**Migration 1000-1500**

Until 1905 there were no controls on immigration, so people came and went as they pleased. However, there were restrictions within individual cities which had walls and gates to prevent too many ‘foreigns’ arriving. 'Foreigns' were classed as anyone from a town or village outside of the one they were going to. Sometimes they had to pay fees to pass through cities of which they were not free men. Those who were not free men had no right to herd sheep and cattle across the city and no right to trade there. This made it difficult for those 'foreigns' or 'aliens' (the name given to those who came from abroad) to be successful.

Some of the people who came to live in medieval England included:

* A few hundred Norman barons who came with [**William the Conqueror**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zsjnb9q/revision) in 1066.
* Flemish cloth merchants from Belgium, the 'Hanse' merchants from trading ports in Germany, and bankers from Lombardy in Italy.
* Jewish people

Immigrant groups were generally disliked, and they were often attacked, for example:

* In 1381, during the [**Peasants' Revolt**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z2c2pv4/revision), the London mob attacked foreign merchants.
* On 'Evil May Day' 1517, the London mob attacked immigrants and their property.

**Jewish people in England in the Middle Ages**

* Some Jewish people, mostly merchants and bankers, came to England with William the Conqueror.
* By the 12th century there were at most 10,000 Jewish people in England.
* Many were educated and wealthy, eg doctors and goldsmiths. Some of them became famous, eg Aaron of Lincoln, who was said to be the richest man in England in the 1100s and Abraham of York, who owned property all over the country in the 1200s.

However, after 1190, anti-Semitism increased:

* In 1190, the people of York chased the Jewish people into York Castle. Many committed suicide, others were massacred when they left the castle.
* In 1275, Edward I passed the Statute of Jewry, forbidding Jewish people to lend money and forcing them to wear a yellow badge.
* In 1290, Edward I expelled all Jewish people from England.

Jewish people made a great contribution to the life of Britain in the Middle Ages. They were important because Christian laws forbade the lending of money – Jewish lenders financed the King's wars, the building of castles and cathedrals and merchants' trading ventures.