

The Magna Carta Worksheet Answers

The Magna Carta Name _____

The Magna Carta is a document that was forced upon King John of England in the year 1215 by a group of lords and high church officials (Archbishops and Bishops). The document primarily aimed to limit the power of the king. The Magna Carta contains 63 articles in which only three survive in English law today. Many of the articles we will not explore are only relevant to those who lived in the Middle Ages because of old traditions. Words in [brackets] are simplified or modern versions of the words used in the original document and are there to make it easier to understand.

Background for Article 11

King John had interfered on the Church's ability to elect its own bishops and archbishops in England. Archbishops are the highest ranking member of the Catholic Church outside of Rome (only Cardinals and the Pope are higher). Archbishops were advisors to kings, carried out the will of the Pope and held considerable power over the people. In 1208, John attempted to elect an Archbishop who favored him instead of the church elected Archbishop who would serve the church. **Tired of the English Kings, the Pope excommunicated John and closed churches throughout England.** With no churches, the people have nowhere to worship and show their faith to god. The excommunication was reversed in 1213.



Article 1 (Excerpt):
(1) FIRST, THAT WE HAVE GRANTED TO GOD, and by this present charter (Magna Carta) have confirmed for us and our heirs [children] in perpetuity [forever], that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undisturbed, and its liberties unimpaired. [Before the outbreak (beginning) of the present dispute (argument) between us and our barons (nobles), we granted (gave) and confirmed by charter the freedom of the Church's elections (voting) - a right reckoned (assumed) to be of the greatest necessity (need) and importance to it - and caused this to be confirmed by Pope Innocent III. This freedom we shall observe ourselves, and desire to be observed in good faith by our heirs in perpetuity (forever).
• Undisturbed - not made smaller, weaker, less than it was.
• Unimpaired - not weakened or damaged.

1) What is the **Subject** of Article 1? **Highlight** keywords that tell us what the subject is.

2) **Who** do you think wrote Article 1?

3) What is the **Purpose** of Article 1?

4) **Why** is it important for the Catholic Church to be able to control its own elections of Archbishops? Why should the **King control both the Crown (Political) and the church (Religious)**?

The Magna Carta worksheet answers are essential resources for students, educators, and history enthusiasts alike who seek to understand the significance of this landmark document in shaping modern democracy and legal systems. The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, is often regarded as one of the cornerstones of individual rights and liberties, and its influence can be seen in various legal frameworks around the world today. This article will delve into the background of the Magna Carta, its key provisions, and the relevance of its worksheet answers for educational purposes.

Background of the Magna Carta

The Magna Carta, which translates to "Great Charter," was a response to the growing tensions between King John of England and his barons. The early 13th century was a tumultuous time for England, marked by heavy taxation, military failures, and disputes over land. Here's a brief overview of the context leading to its creation:

- **Political Instability:** King John's reign (1199-1216) was fraught with issues, including the loss of French territories and conflicts with the nobility.
- **Taxation and Abuse of Power:** The king's arbitrary taxation policies angered many barons, leading to widespread dissent.
- **Rebellion:** In 1215, a group of rebellious barons captured London and forced King John to negotiate, culminating in the drafting of the Magna Carta.

The Magna Carta was originally intended to be a peace treaty between the king and the barons, but its legacy would far exceed its initial scope.

Key Provisions of the Magna Carta

The Magna Carta consists of 63 clauses, many of which addressed grievances against King John. Below are some of the most significant provisions that have had lasting impacts:

1. **Rule of Law:** The principle that everyone, including the king, is subject to the law.
2. **Due Process:** The right to a fair trial and protection from arbitrary imprisonment (Clause 39).
3. **Taxation with Representation:** No taxation without the consent of the barons (Clause 12).
4. **Protection of Church Rights:** The church was to be free from interference by the king (Clause 1).
5. **Rights of Widows:** Widows were to have their dower rights protected (Clause 7).

These provisions laid the groundwork for many legal principles that are foundational to modern democratic societies.

