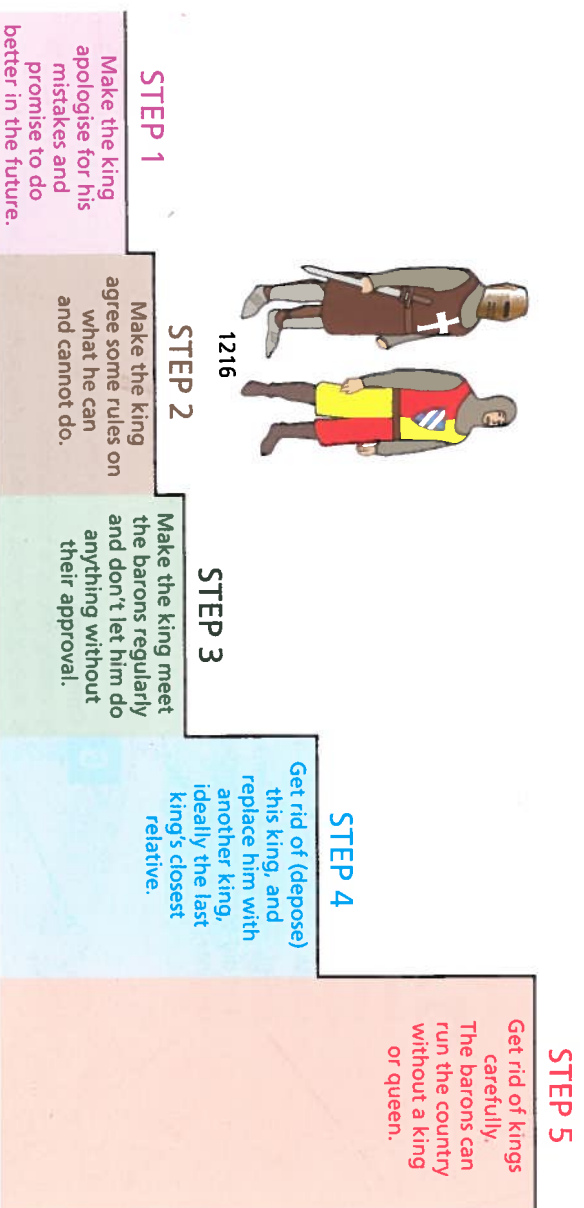




## The Rebellion Steps: how high did they climb?

In 1216 the barons were not trying to get rid of King John. They simply wanted to make him agree some rules for how he governed the country. Later in the Middle Ages there were more rebellions against kings who did not accept these rules. Find out about how far up the Rebellion Steps the barons went. Did they ever try to get rid of kings completely?



### ACTIVITY

- Draw your own version of these Rebellion Steps.
  - Take each rebellion opposite and decide which step the rebels reached. We have already shown where 1216 belongs.
  - Write the date of each rebellion on the correct step.
- Look at the completed steps. What is the difference between what happened in the two rebellions in the 1200s and what happened in the two rebellions in the 1300s?
- Most barons would have agreed with the statements below in 1216. From the evidence on page 119 which would they still agree with in the 1300s?
 

a) Kings are chosen by God. We can't get rid of a king who has been chosen by God.

b) To fight a war you need a king who is a good soldier and can organise and lead the army.

c) I can't imagine a country without a king. Unthinkable!
- Why do you think the barons never reached Step 5?

### A 1258 HENRY III



Henry was King John's son. He became king when he was only nine. He agreed to follow the rules in Magna Carta. But when Henry grew up it was a different story. He did things like relying on French advisers and becoming involved in an expensive war in Sicily. Then he lent the Pope a huge amount of money for a war – without discussing this with the barons. Simon de Montfort and other barons forced Henry to hold regular meetings (called Parliaments) to make sure he governed the country according to the rules in Magna Carta but they did not try to replace him as king.

### B 1327 EDWARD II



Edward II was a poor soldier who lost wars against the Scots but that did not cause a rebellion. What made the barons angry was that Edward listened to the advice of his friend, Piers Gaveston, and ignored them. In 1311 the barons forced Edward to send Gaveston abroad. He came back but was caught and executed by the Duke of Lancaster. Edward hated Lancaster for that and ten years later had his revenge – he had Lancaster taken prisoner and beheaded without trial. Lancaster had simply been murdered on the King's orders. This led to civil war. The barons took Edward prisoner and made his son king instead. Soon afterwards Edward was murdered at Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, probably on the orders of his wife, Isabella, and Roger Mortimer.

### C 1399 RICHARD II



Richard became king in 1377 when he was ten. Four years later he was a hero when he faced thousands of rebels in London and persuaded them to go home (see pages 180–181). Maybe this made Richard think he could do anything he wanted to do. He made two mistakes. Firstly he gave money and land away to his favourite advisers. Secondly, he made peace with France when the barons thought he should be fighting to win more land there. They rebelled in 1386 and took over running the country. Richard was furious but he had to wait to take his revenge. Ten years later he had his enemies executed or forced to hide abroad. Now they also wanted revenge. In 1399 Richard's cousin, Henry, returned with an army and forced Richard to give up being king. Henry became king. Soon afterwards Richard was murdered.