



SOURCE A: The illustration shows the death of Simon de Montfort and is from the 1200s. It works a bit like a cartoon strip – first, de Montfort is stripped of his armour, then his body is cut to pieces. Later his head was sent to a man who hated him as a present!

King Henry the prisoner

In 1264, King Henry III got an army together to fight the barons. He was unhappy that they'd made him sign the Provisions of Oxford because it took away a lot of his power. The king's army was led by Prince Edward, Henry's son. The baron's army was led by Simon de Montfort, who was married to King Henry's sister. On 14 May 1264, the two sides fought a battle at Lewes in Sussex. The barons won, and King Henry and Prince Edward were taken prisoner.

What happened next?

In 1265, Simon de Montfort called a meeting of the Great Council. But this time, he didn't just invite the rich, important bishops and barons. He also included two ordinary wealthy people from each large town and two knights from each county. This was the first time that ordinary people had been included in any sort of discussion about running the country. This meeting is often called 'the first Parliament'.

De Montfort is doomed!

Not surprisingly, the king and the young prince fought back. Prince Edward escaped from prison and gathered another army together. In August 1265, de Montfort's army was defeated at the Battle of Evesham. **Source A** shows the rather nasty way in which de Montfort was killed.

SOURCE B: This picture wrongly shows rulers from Wales and Scotland at this Parliament. Llywelyn (Wales) and Alexander (Scotland) did not attend at the same time as King Edward.

Parliament lives on

Although de Montfort died, his idea lived on. When Henry III died in 1272, Prince Edward became King Edward I. He didn't want to risk more fights with the barons by scrapping Parliament, so he kept meeting with them. Soon, the barons in Parliament realized that they were quite powerful. For example, if the king needed money (which he often did) he knew he couldn't go around collecting it all himself – he needed Parliament to get it for him. In return, Parliament could ask the king for permission to introduce new laws. So although Parliament couldn't exactly tell the king what to do, it was certainly a powerful force in the country because it controlled the king's money and could make new laws... just like today!



SOURCE C: By the mid-1300s, meetings of Parliament had settled into a pattern that lasted for centuries. The British Parliament, made up of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, still meets like this today.



The king

- The king decided when Parliament was to meet, usually for a few weeks a year.
- Parliament couldn't stop collecting taxes for the king if they didn't like what he was doing.

The Lords

- Rich barons and bishops met in the House of Lords.
- The right to attend passed from father to son.



The Commons

- Voting took place in public. The men chosen were usually the richer people of the town and land-owning knights.
- These people became known as the 'commoners' or 'Commons' and met in the House of Commons.

Work

- Look at **Source A** on page 112 and **Source B** on this page. What are the main differences?
 - Which of the men do you think was the **most** important in the development of Parliament? Give reasons for your answer.
- Explain the importance of the following dates in the development of Parliament:
 - 1264
 - 1265
 - 1272
- In what ways were each of the following men important in the development of Parliament?
 - Simon de Montfort
 - King Edward I
 - How did Simon de Montfort die?
 - In what ways could de Montfort be seen as **both** a hero and a traitor?
- What were the advantages of having a Parliament:
 - for the king?
 - for the barons, bishops, knights, and townspeople?