



Education Resource Pack for Key Stage 2





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THE CANTERBURY TALES

Where to Find Us

'The Canterbury Tales' visitor attraction is situated in St Margaret's Street in the centre of Canterbury, just off the High Street. If walking down the high street from St George's Lane, turn left when you reach Hotel Chocolat. Continue down St Margaret's Street until you reach us on your right.

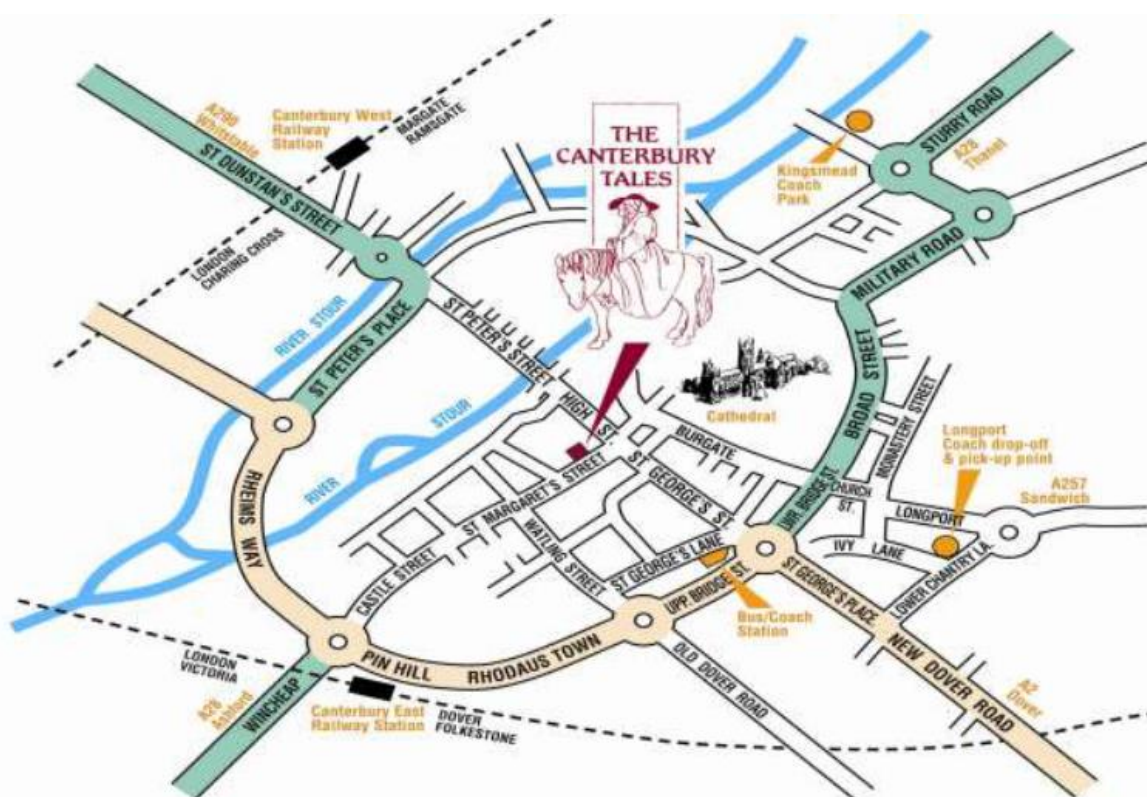
Approximate Walking Timess

Coach Drop Off point / Bus Station - St George's Lane 5 minutes

Coach Park- Kingsmead 10 minutes

Canterbury East Railway Station 8 minutes

Canterbury West Railway Station 10 minutes



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What to expect from your visit:

'*The Canterbury Tales*' visitor attraction is a carefully researched interpretation of several of Chaucer's Tales featuring scenes of everyday life in 14th century England. A visit takes approximately 35 minutes. We recommend that teachers take advantage of the free familiarisation visit prior to bringing their class. This can be arranged at any time by contacting Vicki Lyden on:

01227 784600 or by emailing vlyden@canterburytales.org

Due to the content of some of the stories shown, '*The Canterbury Tales*' is most suitable for Year 5 pupils and above, however, with careful preparation it can be used for visits by younger Key Stage 2 pupils. We are dedicated to students having the greatest learning outcomes so if you require any further information which is not included in this pack, please just ask at the time of booking and we can source the information you require.



The attraction is a combination of live performances by our friendly, dynamic costumed guides and audio guides. All visitors are given audio guides to listen to a commentary as they progress through the attraction. This commentary is lively and in keeping with the spirit of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and is available in a choice of languages.

Group Size:

To allow pupils to gain the maximum benefit from their visit, we ask that groups of 12 are organised and we will stagger entrance in five-minute intervals. If bringing a group larger than 30 pupils, teachers might prefer to stagger their arrival time, to prevent pupils waiting too long before starting their visit.

