

How did Eleanor of Aquitaine change the amount of land controlled by the Kings of England?



On the maps on the left, the land ruled over by English kings is coloured in red. You can see how the English kings ruled over land in France, as well as England.

The map on the **left** shows the land controlled by English kings before Eleanor of Aquitaine became Queen of England.

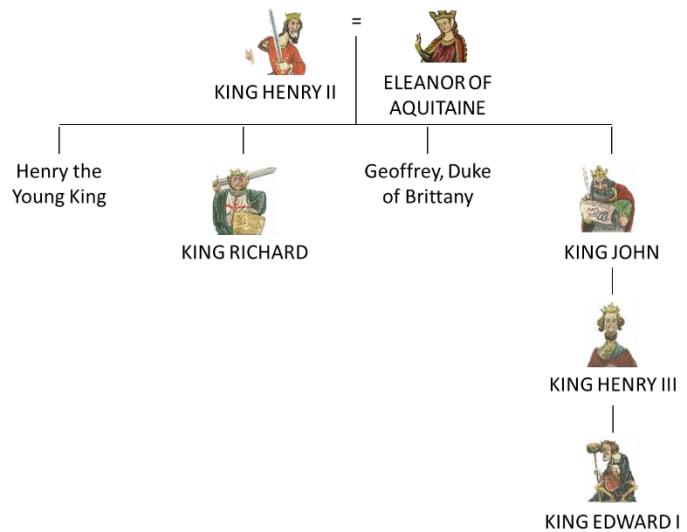
After Eleanor of Aquitaine became Queen of England, in 1154, English kings ruled over a lot more land in France. You can see this by looking at the map on the **right**. The reason English kings now ruled over more land in France was because they now ruled Aquitaine as well, because Eleanor of Aquitaine had married into the English royal family.

How did Eleanor of Aquitaine change the English royal family?

Eleanor and Henry II had eight children. This is only part of their family tree but it shows, of their children, two men who would be King of England: Richard the Lionheart and John. At the time of his reign, Richard was seen as a really good king. John was seen as a really, really bad one.

As well as having two sons who became King of England, Eleanor's eldest son, Henry was crowned 'the Young King' while his father was still alive. However, the Young King died before Henry II and so never became King in his own right.

Descendants of Henry II and Eleanor would go on to sit on the throne of England for hundreds of years.



How did Eleanor of Aquitaine change medieval ideas?



Eleanor loved music and poetry and she made sure that the court (the people) that surrounded her were full of both.

Eleanor encouraged and promoted ideas of knights and princesses falling desperately and tragically in love. She also encouraged songs about fighting and dying for what is right. These ideas and songs became popular during this period – particularly because Eleanor promoted them.

Eleanor of Aquitaine also helped create and spread the idea of knightly **chivalry** (the idea of a brave knight filled with honour), although she didn't invent the idea entirely by herself. In fact, many of the ideas we have about medieval times started in the period and many of these ideas were encouraged by Eleanor.