

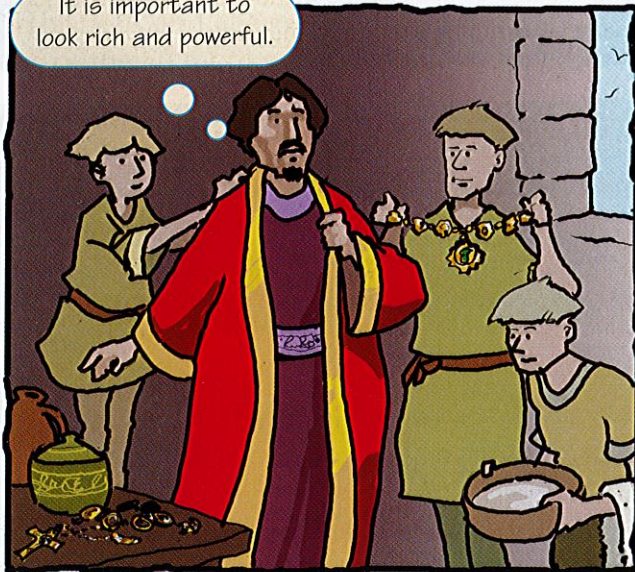


# What was a medieval king supposed to do?

Would you have liked to be a medieval king? Find out what a king did with the help of this day in the life of a Superking!

## 1 Look good!

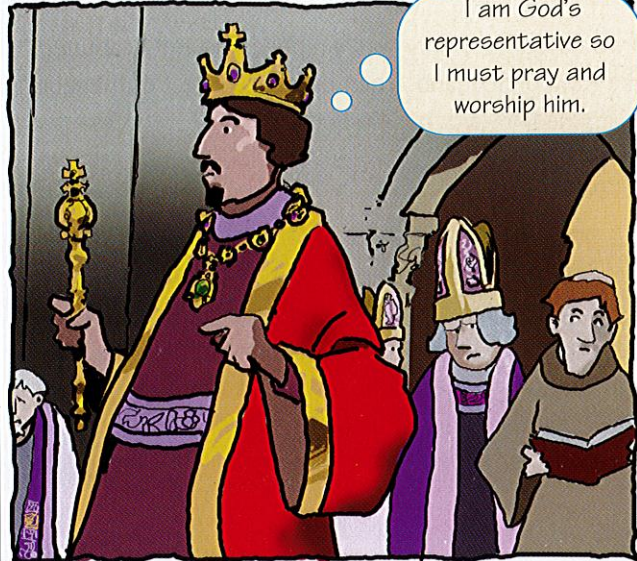
It is important to look rich and powerful.



Get up early, dress in fine, colourful clothes while servants bring food.

## 2

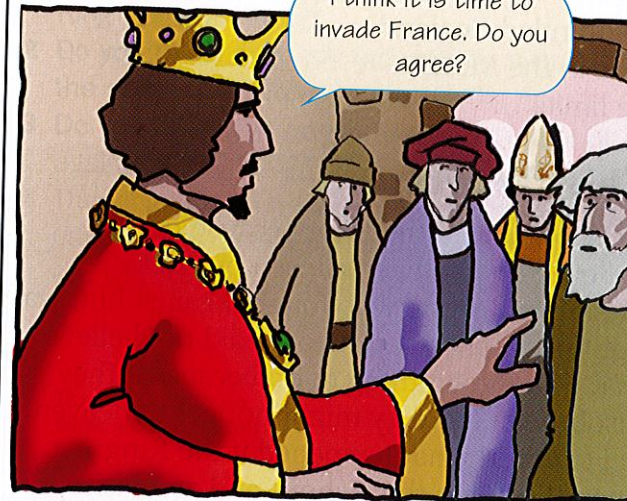
I am God's representative so I must pray and worship him.



Go to chapel for prayers. I must show my support for the bishops and the Church.

## 3

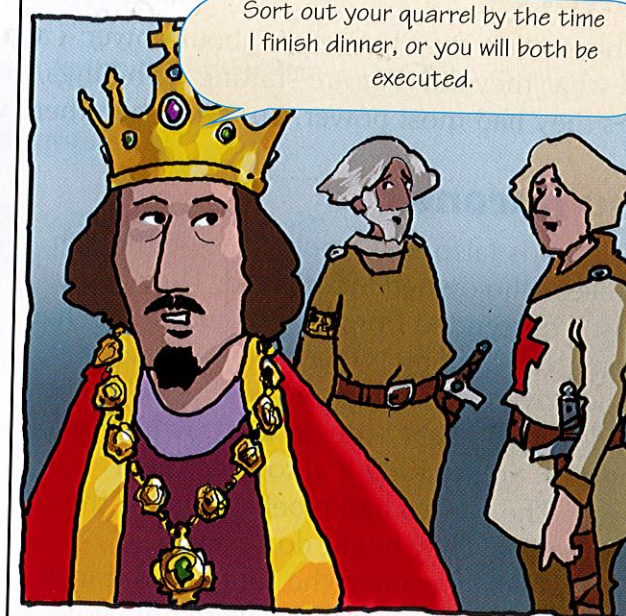
I think it is time to invade France. Do you agree?