Discount for pre-ordering gift-shop items:

Our gift shop is situated at the end of the exhibition, which has a wide range of reasonably priced souvenirs, gifts and books suitable for adults and pupils of all ages. Discounts are available when you pre-order souvenir packs. Please call 01227 454888 for more information.

Storage/Lunch Space

There is no space within the exhibition for storing coats and bags so all belongings need to remain with the pupils at all times. There are many open spaces in Canterbury suitable for large groups to use at lunchtime. Undercover lunch space may be arranged at a charge of £1 per child, please ask at the time of booking.



Toilets

Toilet facilities are located in the admissions area of the attraction. One accessible toilet is available. Please note that these facilities are open to other guests at the attraction.

Accessibility

We extend a warm welcome to all our guests. The attraction has ramps, lifts (dimensions 31" x 44" or 79cm x 112cm), a hearing loop and wheelchair accessible toilet facilities. Please note, there is a small step (and no ramp) to gain access down into the attraction. Due to current fire health & safety legislation, we are only able to accommodate one wheelchair user at a time within the attraction. We recommend that any guest using a wheelchair transfers to the one we provide to ensure a comfortable fit inside our lifts. From there you will be accompanied by one of our costumed characters to assist you with the alternative wheelchair accessible route and keep you in time with the audio guide. We regret that we are not able to accommodate electric wheelchairs. Free entry is offered to carers with guests requiring help moving around the attraction by wheelchair. We would describe a visit to our attraction as immersive. We use a combination of lighting effects (no strobe), scents and the audio handset to present five of Chaucer's Tales to you. The historic layout and design of the site means access may be difficult for some visitors. We advise that if you do have any special access requirements, you call us prior to your visit. The standard visit time is approximately 40 minutes. Free entry is offered to carers helping guests with disabilities. **For more details please call us on 01227 784600**

Fire Evacuation

If in the unlikely event a fire alarm sounding, please follow the instructions of staff who will guide you to the nearest fire exit.

First Aid

All of our Duty Managers are First Aid trained- if First Aid is required please speak to the nearest member of staff who will alert the Duty Manager.

On Site Supervision

Please make sure that students are supervised **at all times** throughout the visit.

Risk Assessment

Please feel free to download our risk assessment for The Canterbury Tales Visitor Attraction here: www.canterburytales.org.uk/education/learning-resources/



Booking Information

Prior booking for school groups is essential to get the discounted group admissions rate for groups of 15 or more (£5.75 per pupil aged 5 – 15 with 1 adult admitted free per 10 pupils, prices valid until 31/01/2017) and a priority admission time with no need to queue.

Opening Information

March – June 10.00 – 17.00

July – August 09.30 – 17.00

September – October 10.00 – 17.00

November – February 10.00 – 16.30

We are open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day (timings valid until 31.12.2016).

Payment

To book your visit to or for any more information please contact the group bookings office on 01904 261262 open Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm.

Payment may be made in cash, cheques (in sterling), Debit Card, Credit card (excluding AMEX) and, for regular customers, payment can be made direct via BACS if arrangements are made in advance. Cheques should be made payable to Heritage Projects (Canterbury) Limited. Credit and voucher facilities can only be accepted if a written agreement is obtained in advance of the visit. Notice of cancellations must be given 24 hours in advance; otherwise we reserve the right to impose an administration fee of 25% of the total amount of the reserved booking.

Refunds: If in the event of students or additional adults not attending the visit please note that we will do our best to give you refunds however we cannot always guarantee that this is possible. If you wish to enquire about refunds please contact our groups department on 01904 261262.



Activities and Curriculum Links

Subject	Suggested Activities	Areas Covered in National Curriculum
<p>English</p>	<p>-Pick a tale featured in the Canterbury Tales and retell that tale in your own style - for example through the use of a cartoon, a storyboard or a newspaper article.</p> <p>-In groups or pairs complete a character study of a chosen character from the tales – use spider diagrams. Feature things like their appearance, what they would like to eat, drink etc.</p> <p>-In groups, act out a tale from the Canterbury Tales thinking carefully about how their character would move, talk and interact with other characters.</p> <p>-Make up your own Canterbury Tale / pilgrimage! Think about where you would go, how you would get there and who you would go with.</p>	<p>Speaking</p> <p>Listening</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Writing</p> <p>Spelling</p> <p>Reading</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p>	<p>-Draw your favourite character from the Canterbury Tales and then design an outfit for them using a broad range of materials.</p> <p>-Design and construct a scene from the Canterbury Tales using a broad range of materials.</p> <p>-In groups, make a St Thomas Becket shrine but each group uses a</p>	<p>Keeping sketch books</p> <p>Implementing a wide range of techniques.</p> <p>Evaluating techniques and materials</p>

