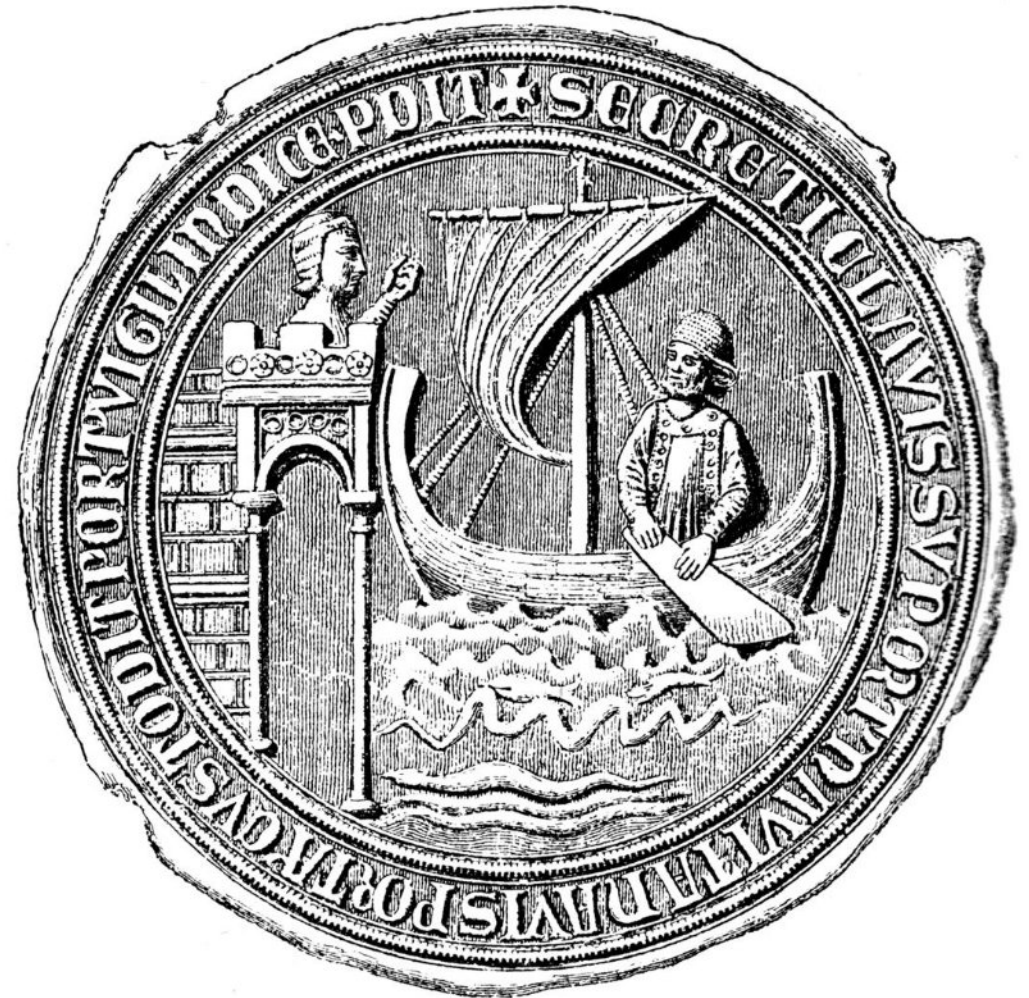


# ? Why did Bristol become a centre for trade?

## The First Seal of Bristol







# Why did Bristol become a centre for trade?

## The First Seal of Bristol

Look at the image of the very first seal of the City of Bristol, issued early in the reign of King Edward I who reigned from 1272 to 1307. A seal is a device that is engraved with a design in order to make an impression in hot wax. The hot wax was used to seal important documents and the seal was pressed into it as a way of showing who was responsible for the document. It would have been used on official City of Bristol letters and papers.

What can you see on the two sides of the seal?

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Can you make out any of the text written around the edges?

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What do you think the seal says about Bristol at the time?

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One side of the seal shows a watchman standing on the great keep of Bristol Castle. The castle would have been a recognisable landmark of the city and also represents power and a sense of pride in the city. The word Bristollig is visible on this side.

The other side of the seal shows a ship approaching the castle watergate along the River Avon. In the water are fish and eels showing that the river was teeming with life. A watchman points out the watergate while the captain steers towards it using a broad board over the side of the ship. Unusually for seals of this time, the ship is sailing towards Bristol rather than away. Perhaps this was to show that Bristol was open to and welcoming of trade. The text is in Latin and says, 'Secreti clavis sum portus. Navita navis Portam custodit. Portum vigil indice prodit.' Translating to, 'I am the key of the hidden port. The sailor watches the port side of the ship. The watchman points out the port with his finger.'

The seal portrays Bristol as a proud and powerful city where trade plays an important role.





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Teacher's Pet



Historic England



**Bristol**



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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.

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Historic England



Teacher's Pet

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## 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.