

Historians



How do historians find out about the medieval past?

What do they use to find out about the medieval past?



How do historians find out
what happened in Medieval
England?*

What *things* could they use as
evidence?

When we talk about medieval England in school, we usually mean a period between about 1066 to about 1485



Sources

Sources from the time of an event are used as evidence.

On your copy of the table, tick which ones you think might exist for medieval England (things that could have existed in medieval England).

YouTube videos	Laws	Photos
Paintings	Coins	Wikipedia entries
Clothing	Instagram posts	TV programmes
Newspapers	Books	Court records
Weapons	Letters	Novels and plays



Evidence

Historians try to use a wide range of sources as evidence.

Why do you think this is?



Quite often, there won't be enough sources to use as evidence to tell us exactly what happened. This means that historians will have to make an **inference** – use the sources available to make an informed guess.

Sources

Today we are going to focus on sources made at the time of the event to use as evidence.

For us, this means things that were made in medieval Europe.

Sources

Historians use a wide range of sources as evidence – not just written sources.



What do you think the following objects are and how can they help a historian to find out about the past?



What do you think these are?

What questions can you ask about these objects to try to work out their purpose?







Sources

Pick one of the objects we have just looked at:

- a. Tally sticks
- b. Cope
- c. Pilgrim's badge

Explain what it is.



What does it tell a historian about medieval Europe?



Evidence

Historians often work in *archives*.

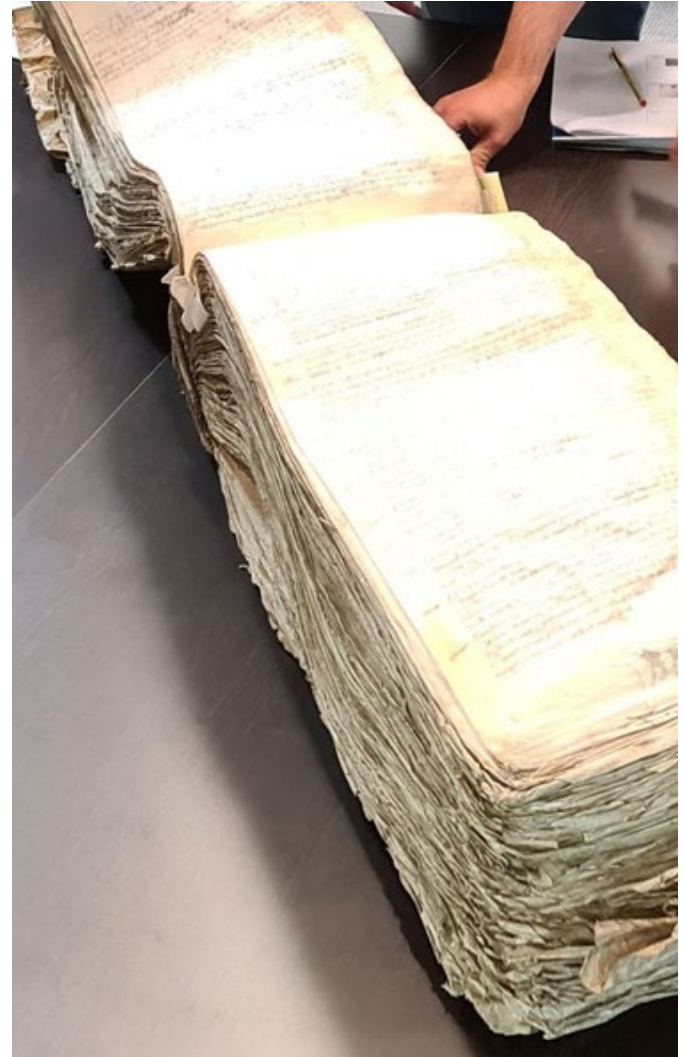
Here we find very old documents that have been safely kept over time.

These include official documents (such as laws or court records).

Evidence

These are some
Common Pleas rolls.

Each piece of
parchment contains
lists of pleas that
people have made to
Parliament.