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	<p>different product – for example group A uses wooden bricks, group B uses plasticine and so forth. Discuss what was easy about using these products and what was difficult.</p>	<p>Developing technical knowledge.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>-Complete a study of Canterbury. Include notes on its physical and human features. Compare pictures of what it might have been like in 1395 to what it is like in 2014.</p> <p>- Follow part or all of the route that the characters featured in <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> would have followed from Southwark, Deptford, Greenwich, Dartford, Rochester, Sittingbourne, Ospringe, Boughton-Under-Blean, Harbledown and Canterbury, marking the route on a map.</p>	<p>Locational knowledge</p> <p>Place knowledge</p> <p>Human and physical geography</p> <p>Geographical skills and fieldwork</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>-Follow pilgrimage map and complete quiz on each building featured on the map.</p> <p>-Research and discuss aspects of medieval life. For example what sort of clothes did they wear, what jobs did they do, and what did they eat?</p>	<p>A local history study (cross section with geography activities)</p> <p>Study an aspect or theme that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>-Ask the students to calculate the time it would have taken someone on foot, someone on horseback and someone by car. What percentage of pilgrims travelled on foot/horseback?</p>	<p>Mental methods of calculation</p>

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Introduction to 'The Canterbury Tales' as a work of literature

The Canterbury Tales is recognised as one of the great works of English literature. It is one of the few works from the Middle Ages that has been in continuous publication.



An unfinished poem of about 17,000 lines, we understand that the plan had been for each of the pilgrims to tell four tales, which would have resulted in over one hundred stories. In fact only twenty four tales were completed. The story revolves around a group of about 29 pilgrims who are on their way from London to Canterbury to pray at the shrine of St Thomas Becket. They are following the Roman road Watling Street, which runs from London through Rochester and Canterbury to Dover. The pilgrims represent a wide cross section of C14th society, from a knight to a pardoner.

Chaucer makes no mention of how long the trip to Canterbury took. He does not give any details of where the pilgrims spent the nights or how long each tale took to tell. The pilgrimage from London to Canterbury at this time usually took three to four days.

Some of the tales included in The Canterbury Tales had been written earlier by Chaucer. The Nun's Priest's Tale and the Knight's Tale were included as part of Chaucer's biography in the prologue to the Legend of Good Woman, a poem which was written before The Canterbury Tales. The original versions of these stories have been lost so it is not known if they were used in their original form in 'The Canterbury Tales', or adaptations of the original stories. The exact order of the stories is not known and different adaptations adopt different orders for the stories.

The versions of The Canterbury Tales that remain today come mainly from two different medieval sources – the Ellesmere and the Hengwrt manuscripts. There are discrepancies between the two over the order the tales are told in and the Ellesmere manuscript contains text missing from the Hengwrt manuscript such as the Canon's Yeoman's Tale. It is the Ellesmere manuscript, which contains miniature drawings of each of the pilgrims at the start of their tales. There are over 84 manuscripts and four printed editions of The Canterbury Tales dating from before 1500.

The Canterbury Tales contains a wide variety of tales including religious allegories, romantic adventures and animal fables. Two major themes emerge throughout the tales; the unfaithful wife and the patient, suffering woman who is exalted for her steadfast behaviour.

There really is something for everyone to enjoy!

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Your Medieval Pilgrimage

At *The Canterbury Tales* pupils have the unique opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of medieval life. You will encounter one of our costumed characters in the Tabard Inn and The Shrine of St Thomas Becket. In these rooms you may choose to listen to them or your audio handset – it's completely up to you.

Just as in Chaucer's text, your pilgrimage begins at the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London. Here you will be given a warm welcome by one of the costumed characters who will entertain with wicked banter and medieval misadventure. The *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer features a group of pilgrims who reflect the diversity of medieval society. Our chosen characters are introduced by Chaucer himself who travels with the pilgrims:



Harry Bailey is the landlord of the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London, where the pilgrims gather for the night prior to starting their journey to Canterbury. He has the idea for the story telling competition during the journey to Canterbury and offers a prize of a meal at the Tabard Inn on their return for the person who tells the best story. He accompanies the pilgrims as adjudicator and narrator of the audio guide.

On leaving the Tabard Inn you will have the chance to meet your fellow pilgrims; Chaucer's colourful characters. These characters include the honourable Knight, the duped Miller, the cheeky Wife of Bath, The wise Nun's Priest and the dark-minded Pardoner. Each character will take their turn to tell a tale - tales of love, chivalry and greed! The host, Harry Bailey points out that there is a competition and the pilgrim who can tell the best tale will win a prize; a free meal at the Tabard Inn! Who will win? Let your pupils decide!

After leaving the stables you will head through Borough High Street in Southwark with its incredibly detailed medieval houses. Take time to examine the buildings and look at the cobbler making shoes. Remember to look up, down and all around. Continue on your journey until you reach St Thomas' Watering Place, where the Kentish road crosses a small stream. Here, as the pilgrims stop for refreshments the Knight tells his tale. His story features Palamon and Arcite and their love for the beautiful Emily. It is a tale of courtly love, rivalry and knightly combat set in Ancient Greece.

Your next encounter is with the drunken Miller whose crude behaviour is reflected in his story set in Oxford. He tells of an old carpenter John, his pretty young wife Alison, their lodger Nicholas and her admirer Absalom. This is a cheeky tale of deception!

