: no special taxes without general consent (clause 12) and no punishment without lawful judgment (clause 39). At first it protected mostly nobles, but its ideas about the rule of law inspired the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1GK-E
 Investigator	BUZ-I
 Legend	O5Y-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "The Middle Ages were a time when nothing happened." Universities, cathedrals, and legal ideas like the Magna Carta developed.

- "The Magna Carta gave rights to everyone." At first it mostly protected nobles.
- "The Renaissance happened everywhere at once." It started in Italy and spread over centuries.