Four Reasons for the Decline of Feudalism.

1. The Magna Carta
2. The Black Plague
3. The invention of the longbow
4. The Crusades

Students will be able to list the four basic reasons for the decline of feudalism.
REMEmBER! (Activating Prior Knowledge)

We discussed three characteristics that made up feudalism:

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Political: Kings were in charge of the government and held power. They believed they were there because of God’s will. The Catholic Church also had a lot of power in government.

Economic: People had specific jobs and worked on manors. They were stuck in these jobs for life.

Social: There was a hierarchical structure that made up the feudal pyramid. Some people were more important than others.
4 things happen to change all of these characteristics of feudalism.

Oh! I’m afraid of change. But it’s going to happen, and it could be good!
First reason for the decline of feudalism

• Magna Carta

• A written agreement from 1215 that limited the English king’s power and strengthened the rights of the nobles.

• Think/Pair/Share: Which feudal characteristic (political, economic, or social) do you think the Magna Carta would have affected most? Discuss why you think that.
Second reason for the decline of feudalism

- **Bubonic Plague**
  - A deadly contagious disease caused by bacteria and spread by fleas. AKA: Black Death.
  - Many millions of deaths.

Think/Pair/Share: How do you think this would have affected jobs people had in the Middle Ages? (Hint: What if many of the people in a particular job died?)
3rd reason for the decline of feudalism

• Invention of the longbow.
  A medieval weapon that made it easier to pierce the armor of knights and was effective from a long distance. It was also cheap and could be produced in great numbers.

• Think/Pair/Share: How might this have made knights less important?
4th reason for decline of feudalism

- Crusades

- A series of religious wars against Muslims in Asia by European Christians.

- This and other wars took large amounts of people out of Europe to fight in the Middle East.

- Think/Pair/Share: How might a long war affect people?