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Onward from here and you meet the most famous of all Chaucer's characters - the five times married Wife of Bath! Her story illustrates her belief that a wife should always have the upper hand in a marriage. Her fairytale is set in the magical time of King Arthur and tells of a woman's' ability to reign over her husband.

You cross over Rochester Bridge (make sure you take a peek down at the street below) and the next pilgrim you meet is the Nun's Priest. He is one of three priests amongst the pilgrims who are accompanying the Prioress and nun. He tells a light hearted tale set in a widow's farmyard and featuring the very vain cockerel Chantecleer, the hen Pertelote and the cunning fox.

The mood changes as you meet the Pardoner, an unpleasant conman who sells fake holy relics and indulgences (which were supposed to give medieval churchgoers forgiveness for their sins). His tale starts in an Inn. It concerns three drunken men who decide to try and hunt down 'Death' whom they believe to be a person. As a result of their treachery, Death in turn finds them. This is the last of the tales featured.

From here you reach medieval Canterbury via the Westgate and pause to spend the night at the Chequer of Hope Inn close to the Cathedral. Advise your pupils to keep their valuables close by at all times, there are thieves everywhere - and watch out for the fleas - there is no cure for Black Death!

After a good night's sleep you make your way from the Chequer of Hope to Canterbury Cathedral where once again you will be met by a live costumed guide. They will bring your long journey to a conclusion and introduce you to the beauty of your destination: The Shrine of St Thomas Becket. Hear of Becket's fateful story, and his betrayal by King Henry II. With a fond farewell the pupils will be sent on their way to the Gift Shop and very much encouraged to part with any heavy gold that might be burdening their pockets.

We hope you have a pleasant pilgrimage here at the Canterbury Tales. Please help us spread the word about our wonderful attraction. If you have time at the end of your visit, please fill in the iPad survey in the gift shop. We are also on Twitter and Facebook. Please feel free to share images of your visits, work back at school or any other aspect of your experience, like our Facebook page or tweet us @CanterburyTales using #lovechaucer. You can also post a review of your experience on Trip Advisor.



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The Pilgrims and Their Tales



The Knight: Just come back from Normandy and on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving, The Knight is a polite and noble man who is accompanied by his son who acts as his squire. He is widely travelled and has seen many unusual sights. In the courtyard tableau he is depicted astride a horse wearing a wellpadded jerkin and a warm woollen cloak.

The Knight's Tale: The Knight tells a story of love, rivalry and chivalry, set in ancient Greece. The ruler of Athens was Duke Theseus who after conquering the land of Scythia married their queen Hippolyta and brought her and her sister Emily to Athens to live. Following a successful battle against Thebes (under the control of King Creon) two young knights from Thebes, Arcite and Palamon were captured. They were taken to Athens and kept as prisoners in the prison tower of Duke Theseus' Palace. Arcite and Palamon were cousins and very good friends. They passed their time by talking about their past adventures and taking it in turns to look out of the narrow arrow slit which was their only window. From here they were able to see into the palace gardens.

One day they saw beautiful Emily, in the garden picking flowers. The sight of Emily was so breath-taking that both Arcite and Palamon fell instantly in love with her. For the first time in their lives the two cousins began to quarrel. They argued over who had seen Emily first and loved her more. Soon after this, Duke Pirithous was visiting Duke Theseus. He knew Arcite and persuaded Theseus to free him, on the condition that he never returned to land owned by Theseus, on pain of death.

Arcite was released and returned to Thebes, where he pined for Emily. After two years, he returned in disguise to Athens and, using the name Philostratus, gained employment working as a Page in Emily's house, to be near her. Eventually he rose to the post of Squire. Throughout all this time Palamon had remained a prisoner in the tower. Finally, after seven years, he made a daring escape and hid in a nearby forest whilst he planned to get back to Thebes.

Arcite was out riding and took a route through the forest where Palamon was hiding. Palamon heard his cousin talking aloud to himself about his love for Emily and confronted him. The two men vowed to fight over their love of Emily, but as neither man had any weapons or armour they postponed the fight to the following day. They planned for Arcite to return to the forest with armour and weapons. The very next day, as arranged, the two men started to fight. Out hunting in the forest at this time were the Duke Theseus, Hippolyta and Emily, who came across the two cousins fighting. The Duke stopped the fight and Palamon admitted who they were and why they were fighting. Theseus ordered their death but following pleas for leniency from Hippolyta and Emily he spares their lives. He gave them a year to each gather 100 knights to fight in a tournament. Whichever of the two cousins wins the tournament would win the hand of Emily.

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The two cousins agreed to this and in one year they returned as previously arranged. Before the tournament both men prayed to the ancient gods, as was the custom of the day. Arcite prayed to Mars for victory in the battle and Palamon prayed to Venus for the hand of Emily. All of Athens came to watch the tournament. A fierce battle took place between the two sides and eventually Arcite was declared the winner of the tournament and of Emily's hand. As he galloped around the tournament field in victory, Pluto on the request of Saturn sent an earthquake, which frightened Arcite's horse and threw Arcite to the ground mortally wounding him.

