

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PERIOD:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **MAGNA CARTA**

**Part A: Click on the link below. Read the information and answer Discussion Questions 1 and 2.**

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/medieval/government/magnacarta.htm>

- 1.) - What was King John doing that led nobles to limit the power of the king?
  
- 2.) - What part of the Magna Carta still has an impact on our laws today? (Hint - look for the Latin phrase)

### **Part B: Who was King John?**

Watch the video clip from

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/medieval/government/magnacarta.htm>  
(skip to 4:55 and watch to the end):

Then click on the following link and watch this clip:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezyb6v9o0fo>

- 3.) After watching both video clips, describe King John. What about him makes you think he would be a bad leader?

### **Part C: How did the Magna Carta influence the United States?**

**Click on the link below. Read the passage and answer Discussion Question #4.**

<http://www.history.com/news/ask-history/what-is-the-magna-carta>

- 4.) How did the Magna Carta influence the writing of the American Bill of Rights? (Pay close attention to the 4th paragraph of the article.)

## **The Magna Carta**

**Reading 1:** Clauses 7 and 8, concerning treatment of women under the law:

*7. At her husband's death, a widow may have her marriage portion and inheritance at once and without trouble. She shall pay nothing for her dower, marriage portion, or any inheritance that she and her husband held jointly on the day of his death. She may remain in her husband's house for forty days after his death, and within this period her dower shall be assigned to her.*

*8. No widow shall be compelled [forced] to marry, so long as she wishes to remain without a husband. But she must give security [a pledge or promise] that she will not marry without royal consent, if she holds her lands of the Crown, or without the consent of whatever other lord she may hold them of.*

**Reading 2:** Clauses 31 and 38 concerning protection of property and trial by jury:

*31. Neither we nor any royal official will take wood for our castle, or for any other purpose, without the consent (permission) of the owner.*

*38. In future, no official shall place a man on trial upon his own unsupported statement, without producing credible (believable) witnesses to the truth of it.*

**Reading 3:** Clauses 39 and 40, concerning treatment of subjects under the law:  
**(Note: In this document, "we" refers to the king.)**

*39. No freeman shall be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized [deprived of possessions or property], or outlawed, or exiled, or in any way harmed . . . save by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.*

*40. To none will we sell, to none deny or delay, right or justice.*

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### **Magna Carta Primary Source Questions:**

1. **Identifying:** Based on Reading 1, how were women protected by the Magna Carta?

2. **Making Inferences:** Based on Reading 2, how had some people been mistreated by the law during King John's rule?

3. **Critical Thinking and Making Connections:** Which clause from the reading best describes:

a. private property? \_\_\_\_\_

b. fair trial by jury? \_\_\_\_\_

c. women's rights? \_\_\_\_\_

d. due process under the law? (to ensure fairness and justice) \_\_\_\_\_