

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Magna Carta

Instructions: Read parts 1 and 2 of the article on the Magna Carta. Use the word bank below to help you read through the article:

Word Bank:

- Treasury – the amount of money available for the King to use
- Reign – a person’s time in power
- Conspire – work secretly together
- Subjects – refers to the people the king ruled over
- Quarreled – fought
- Deserted – left the king
- Milestone – a big development that will likely impact the future
- Parliament – law making body that regulates the power of a country’s ruler (i.e. Congress and the President)

Part 1 – The Law of the Land

1. What is the Magna Carta?

2. Why was the Magna Carta created? (Summarize the story of King John and the nobles using the following word underlined: **King John**, **nobles**, **treasury**, **quarreled**)

3. What did the Magna Carta limit AND guarantee?

4. In general, what does the Magna Carta do? Provide ONE specific example:

5. Why is the Magna Carta seen as a “political milestone”?

Activity: Below are three examples of articles from the Magna Carta. Explain why each one would help the common person.

Article	How might this help a common person?
People accused of a crime would have the right to a fair trial, judged by a jury of their peers that are equal in social rank.	
The King has no rights to seize lands or property from his subjects.	
The king cannot raise taxes without the approval of a council of parliament.	

Reflection:

1. How might the creation of a parliament help weaken the system of Feudalism?
2. In what ways do you think the Magna carta influenced the creation of our own United States government?
3. If you could list five demands from your principal, what would they be? (Think of what powers the Principal of a school has that you feel should have more student voice)