With his dying breath Arcite tells Emily that she could have no better husband than Palamon. Theseus gave Emily's hand to Palamon. Both men had received the thing they prayed for before the battle: Arcite had won the battle and Palamon had won Emily.



The Miller: Robin, The Miller, is a large imposing figure with a mass of red hair and a beard. On his nose he has a large wart with a tuft of red hair growing from it. He is scruffy in appearance and wears a white coat with a blue hood and carries a sword and buckler (a small shield). Quite the character, he is frequently intoxicated and is believed by some of the other pilgrims to be dishonest in his dealings. He is very crude in his behaviour and language and is contemptuous of his fellow pilgrims. Sometimes he can be heard to play a musical instrument similar to the bagpipes.

The Miller's Tale: The Miller tells a comic, bawdy tale about a carpenter, his young wife, her lover and another admirer. The story is set in Osney Mead in Oxford where lived John, a carpenter, and his much younger very pretty wife, Alison.

Alison attracted a lot of attention from the young men in the area. The parish clerk Absolom, a jolly man well known for his singing and guitar playing fell in love with Alison and attempted to woo her. Lodging with John and Alison was Nicholas, a young, penniless student who was studying astrology. John trusted Nicholas with Alison because he believed he was an educated and religious man.

Alison and Nicholas fell in love with each other and planned to trick John so that they could spend the night together. Nicholas locked himself in his room for days and John became worried about his lodger's welfare. Eventually, after hammering on the student's door with no reply, and spying through a hold in the door, John had it broken down. Inside, Nicholas was sitting bolt upright in bed, staring straight ahead and making strange humming sounds, which worried John even more. Nicholas pretended to the old carpenter that he had experienced a vision and foretold of a very heavy rain and floods as bad as that at the time of Noah. John was scared for his safety and that of his family. Nicholas told John that he needed to make three large barrels, one for each of them, make them watertight, stock them with food and hang them from the ceiling where they could not be seen. When the flood came the barrels would be cut down and each of them would safely float in their barrel until the waters subsided, just like Noah and his ark.

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John took this warning very seriously and set about making the barrels ready. He worked so hard that he fell fast asleep in one of the barrels. Alison and Nicholas took advantage of this and so, leaving John asleep, went down to the bedroom together...

In the early hours, they were disturbed by a tap on the window. Below the window was Absolom. He tried to get Alison to come to the window to give him a kiss and refused to take "no" for an answer. To make fun of him, Alison agrees to one kiss and gets Absolom to close his eyes. She lifts her skirts and puts her naked bottom out of the window, which the silly man kisses! Absolom hears Nicholas and Alison laughing and realises he has been made a fool of. He hurries off to the blacksmith and returns with a red hot ploughshare. Once again he knocks on the window and asks for another kiss. This time Nicholas puts his naked bottom out of the window for Absolom to kiss but Absolom would not be made a fool of this time! He thrusts the red hot ploughshare upwards and burns Nicholas's bottom!

The pandemonium! Nicholas leapt up and shouted for water at the top of his voice. This wakes up John, who thinks the flood has come and cuts the rope holding the barrel to the ceiling and falls to the floor!

There was such a commotion that the whole town came out to see what was going on. John, who had been injured falling out of his barrel, tried to tell everyone about the flood. Of course, nobody believed him and everyone thought he had gone mad.



The Wife of Bath: A prosperous, middle aged woman with a gap between her front teeth, the Wife of Bath has been married and widowed five times. Her money was made from the weaving trade and this is reflected in the fine quality of the material she is wearing. She wears scarlet red stockings, a riding skirt, an elaborate headdress, a large hat, soft leather shoes and a pair of spurs. Well-travelled, she has been on many pilgrimages to places such as Jerusalem and Rome. A strong personality, she is opinionated and outspoken. She believes that a wife should have the upper hand in a marriage. Her tale is a fairy story, set in the time of King Arthur, which concerns the question 'what do women most desire?'

The Wife of Bath's Tale: A young knight was riding home one day after he had been out hawking when he met a beautiful young girl and took advantage of her. The knight's crime was found out and he was summoned to the court of King Arthur in Camelot to answer for his crime. The normal penalty for this kind of dishonourable behaviour was death. Queen Guinevere took pity on the young man and begged her husband to spare his life. She told the knight that his life would be spared if he could return to the court in one year with the answer to the question "what do women most desire?"

The knight set off to try and find out the answer to the question. He asked a large number of women and each one gave him a different answer. Weeks turned into months and the knight began to despair that he would ever find the right answer to the question. The

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knight knew that if he returned to King Arthur without the answer then he would be put to death.

