

INDIVIDUALS
ENGAGING IN
SOCIETY

Citizenship Foundation



Using Go-Givers lessons

- This PowerPoint is designed to inform, and to support critical thinking and discussion.
- Go-Givers PowerPoints can be used in their entirety OR content can be saved and edited.
- In order for the **links** and **animation** to work, always show the PowerPoints in 'slide show' view.
- The **green dot** ● in the bottom right hand corner of the slide indicates when the slide animation is complete.
- The **LEARNING ACTIVITIES** are an **essential and integral part of this lesson**. They are linked at the end of this PowerPoint.

This lesson explores the relevance of the Magna Carta, 800 years after it was signed and sealed.





Magna Carta memorial, Runnymede

MAGNA
CARTIA

800 years ago, in the thirteenth century, the barons, the rich and powerful men who owned most of the land in England, were expected to provide King John with both money and men to defend lands that were ruled by England in France.



King John out hunting

Up until this point king John had always consulted with the barons about how much money should be collected in taxes from the people who lived in their areas, and the number of men who would be provided to serve in his army.





1214 was a disastrous year for King John. He had been badly defeated when trying to win back land previously lost in northern France. On his return to England he **demand**ed a higher amount of money in taxes. However, the barons considered they had paid enough! They rebelled against him, and seized power in London. ●

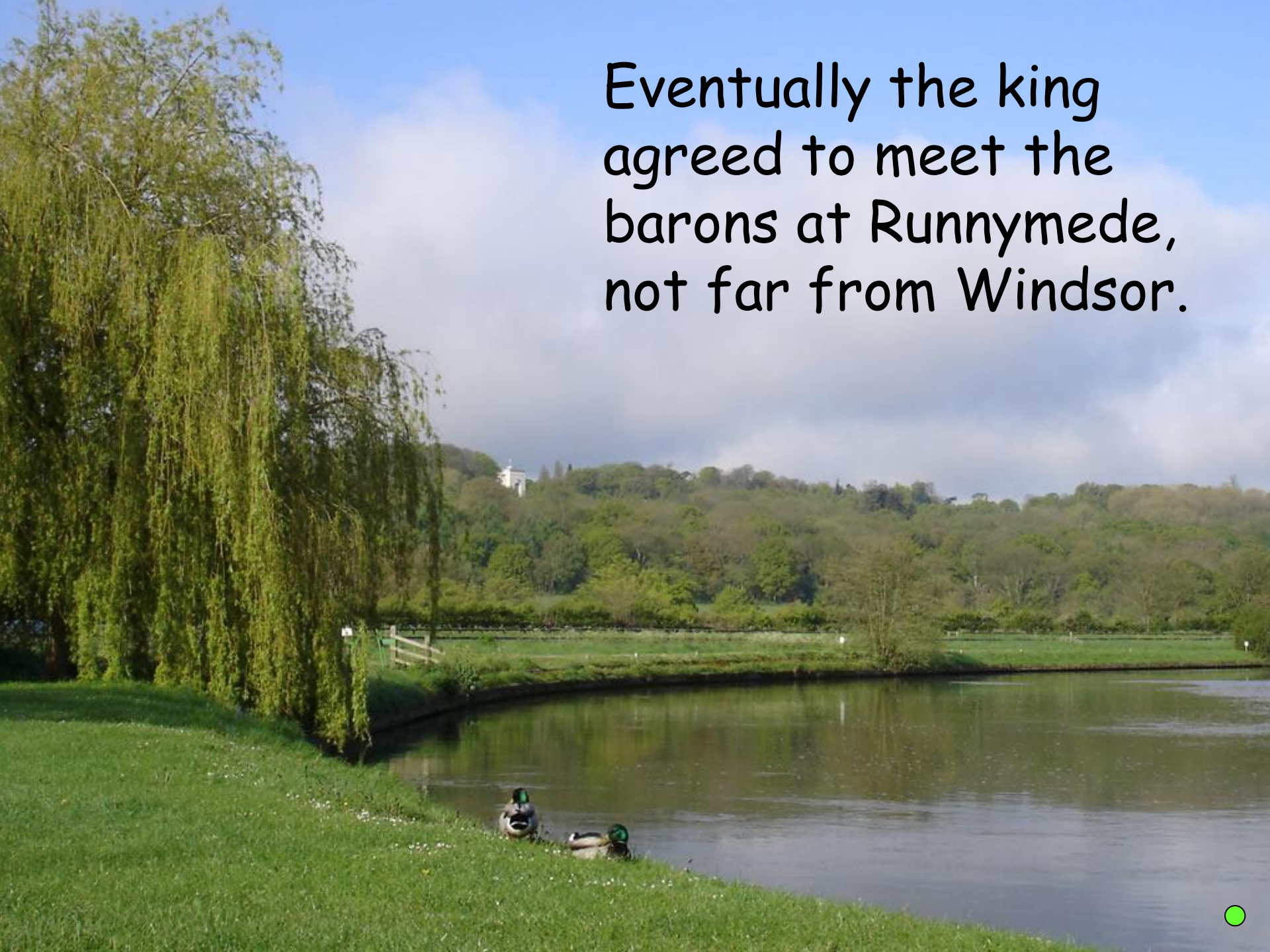
The barons were unable to defeat King John completely, but by the spring of 1215 the king, fearing that the revolt could turn into a full scale civil war, agreed to talks. He sent the Archbishop of Canterbury, Simon Langton, to negotiate with the barons.



Archbishop Simon Langton



Eventually the king
agreed to meet the
barons at Runnymede,
not far from Windsor.



King John signing the
Charter of Liberties



The barons had drawn up a charter declaring that everyone in England would, from then on, have certain rights that the king could not take away from them. Their 'Charter of Liberties' proclaimed that even the king had to obey the law.

In the following months King John sent out 40 copies of the charter (some with spelling mistakes!), one to each county, to be read aloud in the county courts.



King John's seal under
the Magna Carta



The actual document that he sealed on June 15th 1215 is lost, and of the 40 original copies, only four survive. One is in Salisbury cathedral, another is in Lincoln cathedral, and two are in the British Library in London.



The Charter of Liberties was written in Latin on parchment which was made by soaking sheepskin in lime, stretching it very tightly between pegs in the ground and leaving it to dry. When the skin was scraped with a knife it created a smooth writing surface.



The Charter of Liberties later became known as the Magna Carta (Latin for 'Great Charter'). It limited the power of the king and laid the way for trial by jury which gives people the right to be tried by their equals.



The Magna Carta has become a symbol against oppression - of freedom under the law, and is the basis for constitutions throughout the world.



Activities to complete this lesson include:

- Discussion about fairness

