

### Monastic buildings card sort.

For the convenience of the teacher, the descriptions are by the correct labels, and the labels are numbered! This can be used with the picture on the Monastery PDF and the Merton Priory Introduction ppt. (The ppt has all the labels on – you may wish to put some animated entrances in.)

Church	Monks were in church a lot, from the middle of the night, right throughout the day until early evening.
Prior's lodgings	The prior was the head of the monastery, and was the only one of the brethren to have his own lodgings.
Grange	a grange was a monastic farm. A monastery would have lots of granges, not necessarily nearby. The one at home was the <i>demesne</i> (pronounced 'demean').
Fishponds	Although meat was occasionally allowed, fish was more a part of the monks' diet, and most monasteries had fishponds to provide them and their guests with fish. At Merton, the reredorter drains went through the fishponds, ensuring that the fish got a nice, protein-rich diet (of monk poo!).
Bakehouse	The main parts of a monk's diet were vegetables and bread, so the bakery or bakehouse was very important. It used flour from the granary. It was sensible to have the bakehouse a little way away from the main monastic buildings – why?
Almonry	This is where food, drink, clothes and medicines were given out to the poor and needy. Caring for the community was an important function of a monastery.
Dormitory	The brethren shared a big room to sleep in. As time progressed, so too did the desire for privacy, and later in the Middle Ages the dormitory was split up with partitions.

Reredorter	This was the communal loo block. The latrines went into the drains, which went into the river via the fishponds.
Refectory	This was the dining hall. Meals were eaten in silence, except for a reading or a sermon.
Cloister	This had a garden in the middle of it, and four covered sides, where brothers would study, write or copy manuscripts (see Scriptorium), and sit quietly.
Workshops	Merton, like other monasteries, took a long time to be built, so it needed places where masons and carpenters and plumbers (people who worked with lead, for the drains and roofs) could work. Some monks might have been craftsmen, but mainly craftsmen were hired professionals.
Scriptorium	This was a room in the cloister where manuscripts could be written and copied – these were the days before printing. Books would take a long time to complete, especially if they were decorated with lovely pictures. The word ‘manuscript’ comes from the Latin ‘manus’ (hand) and ‘scribo’ (to write).
Stables	Horses, donkeys, mules and asses were used by the monastery, and guests also had somewhere to put their horses when they came to stay. Horse poo made excellent compost for the monastic vegetable garden!
Kitchen and Brewhouse	This is where all the monastery’s food was prepared, and the ale made. Water was drunk, but ale tended to be the main drink – it was much less alcoholic than now, and was quite nourishing.
Orchard Garden	This had fruit trees, beehives – and some graves.

Infirmary	This was the brothers' hospital and old people's care home. Brethren in the infirmary had a special diet (they were allowed meat!).
Granary	Grain (wheat, barley, oats) was used for baking and for brewing, and it was important to store it properly so that it didn't go off. Grain for baking was taken to the water mill to be ground into flour.
Guests' lodgings	Hospitality was an important part of monastic life, but guests usually were not allowed to go into the main part of the monastery, as the brethren had all vowed to separate themselves from the world. So guests had special rooms to stay in. At Merton, King Henry III (1216-72) stayed so often that he had his own quarters.
Chapter House	Every morning the monks would meet in the Chapter House to discuss monastery business. If a brother had been naughty, he'd have to confess and lie face down in front of everyone else. The Chapter House was also used for meetings with visitors.
Gatehouse	Just like a castle, a monastery needed a gatehouse to keep out visitors (and robbers!). At Merton in the 1160s, the gatehouse keeper was called Ralph.
Infirmary Chapel	The brethren in the infirmary had their own special chapel so they wouldn't have to go right across the cloisters to the main church.