When the year had nearly passed the knight was wearily returning to Camelot when he rode through a forest glade where he saw 24 girls dancing in a ring. All of a sudden the girls disappeared and in their place was a very ugly old woman. The old woman asked the knight what he was seeking. When he told her, she laughed and promised to give him the answer if he promised to do the first thing she asked of him. The knight was so relieved that he immediately agreed to this without asking the old woman what she wanted from him. The old woman whispered the answer in his ear and the knight hurried off to the court of King Arthur at Camelot.

When the knight reached Camelot, the hall was crowded with people, waiting to find out if he had managed to find the answer to the question Guinevere had set him. The knight knelt before the queen and she asked him if he had found out the answer to what women most desire. He replied that the thing that women most desire was to have sovereignty over men.

Guinevere was amazed that a man had managed to find the correct answer and the knight was duly pardoned for his crime. Immediately the old woman appeared beside the knight and demanded that he fulfil his side of the bargain. The knight was horrified when the old woman asked that he marry her. As he had given his word the knight had no choice but to go ahead and marry the old woman.

Once they were married, the old woman asked her husband whether he would rather have her as his wife as an old ugly woman, who would be faithful to him, or as a young beautiful girl, who was attractive to other men. The knight thought about this but could not decide so told his wife that it was up to her. Immediately she was transformed into a beautiful young girl. She told her husband that, because he had remembered that women liked to have their own way and had given her the choice, he would now have a beautiful young wife, who was faithful to him for the rest of her life.



The Nun's Priest: One of three priests amongst the pilgrims, who are accompanying the Prioress and nun, this character is an educated, devout, kindly village priest who could read. He tells a light hearted tale set in a widow's farmyard and featuring the very vain cockerel Chantecler, the hen Pertelote and the wily fox, Russell.

The Nun's Priest's Tale: It begins on a small farm owned by an old woman. Amongst the animals she owned was a cockerel called Chantecler. He was a fine looking bird with a large scarlet comb, glossy tail feathers and a magnificent voice. He lived with seven hens that were his wives. His favourite wife was Pertelote who also had beautiful plumage and a very sweet and gentle voice. Often Chantecler and Pertelote could be heard singing together in the farmyard.

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Early one April morning, Chantecleer woke up after having a terrible nightmare. In his dream he had been chased by a ferocious beast, which was like a dog but with a reddish coat and pointed ears. Chantecleer told Pertelote about his dream. She made fun of his fears, telling him that the dream was probably caused by indigestion after eating too much. The hen suggested that he needed to eat some herbs, to settle his tummy, which would ensure he had a good night's sleep. Chantecleer took her advice and went to look for the herbs. Russell the fox was waiting in the cabbage patch and flattered Chantecleer by asking him to sing. He told him that he knew his father and had listened to his wonderful singing, but was sure that Chantecleer had an equally beautiful voice and would love to hear it.

Chantecleer, flattered, preened himself and began to sing. As quick as lightning, the fox leapt out of the cabbage patch, grabbed Chantecleer by the neck, and ran away with him! Pertelote, seeing what had happened began to squawk and soon all the farm animals had joined in to raise the alarm. This alerted the old woman who owned the farm, plus the neighbours, and they all gave chase after the fox.

Chantecleer managed to speak to Russell the fox, daring him to make fun of those chasing him by poke his tongue out at them, knowing they were not fast enough to catch him. Russell turned around to do what Chantecleer suggested. As soon as Chantecleer felt the fox's jaws relax around his neck, he summoned up all his energy, managed to escape and fly up into a nearby tree.

Russell realised that Chantecleer had managed to trick him by flattering his ego. He tried to persuade the cockerel to come down and sing to him once more. Chantecleer was not fooled this time and remained where he was, vowing never to fall for flattery again. Russell crept away, realising that he needed to know when to hold his tongue.



The Pardoner: Intended to be an unattractive character inside and out, The Pardoner is a thin, pale, simpering individual with straggly blond hair. He is shamelessly immoral and spends his time defrauding people out of their money by selling fake pardons for their sins and false holy relics, such as saint's bones and holy blood. He tells an allegorical tale which starts in an Inn. It concerns three drunken men who decide to try and hunt down Death who they believe to be a person. Through their own greed they are meet an untimely end.

The Pardoner's Tale: Three young men were sitting in an Inn one evening drinking and gambling. They were all drunk when they heard the sound of the church bell toll and a funeral procession pass outside. They asked one of the servants for whom the bell tolled, and were told that it was an old friend of theirs who had been killed by the Black Death - the same thing that had killed every man, woman and child in the neighbouring village.

The three drunken men decided to go on a mission of revenge on Death and came across a very old man, bent over with age and dressed in rags. They ask him why Death had not

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yet taken him. The old man replied that he was quite ready, but Death would not take him. He told the three young men they would find Death under the oak tree at the end of the crooked path, just across the way.

