

The Middle Ages in Europe

COMPLETE UNIT GUIDE PACKET

OVERVIEW

The **European Middle Ages** occur chronologically between the Roman Empire and the modern age that we live in. The Middle Ages are divided into three time periods- the **Early Middle Ages**, or the **dark ages**, the **High Middle Ages**, and the **Late Middle Ages**.

During the early Middle Ages Europe was coping with the effects of the **barbarian invasions** and the fall of the Roman Empire. Christianity was in decline, literacy was lost, cities were abandoned, and population declined. In general, life was pretty miserable and dangerous for most people. It was during this time that Feudalism emerged in Europe.

Feudalism is both a social structure and a political system.

Life in Europe was much improved during the High Middle Ages . The Invasions were over. Christian monks had converted the pagan peoples who had invaded Europe. Trade returned as the countryside became safer for travelers. The weather also changed and so farmers could grow enough food to feed everyone. During the **Crusades** Europeans fought Muslim Caliphates over the control of the Holy Land in the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula. Europeans also connected to trades routes such as the Silk roads. As a result, Europeans had access to technologies and scientific knowledge from other regions in Eurasia. Banking emerged in Europe. The first **universities** were founded. The middle-class merchants and artisans reemerged. They created craft **guilds** to manage their affairs and cooperated to govern cities. The **Gothic** style of architecture emerged in new Cathedrals, showing the wealth and power of the kings as well as the influence of the Church in society. It was during the High Middle ages that feudalism began to be challenged by Kings that wanted more power over their nobles and more political control over the church.



In the late middle ages, the weather turned against Europeans again. Problems in the Church caused the **Great Schism** when multiple men claimed to be pope at the same time. Increased trade brought Europeans a disease called the **Black Death** in 1347. As a result, people began to question the authority of church officials. Feudalism broke down when kings began to hire professional militaries to defend their interests. A war lasting 100 years between two emerging nation states- **France** and **England** finally helped to create a new political order based not on Feudalism but common culture and patriotism. Gunpowder, brought to Europe by the Mongols from China, made castles and siege warfare obsolete.

Answer in complete sentences

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS - on a separate sheet of paper.

- How did the Christian church become the leading power in Europe?
- How did the distribution of wealth affect societal structure and quality of life during the Medieval Times?
- Why did the feudal system develop and how did it impact society and economics?
- What were the causes and effects of Viking invasions?
- What were the economic and cultural effects of the Crusades?
- What effects did the Black Death have on Medieval Europe?
- To what extent can the Middle Ages be described as the "Dark Ages"?

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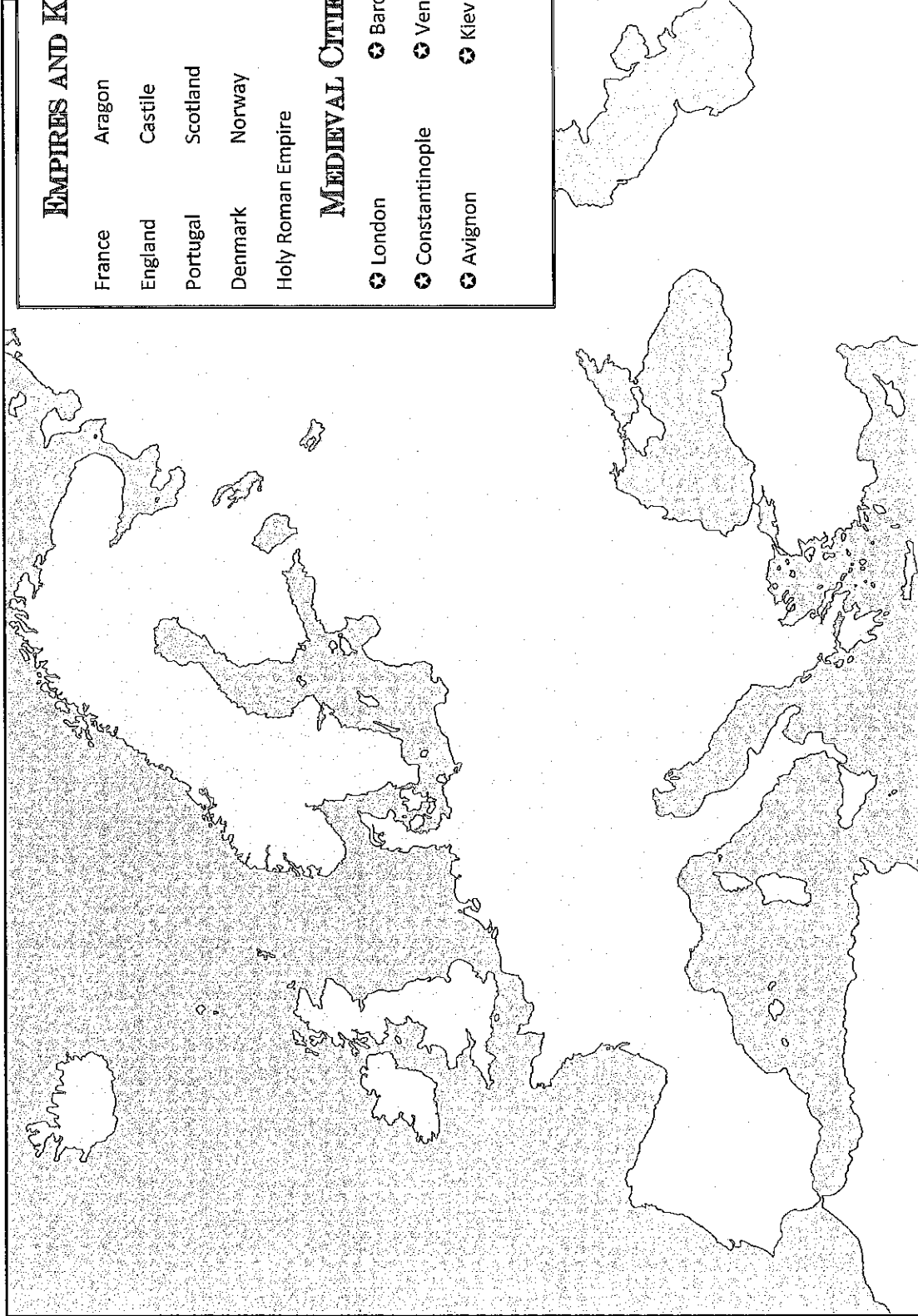
VOCABULARY

