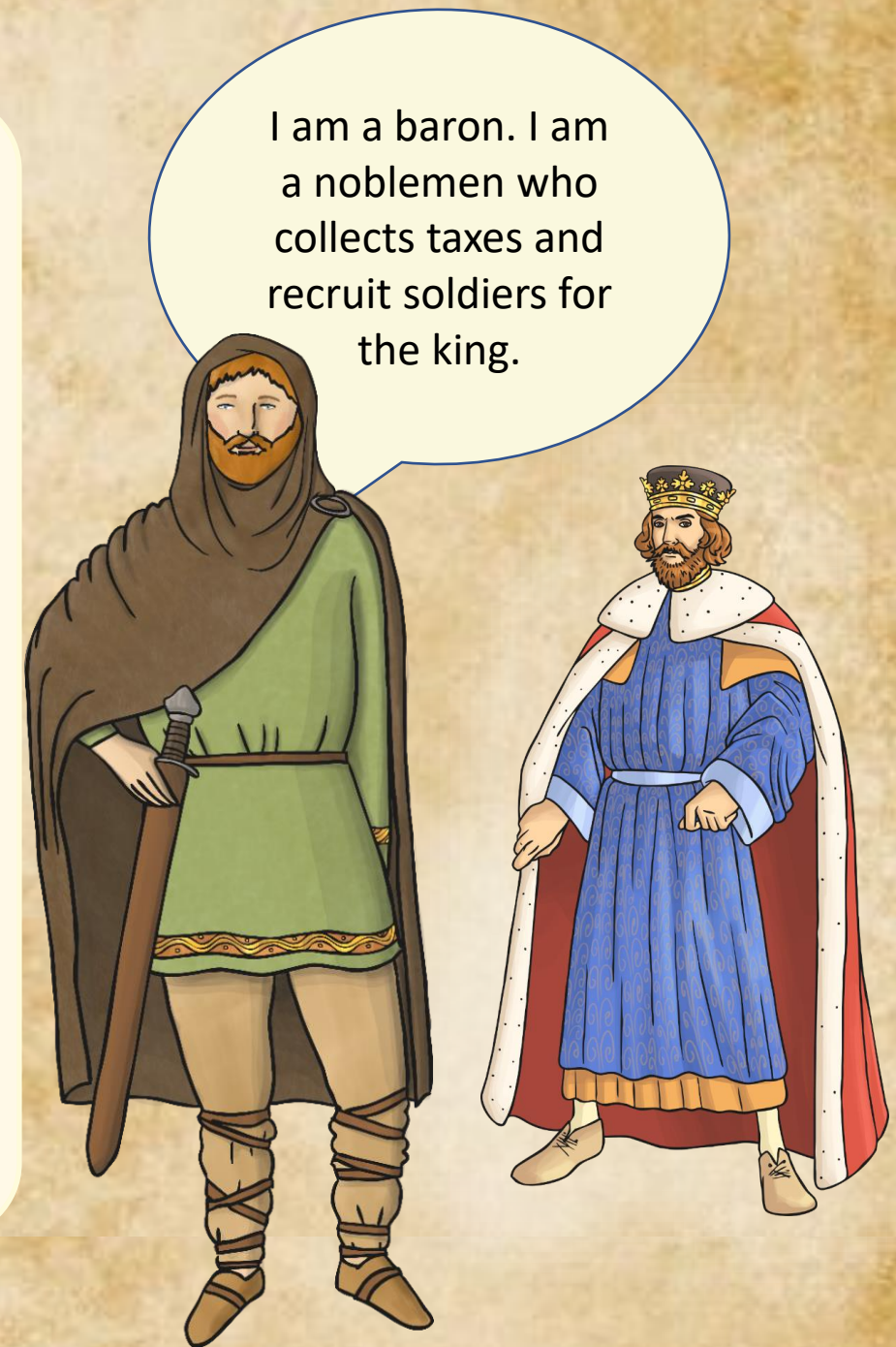


The Magna Carta



People thought that King John was a bad king – he was greedy and cruel, did what he liked, and nobody was safe from him. Rich and powerful people in the country, called **barons**, decided that he could not just do as he liked, they drew up an agreement called Magna Carta, meaning Great Charter.

A charter is an agreement written down and signed so people will do what it says. The Magna Carta protected people from bad kings. It said that **nobody should be punished a lot for a little fault, and however bad they have been, the king cannot take their tools or other things they need to earn a living away from them.** It also said that **nobody can be put in prison or have their belongings or land taken from them unless he has been brought before a judge and had a chance to tell his side of the story.**



King John initially refused to sign the Magna Carta, saying that kings should not be told what to do. He kept delaying the signing of it, until he realised that the whole country was against him. The barons forced the King to meet them at a little place beside the River Thames called Runnymede.

The barons and army camped on one side of the river and King John on the other. They met on a little island in the river. On 15th June 1215, King John signed the Magna Carta. King John did not keep his promises, breaking them again and again. However, he did admit that the King could not just do as he liked – he needed to respect other people.



Your Task

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zT4hkAxzLg>

Write your own rules. What will you add?

Challenge: Do you think King John was a fair king or an unfair king? Explain.

Magna Carta

- I promise...

Possible Answers

Magna Carta

- **I promise not to let anyone in my kingdom go to sleep hungry.**
- **I promise to give everyone a home to live in.**
- **I promise to open many hospitals in every city.**