



Why was Barrow-in-Furness so important in the Middle Ages?



Teacher's Pet



Why was Furness Abbey so rich and powerful?



Barrow-in-Furness

Below are some reasons why Furness Abbey became so rich and powerful - use these statements to decide which was the most important reason. Take 4 different coloured pencils and colour code the reasons, to sort them into:

- ☐ Religious reasons (to do with how much people believed in God).
- ☐ Economic reasons (to do with how much money the abbey had and could make).
- ☐ Political reasons (to do with ruling and making decisions).
- ☐ Social reasons (to do with peoples' everyday lives).

Do some of the reasons fit in more than one category? If so, use more than one colour!

The abbey owned a lot of the land in and around what is now Barrow. They made money by selling crops grown on their land and grazing sheep on their granges, then selling the wool.

The monks were by far the largest employers within the area and they became landlords - people paid them to rent their land to set up home and farms.

The abbey became involved in law and order and ruling south Cumbria. The head monk, the abbot decided who would have top jobs like bishops and sheriffs.

As well as farming, the monks made money by running fulling mills, corn mills and tanneries. They mined iron ore, made charcoal, and dug peat. They built salt works to mine salt from the sea and they owned the rivers of Duddon and Lune so they could fish and sell their catch.

The monks provided somewhere for travellers to rest and charity for the poor. They looked after the sick and needy.

Most people in England at the time were very religious. They thought the monks were very important because they were close to God. People who could afford to, gave money and gifts to the abbey to show their love of God. They believed the monks could help them get to heaven.

As well as praying, the monks spent a lot of time reading books about all sorts of topics like politics, philosophy and the arts. People listened to what they had to say on many issues not just religious ones.



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Why was Furness Abbey so rich and powerful? - Answers

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Historic England



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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



**Historic
England**



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.