Directions: Write the definition for each word in the middle column and draw a picture to represent each in the 3rd column.

Feudal System		
Serfs		
Chivalry		
100 Years' War		
Common Law		
Magna Carta		
Crusades		
Black Death		
Czar		

GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Directions: Color and label the Empires and Kingdoms of Europe listed in the key and then add the cities to the map.



EMPIRES AND KINGDOMS

France	Aragon	Byzantine Empire
England	Castile	Ireland
Portugal	Scotland	Papal States
Denmark	Norway	Sweden
Holy Roman Empire		

MEDIEVAL CITIES

London	Barcelona
Constantinople	Venice
Avignon	Kiev

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Directions: Use the bank of names below to identify the appropriate category for each person. For each person, identify the significant contributions that person made to history.

William the Conqueror

King John of England

Ferdinand and Isabella

Charlemagne

Richard the Lionheart

Saladin

Joan of Arc

Hugh Capet

St Thomas Aquinas

Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:
Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:
Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Contributions:

TIMELINE OF EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Directions: Place the following events on the timeline. Include the date and draw in images or symbols for at least 4 of them.

Fall of the Roman Empire

The First Crusade

Hundred Years War Begins

Battle of Tours

The Second Crusade

Black Death Begins

Charlemagne Crowned Emperor

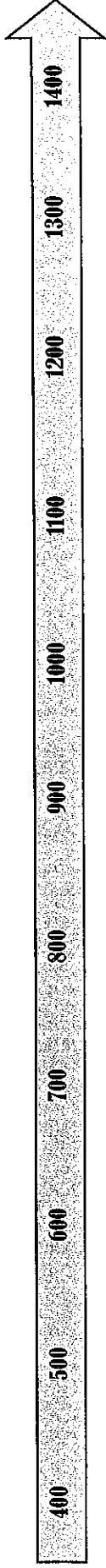
Third Crusade

Siege of Orléans

Battle of Hastings

Signing of the Magna Carta

Ottomans Captured Constantinople



Which event from this era do you feel had the biggest impact on Europe and why?

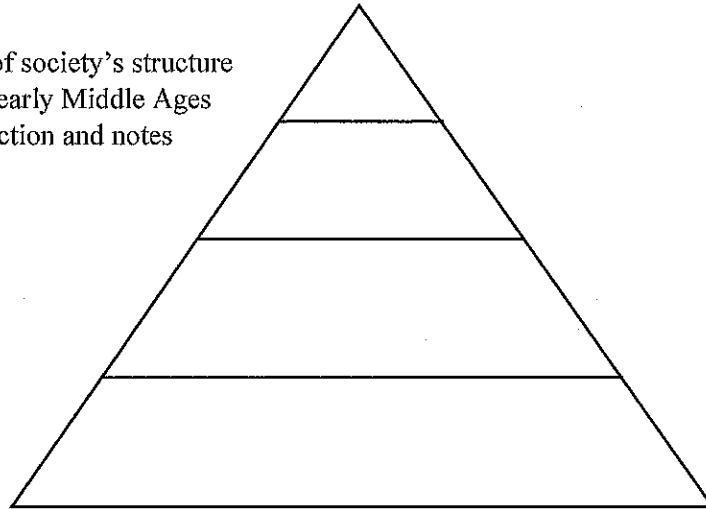
How did the empires and powers of Europe change over this 1,000-year period?