Working with evidence

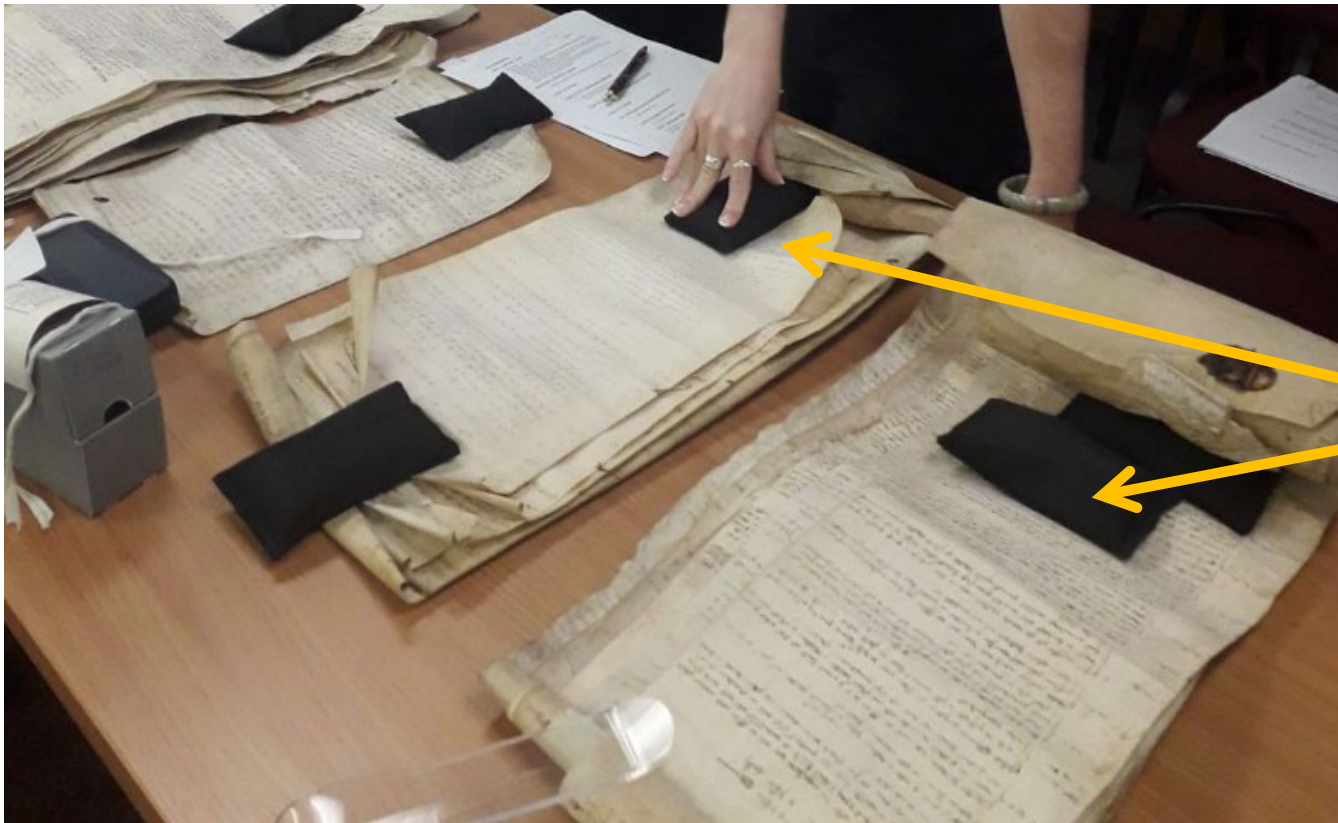
We'll watch a short video showing a group of historians working in an archive or record office.

Look out for the following:

How are the documents stored?
How do they know where to look for a document?

Working with evidence

Sometimes documents are single pieces of paper, like these. They have been rolled up so that they can be stored easily.

