

History Grade 7

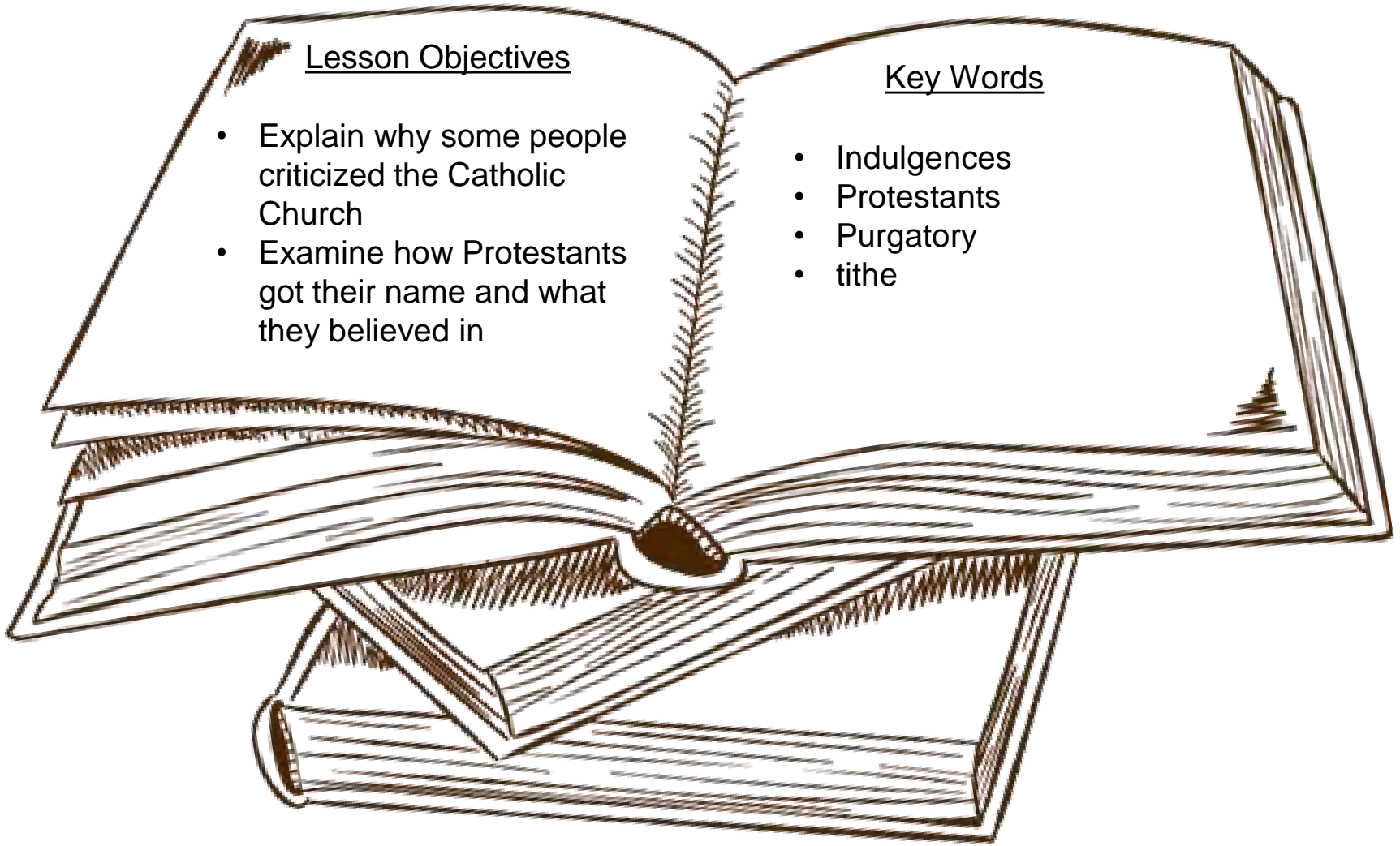
What did Protestants protest about?

Lesson Objectives

- Explain why some people criticized the Catholic Church
- Examine how Protestants got their name and what they believed in

Key Words

- Indulgences
- Protestants
- Purgatory
- tithe



The importance of religion



- The church was the centre of community for most people
- If you got sick or there was a bad harvest, then it was God's punishment because you had been bad

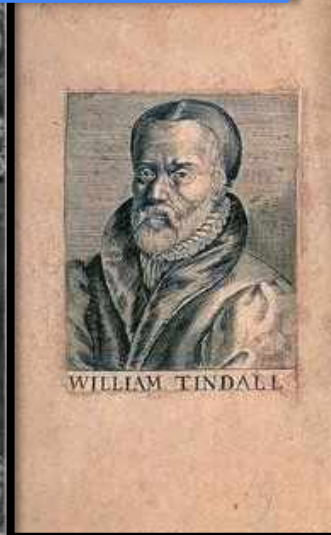
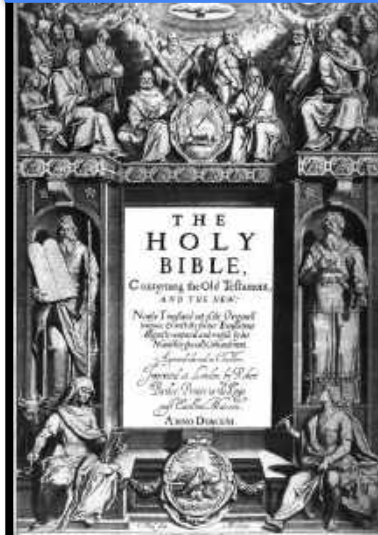
Spreading the word

- By 1500, there were lots of books available to read including the bible in English not Latin
- after reading the bible people started to wonder if everything the church had told them was true
- People started to criticize the church
- There were four main criticisms

Why do you think William Tyndale was executed?



William Tyndale was executed for translating the bible from Latin to English in 1536



Four main criticisms of the church

Criticism No. 1

The church was too rich

- the church owned lots of **land** in England
- peasants had to give **10% of their harvests to church** every year (a **tithe**)



Four main criticisms of the church

Criticism No. 2

The priests didn't lead a 'holy' life

- there were complaints that some priests spent more time in the pub than church
- other priests were said to be living with women



Four main criticisms of the church

Criticism No. 3

Ordinary people couldn't understand the church services

- church services were held in Latin
- people could not understand what was being said so they found it hard to feel close to God



Four main criticisms of the church

Criticism No. 4

Poor people couldn't afford 'indulgences'

- The church taught then when someone dies, they go either to heaven or hell
- **Purgatory** is like a horrible waiting room for heaven
- The time you spent in purgatory depended on how bad you had been on earth
- However, people could buy **indulgences** from the church to pass through **purgatory** faster

What do think was the complaint about this? **Indulgences were just a scam**



Indulgences were certificates sold by the Catholic Church, believed to reduce the time a person's soul spent in purgatory after death by forgiving some of their sins

Martin Luther

- In 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther protested against the Catholic Church.
- He wanted to change the way people worshiped God.
- His followers became to be known as **Protestants**.

You can read more about Martin Luther on p 19 in the book.

Martin Luther - wrote an essay "Letter to the Pope" to criticise the Church(indulgences, opulence, priests' behaviors, Latin)

William Tyndale translated the Bible to English



Dear Pope,

I have been a loyal monk for the Catholic church for many years. However, I feel I cannot serve the church anymore unless it makes many important changes. Here are my main criticisms of the Catholic Church:

- The church is too rich with many priests and monks living in luxury while most people are poor
- The selling of indulgences is appalling, it is a scam.
- The bible is in Latin, how do you expect our fellow believers to understand what God wants us to do?