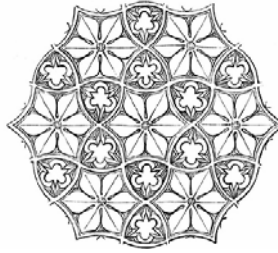


Name _____ Date _____

THOMAS BECKET



Thomas Becket was born in 1118 to a merchant in London. Thomas Becket was tall, smart, and kind. He received a good education, but when his father died, he no longer had enough money to go to school and went to work as a clerk.

Soon after that, in 1141, he started to work for Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury. Becket ran many errands to Rome for the Archbishop and studied church law. After ten years, he was appointed Archdeacon of Canterbury. King Henry II appointed Becket to be his chancellor. Becket lived a rich lifestyle and stood up for the king in all things.

King Henry appointed Becket to be the Archbishop of Canterbury after Theobald's death in 1162. The King expected Thomas Becket to do what the King told him to do when he was the Archbishop, but Thomas Becket decided to do what would be best for the church.

Although Becket hesitated to take the job, once he was consecrated, he lived the role well. He gave up his rich lifestyle, and contributed large amounts of money to the poor. He got rid of his expensive clothes and wore uncomfortable clothing instead.

King Henry was angry at him for disobeying his orders, and Becket had to flee to France for six years. King Henry ordered all of Becket's possessions to be taken away; additionally, he commanded that no prayers be offered on Becket's behalf. Later, the Pope talked to the King, and Becket was allowed to come back. King Henry was still angry with him, however. Henry felt that he has been cheated: he placed Becket in two positions of high honor and power, and received no thanks in return, only opposition.

One day, some knights who were in the king's service arrived at the cathedral and demanded to see Becket. He surrendered himself with a heroic speech. The knights killed Becket. They went about their business quickly, for fear the people in the cathedral would save Becket

Becket was canonized (made a Catholic saint) in 1173. In 1174, King Henry apologized for Becket's death. Becket's body was kept in Canterbury Cathedral and attracted pilgrims (travelers) from all over the country.

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the following questions about THOMAS BECKET

1. When was Thomas Becket born?
 - a. 1888
 - b. 1188
 - c. 1118
 - d. 1111

2. Where was Thomas Becket born?
 - a. London
 - b. Canterbury
 - c. France
 - d. Derbyshire

3. What happened to Thomas Becket ten years after he went to work for Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury?
 - a. he was appointed archbishop of Canterbury
 - b. he was appointed archdeacon of Canterbury
 - c. he worked as a clerk
 - d. he went to France

4. What happened to Thomas Becket in 1162?
 - a. he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury
 - b. he was appointed archdeacon of Canterbury
 - c. he died
 - d. he went to work for the king

5. Why was Thomas Becket worried about being the archbishop of Canterbury?
 - a. he was afraid of the church
 - b. he didn't like the king
 - c. he was too rich
 - d. he was afraid the king would try to control what he did

6. What did Thomas Becket decide to do, as archbishop of Canterbury?
 - a. do what the king said
 - b. do what was best for the church
 - c. get rich
 - d. take a vacation to France

7. How did Becket die?
 - a. of old age
 - b. he was killed by knights
 - c. the king killed him
 - d. no one knows

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to THOMAS BECKET

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. d
6. b
7. b