KEY CONCEPTS

Directions: For each section, either takes notes on the required topics or answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Feudal Pyramid

Complete this graphic representation of society's structure under feudalism in Europe during the early Middle Ages by adding the correct group to each section and notes about them on the outside.



The Crusades: Goal and Effects

The main goal of Crusades was to:

EFFECT on women	EFFECT on merchants	EFFECT on power of popes and kings	EFFECT on relations between Muslims and Christians

“Since we have granted all these things for God, for the better ordering of our kingdom, and to allay the discord that has arisen between us and our barons, and since we desire that they shall be enjoyed in their entirety, with lasting strength, forever, we give and grant to the barons the following security:

The barons shall elect twenty-five of their number to keep, and cause to be observed with all their might, the peace and liberties granted and confirmed to them by this charter.”

The Magna Carta was a signed agreement between King John of England and 25 Barons in 1215. It was drafted by the Archbishop of Canterbury to make peace between the unpopular King and a group of rebel barons.

What did the Magna Carta do?

What long-term political impact did the Magna Carta have on the world?

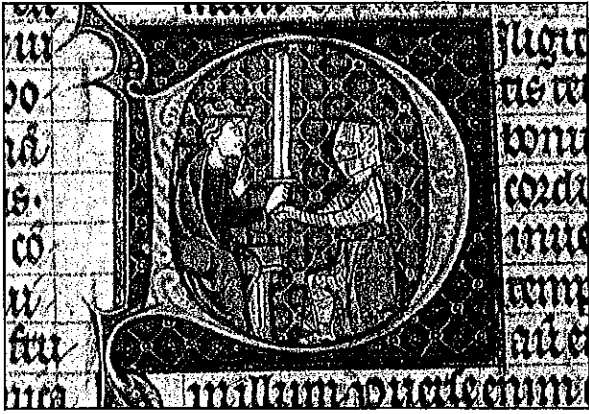
<p>What was the purpose of guilds in the Middle Ages?</p> <p>What modern-day organizations serve a similar purpose to guilds? Explain.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Guilds in the Middle Ages</p> <p>As towns began to re-emerge in the Middle Ages, merchants joined together to form associations called guilds (sometimes spelled gilds). Guilds were groups of town workers and craftsmen who supported one another. Initially the merchants of a town formed guilds to control trade by regulating the buying and selling of goods. Eventually craftsmen followed suit, banding together according to their craft. A guild existed for every type of craft: bakers, weavers, armorers, candle-makers, and goldsmiths to name only a few. Guilds had high standards, not only for gaining membership into the guild, but also for carrying out their craft's quality standards once persons became members. To become a member, a young man usually went through an apprenticeship, under a master craftsman for 7 years.</p>
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<p>“It is the custom in England, as in other countries, for the nobility to have great power over the common people, who are their serfs. This means that they are bound by law and custom to plough the fields of their masters, harvest the corn, gather it into barns, and thresh and winnow the grain; they must also mow and carry home the hay, cut and collect wood, and perform all manner of tasks of this kind.”</p> <p>- Jean Froissart, <i>Chronicles</i> (c. 1395)</p>	<p><i>Jean Froissart's Chronicles are a history of 14th-century England and France. The work is perceived as being of vital importance to informed understandings of Europe in the 14th century.</i></p> <p>What did it mean to be a serf, according to Jean Froissart?</p> <p>What made the Feudal System an effective system for controlling society?</p>
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<p>“In 1347, 12 Genoese ships entered the harbor of Messina. In their bones they bore so virulent a disease that anyone who only spoke to them was seized by a mortal illness and in no manner could evade death. The infection spread to everyone who had any contact with the diseased. Those infected felt themselves penetrated by a pain throughout their whole bodies and, so to say, undermined. Then there developed on the thighs or upper arms a boil about the size of a lentil which the people called ‘burn boil.’ This infected the whole body, and penetrated it so that the patient violently vomited blood. This vomiting of blood continued without intermission for three days, there being no means of healing it, and then the patient expired. Not only all those who had speech with them died, but also those who had touched or used any of their things.”</p> <p>- Michael Platiensis (1357)</p>	<p><i>In 1357, Michael Platiensis wrote an account of the plague and how it spread through Sicily.</i></p> <p>What were the symptoms of the plague?</p> <p>How did the disease spread?</p>
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VISUAL LITERACY

Directions: Use the included images and captions to answer each of the questions.