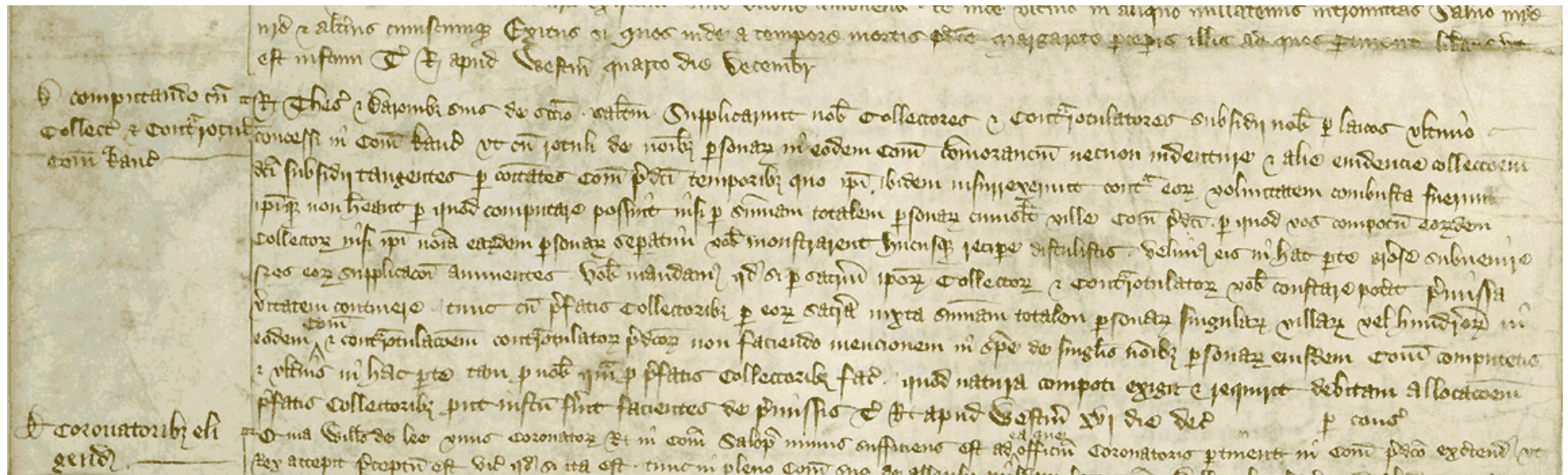


What do you think these black things are?



Working with evidence

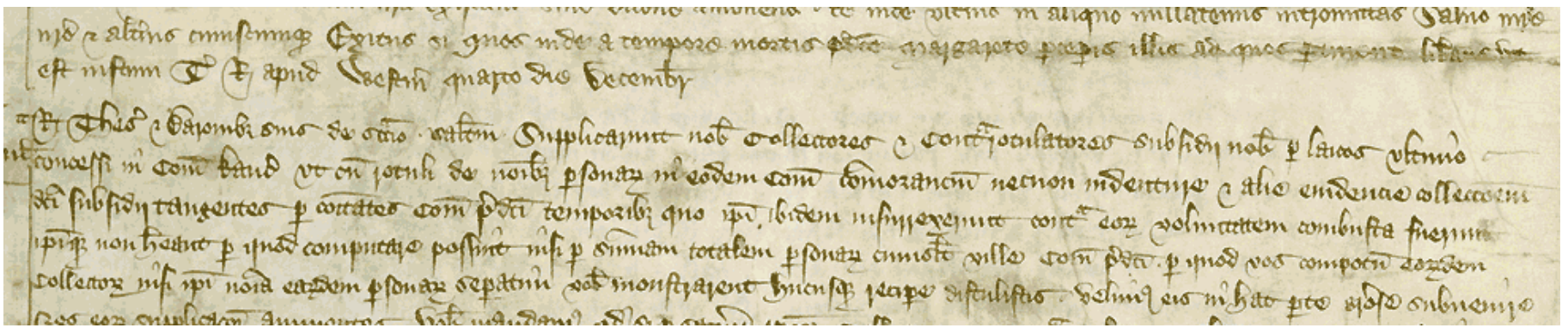
We will be looking at an **extract** from this source.



Can you read it? The next slide will zoom in even more...



What language is it in?
 Is it neat? Can you make out any words?





Luckily for us, this one has been *transcribed*.

What can you work out now?