Educational Importance of the Magna Carta Worksheet Answers

Worksheets are a common educational tool used to facilitate learning about historical documents like the Magna Carta. The worksheet answers serve as a guide for students to navigate through the complexities of the text and understand its broader implications. Here are several reasons why these answers are vital:

Enhancing Comprehension

The Magna Carta can be difficult to grasp due to its historical language and context. Worksheet answers help clarify:

- **Key Terms:** Understanding specific legal terms and their meanings in the context of the document.
- **Historical Context:** Providing background information that situates the document within its time period.
- **Significance:** Highlighting why the Magna Carta matters today and its influence on modern legal systems.

Facilitating Discussion

Worksheet answers can serve as a springboard for classroom discussions, encouraging students to engage critically with the material. Topics for discussion may include:

- The relevance of the Magna Carta in contemporary society.
- Comparisons between the rights granted in the Magna Carta and those found in modern constitutions.
- The ongoing struggle for individual rights and liberties around the world.

Promoting Critical Thinking

Through answering questions related to the Magna Carta, students are encouraged to think critically about its implications. This can involve:

- Analyzing the impact of the Magna Carta on subsequent legal documents, such as the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- Considering the limitations of the Magna Carta, including who it applied to and the socio-economic implications of its clauses.

Common Worksheet Questions and Answers

To provide a practical understanding of the types of questions that might appear on a Magna Carta worksheet, here are some common examples along with their answers:

Question 1: What was the primary purpose of the Magna Carta?

Answer: The primary purpose of the Magna Carta was to limit the powers of King John and establish certain legal rights for his subjects, particularly the barons.

Question 2: How did the Magna Carta influence the development of constitutional law?

Answer: The Magna Carta influenced the development of constitutional law by establishing the principle that the king was not above the law and that certain rights were guaranteed to individuals, shaping the evolution of modern democracies.

Question 3: What are some rights guaranteed by the Magna

Carta?

Answer: Some rights guaranteed by the Magna Carta include the right to a fair trial, protection from unlawful imprisonment, and the requirement that taxes could not be levied without baronial consent.

Question 4: Why is the Magna Carta often considered the foundation of modern democracy?

Answer: The Magna Carta is considered the foundation of modern democracy because it established key principles such as the rule of law, due process, and the idea that government should be accountable to the people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the **Magna Carta worksheet answers** are invaluable resources for anyone looking to understand the historical significance and contemporary relevance of this crucial document. By exploring the background, key provisions, and educational importance of the Magna Carta, students can gain a deeper appreciation for the principles of justice, individual rights, and the rule of law that continue to shape societies today. As we continue to engage with the lessons of the Magna Carta, we are reminded of the ongoing responsibility to protect and promote the freedoms it sought to establish.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Magna Carta and why is it significant?

The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, is a foundational document in the history of democracy. It established the principle that everyone, including the king, is subject to the law, and it laid the groundwork for individual rights and liberties.

What are the main principles outlined in the Magna Carta?

The main principles of the Magna Carta include the rule of law, the right to a fair trial, protection from unlawful imprisonment, and the idea that taxes cannot be levied without consent.

How does the Magna Carta influence modern legal systems?

The Magna Carta has influenced various legal systems around the world, particularly in the development of constitutional law and the protection of individual rights. Its principles are echoed in many contemporary legal documents, such as the United States Constitution.

What specific clauses in the Magna Carta are still relevant

today?

Several clauses from the Magna Carta, such as the right to due process and the protection against arbitrary detention, remain relevant in modern legal systems. These principles have been incorporated into various human rights laws.

What role did the Magna Carta play in the development of parliamentary democracy?

The Magna Carta limited the powers of the monarchy and established the idea that the king must consult his barons before making decisions about taxation and laws, paving the way for the development of a parliamentary system.

How can one effectively complete a Magna Carta worksheet?

To effectively complete a Magna Carta worksheet, it's important to read the document carefully, understand its historical context, and critically analyze its clauses to answer questions about its impact and significance in shaping modern governance.

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