



**SARDEGNA SPEAKS ENGLISH**  
LINEA DI INTERVENTO 1  
REALIZZAZIONE DI PROGETTI PER L'APPRENDIMENTO DELL'INGLESE  
ATTRAVERSO LA METODOLOGIA CLIL



Liceo Scientifico "Europa Unita" – Porto Torres

### LESSON 3: FRENCH DISASTERS

FILL THE BLANKS WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS

fleet **Flemish** attacked **muddy** besieged **massacred** cavalry **destroyed**  
pike **well-trained** weakened **Channel** infantry **surrendered** stronghold  
**invading** land **wage** nutcracker **spare**

#### The English "nutcracker"

Tactically Edward had a strong position, with the French caught in a "\_\_\_\_\_1" between Edward's lands held as Duke of Aquitaine in the south and his \_\_\_\_\_2 and other allies in the north.

#### French disasters:

##### (1) losing control of the Channel

In 1340, the French king prepared the first blow: he assembled a great \_\_\_\_\_3, carrying an army to crush England's allies in Flanders before \_\_\_\_\_4 England itself. But the English \_\_\_\_\_5 and \_\_\_\_\_5 the French fleet at sea off Sluys (east of Dunkerque, in modern Holland). Both sides anchored their ships and fought something like a \_\_\_\_\_6 battle across the wooden decks.



Edward III now controlled the \_\_\_\_\_7 and was free to invade and \_\_\_\_\_8 war over the enemy's lands - which proved catastrophic for the people of the North. The English army was a mixed force of \_\_\_\_\_9, archers, \_\_\_\_\_10 men and light cavalry - battle-hardened after successfully fighting the Welsh and Scots, and made up of \_\_\_\_\_11 and organized English mercenaries, enthusiastic supporters of his cause and eager for plunder. They proved to be the most effective army Europe had seen since the Romans.

##### (2) losing their finest knights at Crecy

In 1346, the English invaders were \_\_\_\_\_12 by sickness and retreating to the channel ports. They took a stand on a hill at Crecy. As the heavily armoured French knights struggled up the \_\_\_\_\_13 hillside in a traditional feudal \_\_\_\_\_14 charge, they were \_\_\_\_\_15 by the English infantry and archers - a lesson they did not learn.

##### (3) losing Calais, which gave England a base in North France

Edward III then \_\_\_\_\_16 Calais. After a year, the inhabitants were starving - but under medieval tradition, they would expect to be killed if the attackers succeeded, because they had fought back. Six leading citizens offered their own lives if Edward III would \_\_\_\_\_17 the rest of the townsfolk. His queen took pity on them, and asked if the brave burghers could also be spared if the town \_\_\_\_\_18. The citizens of Calais were permitted to leave their town without further bloodshed; their homes were given to new English settlers, who made Calais into a fortified English \_\_\_\_\_19 - a base for military expeditions into France and the near-Continent for the next two centuries.

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### Misery and the Black Death

A	The first half of the Hundred Years War proved	there were appalling plagues	1
B	Destructive fighting disrupted the economy:	and France died in 1348 in the Black Death)	2
C	(at least a third of the population of both England	as catastrophic for the North as well as the rest of France	3
D	and violent and bloody revolts in which	peasants looted nobles' houses and castles.	4

Match the two halves of the sentences

A\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_

### French defeat and creation of the Franc

Peace was declared in 1360. The English won a massive victory at **Poitiers (1356)**, capturing the French King Jean le Bon. He was released for a ransom paid in gold coins called "franc-or" - "free gold".\* He agreed to end the fighting, and to leave the English in control of large areas in western France - as well as Calais.