

THE LIFE OF HENRY III IN UNDER A MINUTE

NG Kids' time-travelling mouse, Max, visits King Henry III...



Welcome, readers, to the life of Henry III in under a minute!



Let's not waste any more time!

Born 1 October 1207, Henry became king aged only nine! His father, King John, had been unpopular, having lost the crown jewels, amongst other things. So people looked to Henry and his regents to bring peace and happiness.



Free sweets for everyone!

Yippee!

Hooray!

Popular knight, William Marshall 1st Earl of Pembroke, was put in charge while Henry was so young. He kicked out French invaders and brought stability to the country.



Now, now, Henry. Giving away sweets isn't sensible policy, is it?

I hate you! I wish I'd never been born!

William died in 1219 and Hubert De Burgh took over as regent. Henry finally took control of power aged 20 in 1227. Unfortunately, he wasn't particularly interested in politics...



Right, where was I? Who wanted fizzy cola bottles?

Me!

Me!

In 1236 he married the beautiful Eleanor of Provence, France. Renowned for her intelligence, poetry and fashion sense, Londoners unfortunately didn't like her and pelted her with rotten fruit when she sailed down the Thames.



Why do they hate me so?

Maybe less of the poetry next time.

Henry collected exotic animals and kept them in a menagerie in the Tower of London. He had lions and even a polar bear which was a present from the king of Norway.



RAGH!

GRR!

HELP!

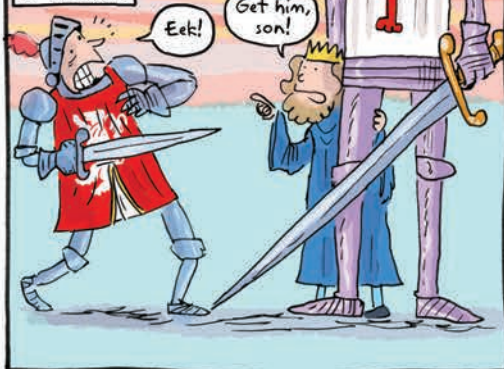
It's days like this that I'm glad I'm a prisoner locked up in the tower!

The nobles and barons of the land grew resentful of Henry's reckless use of power and money and his ignoring of the Magna Carta, which stated that they share power. So they set up their own Parliament to jointly govern the country with Henry. He didn't approve and war broke out!



Rowdy lot! I think the animals in the zoo were better behaved!

Heading the rebellion was Henry's brother-in-law, Simon De Montford. Despite early victories and capturing King Henry, Simon was eventually defeated by Henry's extremely tall and powerful son, Edward at Evesham.



Eek!

Get him, son!

Henry's long reign oversaw the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey and many other cathedrals around the country. The Abbey, originally constructed by Edward the Confessor in 1042, went on to be the natural home of Coronations and Royal Weddings.



It's my crowning glory!

Henry died 16 November 1272 after a 56 year reign. He was buried in his beloved Westminster Abbey, originally interred in Edward the Confessor's old grave.



Doh! He's kept it nice and warm!

Excellent! Under a minute! Now that's what we call a flying visit!