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Class:

England and France's Developing Government

Directions: Use the caption method to annotate and analyze while reading the passage. Answer the questions to check for understanding.

England's Evolving Government:

Henry II ruled England from 1154 to 1189. He strengthened the royal courts of justice by sending royal judges to every part of England at least once a year. They collected taxes, settled lawsuits, and punished crimes. Henry also introduced the use of the jury in English courts. A jury in medieval England was a group of local people—usually 12 neighbors of the accused—who answered a royal judge's questions about the facts of a case. Jury trials became a popular means of settling disputes. Over the centuries, case by case, the rulings of England's royal judges formed a unified body of law that became known as **common law**. Today the principles of English common law are the basis for law in many English-speaking countries, including the United States.

Henry was succeeded first by his son Richard the Lion-Hearted, hero of the Third Crusade. When Richard died, his younger brother John took the throne. John ruled from 1199 to 1216. He failed as a military leader, was cruel to his subjects, and tried to squeeze money out of them. His nobles revolted. On June 15, 1215, they forced John to agree to the most celebrated document in English history, the **Magna Carta** (Great Charter). This document guaranteed certain basic political rights. The nobles wanted to safeguard their own feudal rights and limit the king's powers. In later years, however, English people of all classes argued that certain clauses in the Magna Carta applied to every citizen. Guaranteed rights included no taxation without representation, a jury trial, and the protection of the law. The Magna Carta guaranteed what are now considered basic legal rights both in England and in the United States.

Another important step toward democratic government came during the rule of the next English king, Edward I. In November 1295, Edward summoned knights, **burgesses** (citizens of wealth and property), bishops, and lords, from every borough and county to serve as a **parliament**, or legislative group. This new makeup including the commoners or non-nobles as well as lords served as a model for later kings. Over the next century, knights and burgesses gradually formed an assembly of their own called the House of Commons. Nobles and bishops met separately as the House of Lords. As time went by, Parliament became strong. Like the Magna Carta, it provided a check on royal power.

1. What did Henry II introduce?
2. What is common law?
3. Why are juries and common law significant?
4. Describe King John.
5. What is the Magna Carta?
6. What is the legacy of the Magna Carta?
7. What does a parliament do?
8. What part of the U.S.'s government does resemble parliament?

France's Capetian Dynasty:

One of the most successful Capetian king was Philip II or Philip Augustus. He ruled from 1180 to 1223 and started at the age of 15. He tripled the land under his control by taking land from King John. He also made a stronger central government. He established royal officials called **bailiffs**. They were sent from Paris to every district in the kingdom to preside over the king's courts and to collect the king's taxes. This gave the king more control over his lands and the people who lived there. His grandson, Louis IX, ruled from 1226 to 1270. He carried on Philip's work. Louis set up appeals courts, which could overturn their lords' decisions. These courts increased the king's power.

In 1302, Philip IV, who ruled France from 1285 to 1314, was involved in a quarrel with the pope. The pope refused to allow priests to pay taxes to the king. Philip disputed the right of the pope to control Church affairs in his kingdom. As in England, the French king usually called a meeting of his lords and bishops when he needed support for his policies. To win wider support against the pope, Philip IV decided to include commoners in the meeting.

In France, the Church leaders were known as the **First Estate**, and the great lords as the **Second Estate**. The commoners, wealthy landholders or merchants who Philip invited to participate in the council, became known as the **Third Estate**. The whole meeting was called the **Estates-General**. Like the English Parliament in its early years, the Estates-General helped to increase royal power against the nobility. Unlike Parliament, however, the Estates-General never became an independent force that limited the king's power.

9. What is a bailiff and what is their purpose?

10. How did Louis IX centralize power?

11. How did Philip IV become more democratic?

12. What is the Estate-General and who is a part of it?

Directions: Use the table below to answer the questions.

The Development of England and France	
England	France
William the Conqueror invades England in 1066.	Hugh Capet increases the territory of France.
Henry II (1154–1189) introduces the use of the jury in English courts.	Philip II (1180–1223) establishes bailiffs to preside over courts and collect taxes.
Edward I (1272–1307) calls the Model Parliament in 1295.	Philip IV (1285–1314) adds Third Estate to the Estates-General.

13. What aspects or parts of courts were developed during the rule of Henry II and Philip II?

14. Which aspect of centralized government developed around the same time in France and England?