Rex thesaurio et baronibus suis de scaccarii salutem. Supplicarunt nobis collectores et contrarotulatores subsidii nobis per laicos ultimo concessi in comitatu Kantie ut cum rotuli de nominibus personarum in eodem comitatu commorantium necnon indenture et alie evidencie colleccionem dicti subsidii tangentes per comitates comitatus predicti temporibus quo ipsi ibidem insurrexerunt contra eorum voluntatem combusta fuerunt ipsique non habeant per quod computare possint nisi per summam totalem personarum cuiuslibet ville comitatus predicti per quod vos compotum eorundem collectorum nisi ipsi nomina earundem personarum seperatim vobis monstrarent hucusque recipere distulistis velimus eis in hac parte grosere subvenire nos eorum supplicacioni annuentes. Vobis mandamus quod si per sacramentum ipsorum collectorum et contrarotulorum vobis constare poterit premissa veritatem continere, tunc cum prefatis collectoribus per eorum sacramentam iuxta summam totalem personarum singularum villarum vel hundredorum in eodem comitatu et contrarocionem contrarotulorum predictorum non faciendo mencionem in specie de singulis hominibus personarum eiusdem comitatus computetis et ulterius in hac parte tam pro nobis quam pro prefatis collectoribus factas quod natura compoti exigit et requirit debitam allocacionem prefatis collectoribus prout iustum fuerit facientes de premissis. Teste Rege apud Westminster xvi die Decembris. Per Consilio.

Luckily for us, this one has been *translated*.

What can you work out now?

The King to the Treasurer and the Barons of the Exchequer. Order, upon petition of the collectors and controllers in Kent of the subsidy last granted to the King by laymen, showing that the rolls of names of those dwelling in Kent, the indentures and other evidences concerning the collection were burned by the commons of the county in their late insurrection, and that the collectors have not wherewithal to account but by the sum total of persons of every town, wherefore the Treasurer and the Barons have deferred to receive their account unless they showed severally those persons' names, if by oath of the collectors and controllers assured that these things are true, to account with the collectors upon oath by the sum total of persons of the towns or hundreds, and by control of the controllers, making no special mention of the names. Witnessed by the King at Westminster, 16 December. By the Council.

The key points have been highlighted.

The King to the Treasurer and the Barons of the Exchequer. Order, upon petition of the collectors and controllers in Kent of the **subsidy** last granted to the King by laymen, showing that the rolls of names of those dwelling in Kent, the indentures and other **evidences concerning the collection were burned** by **the commons of the county in their late insurrection, and that** the collectors have not wherewithal to account but by the sum total of persons of every town, wherefore the Treasurer and the Barons have deferred to receive their account unless they showed severally those persons' names, if by oath of the collectors and controllers assured that these things are true, to account with the collectors upon oath by the sum total of persons of the towns or hundreds, and by control of the controllers, making no special mention of the names. Witnessed by the King at Westminster, 16 December. By the Council.

What is happening?



Another word for tax

The King to the Treasurer and the Barons of the Exchequer. Order, upon petition of the collectors and controllers in Kent of the **subsidy** last granted to the King by laymen, showing that the rolls of names of those dwelling in Kent, the indentures and other evidences concerning the collection were burned by the commons of the county in their late **insurrection**, and that the collectors have not wherewithal to account but by the sum total of persons of every town, wherefore the Treasurer and the Barons have deferred to receive their account unless they showed severally those persons' names, if by oath of the collectors and controllers assured that these things are true, to account with the collectors upon oath by the sum total of persons of the towns or hundreds, and by control of the controllers, making no special mention of the names. Witnessed by the King at Westminster, 16 December. By the Council.

Another word for
rebellion

Peasants



Any ideas of what this event might be about?

It's something that we will look at in more detail in Year 7!

The King to the Treasurer and the Barons of the Exchequer. Order, upon petition of the collectors and controllers in Kent of the **subsidy** last granted to the King by laymen, showing that the rolls of **names of those dwelling in Kent, the indentures and other evidences concerning the collection were burned by the commons of the county in their late insurrection**, and that the collectors have not wherewithal to account but by the sum total of persons of every town, wherefore the Treasurer and the Barons have deferred to receive their account unless they showed severally those persons' names, if by oath of the collectors and controllers assured that these things are true, to account with the collectors upon oath by the sum total of persons of the towns or hundreds, and by control of the controllers, making no special mention of the names. Witnessed by the King at Westminster, 16 December. By the Council.



Working with evidence

As you can see, one source cannot reveal everything about an event.

This is why historians need to use lots of sources as evidence.

Working with evidence



What challenges do historians face when working with documents in the archives?

What skills do they need?



So how do historians find out about the medieval past?