Following the path and brandishing their weapons, they reached the oak tree but Death was nowhere to be seen. All they found under the tree was a large pot of golden florins. Completely forgetting their search for Death, the three men decided to divide up the treasure between them. Not wanting to move the money in daylight, they agreed to wait until dark. Hunger fell upon them so they drew straws to see who would go into town to buy food and wine. The youngest of the three men drew the shortest straw and headed off to town, whilst the other two men remained to guard the gold.

Whilst he was gone, the two men who remained with the gold decided that it would be much better to divide the treasure in half, rather than into thirds, and plot to murder their friend. The youngest man, whilst in town, had a similar idea and decided to keep all the gold for himself. He went to an apothecary to buy poison, pretending he needed it to get rid of some rats. Carefully, he poured the poison into two of the wine bottles and marked the one which was free of poison, so he would drink from that one himself. He then set off on the return journey. When the two men heard him approaching, they hid behind a hedge and made short work of him. Thirsty after their murderous efforts, they drink the wine that the youngest man has already poisoned and died. In the end, they all met Death.

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Recommended Learning Resource list

Audio

Selected Canterbury Tales,
Narrated by David Butler, In Audio

Selected Tales from Chaucer
Read by A. C. Spearing & Elizabeth Salter, Cambridge University Press

The Canterbury Tales, Great Tales
Read by Philip Madoc, Edward de Souza & Others, Naxos Audiobooks

Books

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'Chaucer's Canterbury Tales' by Marcia Williams

Our most popular book for younger children with excellent illustration. Highly recommended for younger children and teachers who want a book suitable for classroom storytelling.

'The Canterbury Tales' from Usbourne Classics

Designed for Key Stage 2 aged 8+

This book is clearly written in a modern, approachable style to introduce young readers to much-loved classic stories. Includes informative notes on both Chaucer and the original tales.



'Measly Middle Ages' by Terry Deary

Children simply love the Horrible Histories series so we stock a range in our gift shop. Measly Middle Ages is most appropriate for teaming with a visit to The Canterbury Tales Attraction. As you wander through our medieval streets you will not only learn the tales but your class will also gain a real insight into medieval life – rats 'n' all!

THE CANTERBURY TALES

Fast Facts!

Fast Facts: Geoffrey Chaucer

- Geoffrey Chaucer was born in London between 1340 and 1344 into a middle class family.
- His father, John Chaucer, was a prosperous wine merchant and deputy to the king's butler.
- Chaucer was fluent in several languages including French, Italian and Latin.
- He had a varied career history – he was a soldier, courtier and a diplomat.
- In 1366 he married Philippa Roet who was lady-in-waiting to Queen Philippa of Hainault, the wife of King Edward III at the church of St Mary in Castro in Leicester. This was financially a good marriage as Chaucer's wife received an annual annuity from the queen.
- Chaucer's first major work was a lament 'The Book of the Duchess' written in 1369 on the death of Blanche of Lancaster the wife of John of Gaunt, Chaucer's friend and patron. Between 1374-1386, he wrote most of his major works which included 'The Parliament of Fowls' and 'Troilus and Criseyde'. In 1395 he wrote 'The Canterbury Tales'.
- It is believed that Chaucer had four children. His eldest son Thomas became chief butler to four kings, an envoy to France and a Speaker of the House of Commons. Little is known of his younger son Lewis. It is believed one of his daughters Elizabeth became a nun and the other daughter Agnes was an attendant at Henry IV's coronation.
- Chaucer is believed to have died on October 25th 1400 from unknown causes. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, a privilege normally reserved for royalty. In 1556 his remains were transferred to a more ornate tomb in the area now known as Poets' Corner.



Fast Facts: Pilgrimages

- Pilgrimages were extremely important in the medieval period and became very much part of the medieval way of life. There were many different destinations for pilgrimages (depending upon your social status). If you were rich you could potentially travel to the tomb of the apostles in Rome and if you were poor you would travel to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral.
- Pilgrims came from all sorts of backgrounds but they were mostly wealthy as poor pilgrims could not really afford to take time off to travel. It would also mean that they would have to get to their destination on foot as horses were expensive.
- Pilgrimages were a good source of income for the locals of Canterbury. For instance, The Buttermarket in which is just around the corner from the Cathedral became a notorious trading spot.

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- At first, pilgrimages were undertaken by individuals travelling to pray at a particular shrine. Priests started to tell sinners to go on a pilgrimage as a penance for their crimes. The more serious the crime the longer the pilgrimage.
- Pilgrimages could potentially be very dangerous and sometimes a group of knights would accompany the pilgrims on their journey such as the Knights of St John and the Templar Knights. Special laws allowed pilgrims to pass freely through other countries even those who were at war.
- As pilgrimages became more organised and more popular, roads were created to make the pilgrim routes easier to travel. Rich people were encouraged to give money to pay for the upkeep of these roads as a way of ensuring their place in heaven.
- Many pilgrims wore the traditional outfit of a russet coloured tunic drawn in above the waist with a belt, rope or rosary and a broad-brimmed hat. Often their clothes and hats would have been decorated with shells or souvenir pilgrim badges, made of lead or pewter, showing where they had visited.

