England and France Develop

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the growth of towns and trade.

In this section, you will read about the development of France and England.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on the development of France and England.

England Absorbs Waves of Invaders (pages 393–394)

Who invaded England?

England was formed by the blending of cultures. Danish Vikings invaded the island in the 800s. Some Germanic groups arrived there much earlier. Over time, the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons were united under one rule and kingdom.

In 1066, King Edward died. A power struggle followed. This led to one last invasion. The invader was William the Conqueror. He was the duke of Normandy, a land in northern France. He won control of England declared it his personal realm.


What were some of England’s earliest steps toward democracy?

Later English kings, descendants of William, tried to hold and add to the land they still had in France.
They also wanted to increase their control over the government and the Church in England.

**Henry II** ruled from 1154 to 1189. He was one of the strongest of William’s descendants. He married Eleanor of Aquitaine, who had been married to King Louis VII of France. From this marriage, Henry gained more territory in France. In England, he began the practice of trial by jury. Over the years, the ruling of the English judges formed a body of law called **common law**. These laws form the basis of law in many English-speaking countries.

One of Henry’s sons, King John, had serious problems. He was a poor military leader. His harsh rule caused nobles to rebel against him. In 1215, they forced John to sign an important paper called the **Magna Carta**. It put limits on the power of the king. The document protected the power of nobles only. Common people, though, said that parts of the Magna Carta also applied to them.

Another step toward limiting the king came in the 1200s. Edward I needed to raise taxes for a war against the French. He called a meeting of representatives from all parts of England. It was called a **parliament**. The purpose of this meeting was to approve his tax plan. His **Model Parliament** met in 1295. This was the first time bishops, nobles, and common people attended together.

**2. Why was the Magna Carta important?**

**Capetian Dynasty Rules France**

*(pages 396–397)*

**What was the Capetian Dynasty?**

In France, a new dynasty of kings came to power. They were called the Capetians. They were named for the first of these rulers, **Hugh Capet**, who had been a duke from the middle of France. This dynasty ruled from 987 to 1328.

France was split into 30 separate small territories. Each was ruled by a different lord. The kings held only a small area centered in Paris. They tried to gain control of all the land. Gradually, the growth of royal power would unite France.

One of the most successful kings was **Philip II**. He ruled from 1180 to 1223. He tripled the lands under his control. He also made a stronger central government. This gave the king more control over his lands and the people who lived there.

His grandson, Louis IX, ruled from 1226 to 1270. He carried on Philip’s work. Louis set up royal courts. There, people could appeal their lords’ decisions. These courts increased the king’s power.

In 1302, Philip IV called for a meeting of representatives. Like Edward I in England, Philip invited common people. This meeting and the council of representatives was called the **Estates General**.

**3. How did the kings of France gain more control over their subjects?**