Meet my advisers. They are mostly nobles and churchmen who own lots of land. It is important to listen to their advice. That makes them feel trusted and they trust me, but in the end I always take the decisions. My most important decisions are about war because it is my duty to defend my lands and people against enemies.

## 4

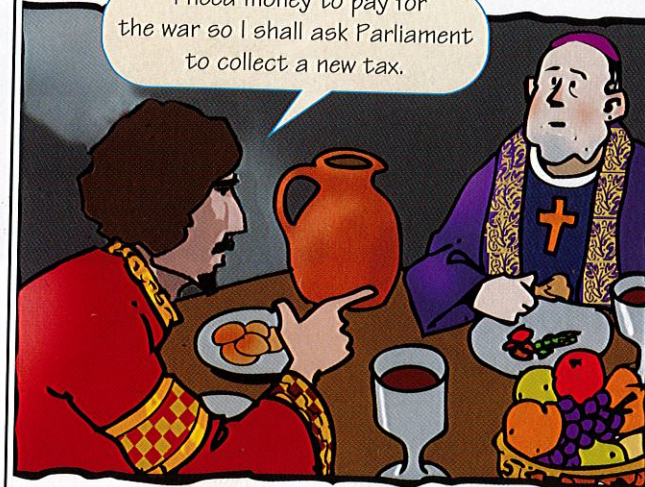
Sort out your quarrel by the time I finish dinner, or you will both be executed.



Hear the case of Balkwill versus Awklord. These two knights have been arguing about land. One attacked the other's castle. I give them a choice. Sort out your quarrel by the time I finish dinner, or you will both be executed. A king has to keep law and order. It is one of my most important tasks.

## 5

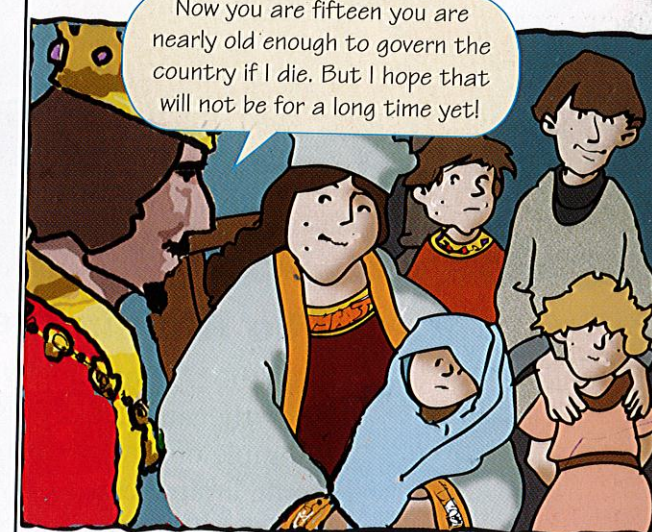
I need money to pay for the war so I shall ask Parliament to collect a new tax.



I have a few hours to go hunting or I might practise my fighting skills with my sword and lance. For dinner, I change into even grander clothes and some fine jewellery. The Archbishop of Canterbury is my dinner guest. I tell him I will be calling a Parliament to give me taxes for my war.

## 6

Now you are fifteen you are nearly old enough to govern the country if I die. But I hope that will not be for a long time yet!



After dinner I'll visit my Queen and our new baby son. She has borne me four fine sons - all that a king could want. She's a good wife to have produced so many heirs.

### ACTIVITY 1

- Write a heading for each picture to sum up what a good king had to do. We have done picture 1 for you.
- Which of these jobs do you think was:
  - the trickiest
  - the easiest
  - the most important?
 Keep a note of your ideas. You will return to this question later.

### ACTIVITY 2

- Government has changed since the Middle Ages. Copy and complete this table to show who does each of the King's jobs today.

	Prime Minister	Monarch
Who decides about going to war?		
Who decides when Parliament starts and finishes?		
Who decides how much tax is collected?		
Who decides how to punish crimes?		
Who goes to ceremonies and wears the grandest clothing?		