

Time travel: England in the year 1200

Hello, time travellers! England in 1200 is a very different place from England today. Come and meet some of the children from the time of Robin Hood.



Daily Work

Marian in *Robin Hood* is 21. That's very old for a girl with no husband.

CECILY doesn't go to school – there aren't any schools in her town. She helps her mother with her work. They make cloth and work in their garden. She's twelve years old – ready for marriage. She likes a boy in her town, but he's from a very poor family. She can't be his wife. Marriage isn't about love, it's about money. Her father is looking for a good husband for her.

What is good and bad about life for teenagers in Robin Hood's England?



The Madonna

ELEANOR is fourteen years old. She lives in a convent and wants to be a nun. She sees her family every month, but she can never leave the convent. She can read and write – she has lessons from the nuns. But nuns can't dance or eat nice food, and they can't have husbands or children. Eleanor goes to the chapel at 2 o'clock every night, and five times every day. She helps in the convent hospital too.

An abbess governs the nuns in a convent. In 1200, it is the only good job for a woman without an important husband.

EDWARD is eleven and he comes from an important family. He wants to be a knight. He doesn't live with his family. He lives in a castle and has lessons there. He can read, but his important lessons are horseriding and swordfighting. There are very young boys at the castle with him. Some are only seven.



A Knight

Robin Hood and Sir Guy of Gisborne are knights. They are good at swordfighting after years of lessons like Edward's.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

travel(ler) cloth marriage knight convent horseriding swordfighting