Fast Facts: Medieval Life in Canterbury

- Canterbury at the start of the medieval period was surrounded by high stone walls, which had been built nearly 1,000 years earlier during the Roman occupation of Britain. There were six main gates cut into the walls allowing entry into Canterbury. These gates would have been closed at night to protect the city. At this time many people lived in the suburbs surrounding the city walls.
- Medieval Canterbury had very narrow streets with no pavements, no street lights, no drains and no sewers. The majority of people would have lived in very small houses, built very close together. They were generally made of wood with a wattle and daub covering and a thatched roof and had only one or two rooms.
- There was no running water or toilets in the houses. The rich people would have generally had a well in their garden but for ordinary people the only source of water was from the river, springs or public wells. Most people emptied buckets and pots full of human waste into the streets. Some of this was carried in open drains into the city ditch situated outside the city walls or into the river.
- Many people who lived in Medieval Canterbury made their living by making and selling goods. These craftspeople usually worked in their own homes and initially sold their goods from stalls in the streets or in the weekly markets. By the C12th many craftspeople would have had their own small shops. Shops that sold the same goods were often grouped together in the same area. By 1234 there were about 200 shops in the centre of Canterbury, most of these were situated along the High Street, Mercery Lane or the Parade.
- Local farmers and traders would come into Canterbury to sell their produce at the weekly markets. There was a cattle market held outside the city walls near Riding
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- Gate, a corn market was held in the High Street and a wine market was held in Wincheap.
- Every year fairs would have been held in Canterbury. Traders came from all over Europe selling luxury goods such as silks and spices. There would have been a variety of street entertainment including singing, dancing and bear baiting.
- Medieval Canterbury was dominated by religious buildings. The Cathedral, churches and monasteries were by far the biggest buildings in the city. The Cathedral was the most important building in Canterbury and church services were held every day.
- St Augustine's Abbey, St Gregory's Priory and St Sepulchre's Nunnery were all situated just outside the city walls.
- In 1221 a group of Dominican friars came to Canterbury and worked in the poorest parts of the city helping the poor and sick. They were known as Blackfriars because they wore black robes.
- In 1224 nine Franciscan friars came to Canterbury. They were known as Greyfriars because of their grey robes. In 1236 they were given land next to the river and built a friary there, which was occupied by 35 Greyfriars.
- The Greyfriars were soon followed by a group of Augustinian friars who were called Whitefriars because of their white robes. They were given land between Ridingate and St George's Gate and built a friary, which was occupied by 18 Whitefriars.
- In 1538 Henry VIII declared that Thomas Becket had been a traitor and ordered that his tomb and all pictures, statues and relics of him should be destroyed. The cathedral was left intact although some of the Christ Church priory buildings were destroyed. In 1541 Henry VIII appointed a new dean and chapter of 12 churchmen and 28 of the former monks to look after the Cathedral and its lands. A new grammar school for 50 boys and 32 teachers called King's school was also opened.

Fast Facts: The Life of Thomas Becket

- Thomas Becket was born in Cheapside in London on 21st December 1118. His parents Matilda (or Roesa) and Gilbert both came from Normandy and had settled in London some years before. He had at least two sisters, one of whom became the Abbess of Barking in Essex.
- In 1154 Thomas was appointed Archdeacon of Canterbury and was then recommended to Henry II when the post of Lord Chancellor became vacant in 1155.
- Thomas was ordained as a priest on Saturday 2nd June 1162; the next day he was ordained as a bishop and later that afternoon was consecrated as Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Once he became archbishop, instead of wearing expensive clothes he wore a monastic habit. At night he slept on a cold stone floor, regularly fasted and had his monks to whip him every day. Every morning he had 13 poor people brought to

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his home. He would wash their feet following the example of Jesus at the Last Supper and serve them a meal. They would then be given four silver pennies as they left.

- After a disagreement with Thomas, Henry believed that Thomas had betrayed him and was determined to get his own back on the Archbishop. He also believed that Thomas had stolen money from the crown while he was acting as chancellor.
- After an unfriendly encounter with the King at Northampton on 13th October 1164 Thomas fled away secretly and on 2nd November 1164 sailed in disguise from Sandwich to France to the protection of King Louis VII, an old enemy of Henry II.
- Thomas returned to England in November 1170 and the following month was murdered at Canterbury Cathedral by four French knights after Henry was heard to have cried out "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?"
- Within an hour of his death a great storm hit Canterbury. News of his death spread quickly and people flocked to the Cathedral to mourn Thomas Becket. Thomas Becket was canonised as a saint on 21st February 1173.
- In June 1174 King Henry carried out his public penance by wearing a sack-cloth and walking barefoot through the streets of Canterbury to the shrine of Thomas Becket whilst being whipped by 80 monks. Henry then spent the night praying at the tomb.
- For the rest of the Middle Ages, the shrine of St Thomas Becket was one of the most famous and wealthy in Europe and attracted pilgrims from home and abroad.