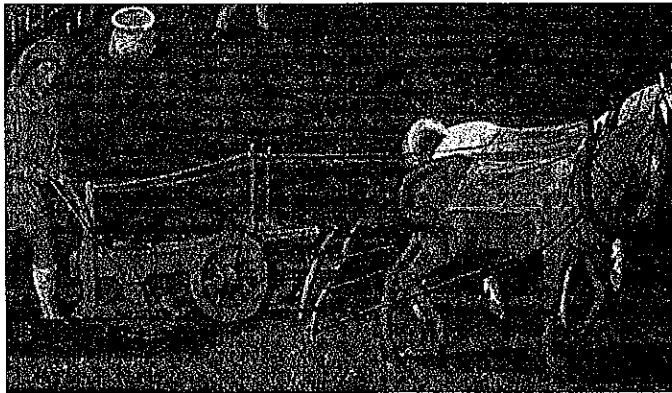
A knight promises to be loyal to his king in this image from an illuminated manuscript from 1390,

How did the feudal agreement between kings, knights, and lords benefit each?

Lewes Castle is a medieval castle in England and was first built shortly after the Norman conquest of England in 1066.

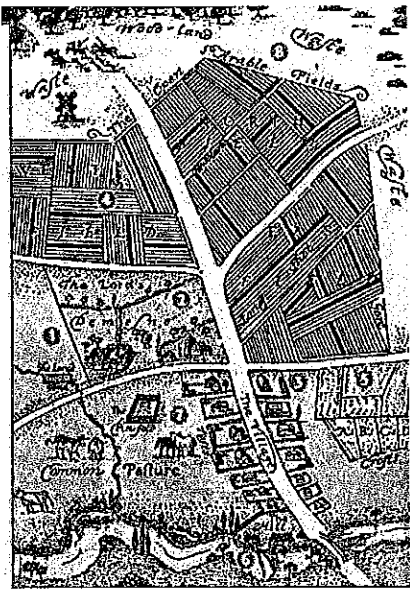
Why were castles built during the Middle Ages?

Why do you think castles eventually stopped being useful?



What innovations were there in agriculture during this period?

What impact did these innovations have?



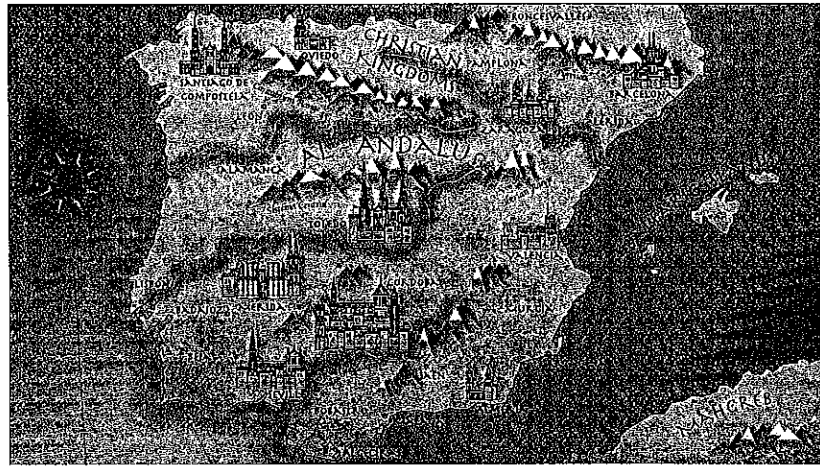
The manor system was a way that feudal lords organized their lands in order to produce agricultural goods.

What was the manor system and why did it develop?

How did the manor system impact society and economics?

Al-Andalus was the name given by Muslims during the Middle Ages to the Iberian Peninsula after the Umayyad conquest. Arab or Berber states controlled the region between 711 and 1492.

How was Al-Andalus distinct from the rest of Europe during this period?



Gothic architecture flourished in Europe during the High and Late Middle Ages. It evolved from Romanesque architecture in 12th century France. The defining element of Gothic architecture is the pointed arch. It is the primary engineering innovation and design component. The use of the pointed arch in turn led to the development of the pointed ribbed vault, the flying buttress and window tracery. These elements together formed a structurally and aesthetically integrated style.

What design elements are found in Gothic architecture and what purposes do they serve?

