

MIDDLE AGES

After the fall of the Roman Empire came the Middle Ages, also called Medieval Times and Dark Ages. They were called the Dark Ages because there was no recording of events like there had been during the rule of the Roman Empire. Culture and knowledge was lost. Life during the Middle Ages was very religious and often violent at times.

The King was the leader of the land. He would divide the land (also called a fief) and loan it to the Barons, who would now be loyal. Fiefs included the village, manor or castle, and the farmland. To receive a fief, a lord had to promise loyalty, agree to fight for the king, give ransom money if the king was captured, and care for the serfs (peasants working the land).

The Bishop was the powerful, and sometimes rich, leader of the church in the kingdom. Barons and Nobles reported to the king. They provided soldiers and an army for the king. If unable to raise, they would pay a tax called shield money. Below the Barons and Nobles were the Lords and Knights. Lords ran the manors and castles alongside their Ladies (wives). These lords served as the king's knights. Lords owned the village lands, and peasants. Peasants were the lower working class, sometimes called serfs.

The Hundred Years War from 1337 to 1453 was a series of battles (and peace) between England and France. They fought over land, the wool trade, and French support for Scotland. England controlled French territory. However, France didn't like being under English rule. King Edward III of England tried to establish that he was the proper king of France because his mother was the daughter of the French king, Philip V. However, Edward III was rejected, and Philip VI took the throne. King Edward III retaliated by raiding French land, burning crops, and plundering cities. This Edwardian Era War lasted from 1337-1360.

The Caroline War ran from 1369-1389. Charles V of France became king in 1362. His rule included hit-and-run raids against the English to cut off supplies

TEXT MARKING



Who fought in the Hundred Years War?



When was the Edwardian Era?



What was shield money?



What were the Middle Ages also known as?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

retaliated -

plundering -

and lower morale. Edward III and his son, the Black Prince, tried to stop France's advancement but were not successful.

The Lancastrian War lasted from 1415-1453. King Henry V, the new king of England, invaded France again in 1415. He had some success. He eventually captured some territory in Normandy. Joan of Arc took control of the French army. She led the French to several victories before being captured and killed by the English.

Castles served as homes for kings and nobility during Medieval Times. Castles sat on top of hills and were made of wood, timber, and stone. Sometimes they were built on a spring so they could use water during an attack. They had many features built in to defend and launch attacks. Usually, castles were surrounded by a moat (a trench surrounding the castle that was filled with water). Entrance to a castle required a drawbridge. The keep was a large tower that served as the last place of defense. The curtain wall was a walkway from which arrows could be launched. The gatehouse reinforced the castle where it was weakest - at the gate.

Knights were warriors during the Middle Ages. Wanting to be a knight was expensive, so most knights were wealthy. First, knights started out as pages learning how to use weapons, ride a horse, and use appropriate manners with lords and ladies. Then they became squires, who were usually teenagers. They taught the pages, trained for battle, and fought alongside their assigned knight. Those who succeeded became a knight with his own coat of arms. Knights agreed to a special code of conduct, pledged loyalty to the lord, and showed humility, honor, sacrifice, courage, grace, and faithfulness.

The Black Death was a plague that traveled along the Silk Road. It lasted from 1347-1350. Historians believe rats caught the disease on European merchant ships. These rats had fleas which would bite a person. A third of the people in Europe died from the Black Plague. The real name for the Black Death is bubonic plague. Symptoms included high fevers, blue and black blotches on the body, and a rash on the neck and arms with rings and a dark center spot.

TEXT MARKING



What is a moat?



What did a page learn to do?



What were symptoms of the Black Death?



What was the real name of the Black Death?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

plague -

morale -

MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS

During the Middle Ages, there were three main types of soldiers: foot soldiers, archers, and knights. Knights were some of the most elite members of Medieval Society. Around the ages of seven, young boys had to decide if they wanted to be a knight and start training. Future knights had to be born wealthy and into the upper class, so the son of a merchant, blacksmith, or peasant could not become a knight. The boys had to have enough money for horses, weapons, and armor, which were very expensive.

Training was important in order to become a knight. Around age seven, the boys would become a page and serve the knight they were shadowing. This meant serving meals, cleaning, and delivering messages. The pages would also learn how to care for horses, how to hold and use wooden swords, along with basic battle tactics. The wooden swords were called a quintain. Once they were a teenager, around age 14 or 15, the knights in training became squires. The word squire meant "shield-bearer." A squire had more important responsibilities than a page. Squires began using real weapons, cleaning the knight's armor, taking care of his weapons in peace and in war, and began their education in chivalry. The Code of Chivalry was a set of rules for a knight's life, generous, gentlemanly, loyal, full of honor, and doing work as well - like queens. Most squires trained for five or six years.

If their training went well, a squire would become a knight at 18-21 years old. The squire needed to bathe well (a good bath was not very common in medieval times) and pray in church overnight. In the morning, they would wear a white shirt and belt representing purity, brown or black stockings to represent being grounded to the earth, and a scarlet cloak to show they were willing to shed their own blood in battle for their king and his people. He was given a sword with two sharp edges, one representing

TEXT MARKING



What is a quintain?



What was the Code of Chivalry?



What does the word squire mean?



At what age would boys become a page?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

elite - having the greatest power

tactics - strategies

justice, the other representing loyalty and chivalry. With his sword, the squire was knighted or “dubbed” knight by a simple tap on both shoulders while he was kneeling. Then it was official, he was a knight.

Knights had to train constantly to maintain their strength and to be ready for battle whenever they were called upon. All knights needed to ride a horse very well. **The knight’s war horse was called a destrier.** In the midst of a medieval battle, there was a great advantage to being on a horse. A knight could simply ride through the men fighting on the field, wielding his sword, and defeating several enemies at once instead of hand-to-hand fighting on the ground.

Other tools that a knight had to be familiar with were his sword, shield, mace, and lance. **A lance is a long pole that tapers to a point at the end.** This was used to unseat other knights from their horses while remaining firmly in the saddle of their own horse; this action is also known as a joust. The mace was a club with a big steel head.

A knight had to get used to riding a horse and bathing in full armor. The helmet would obscure the knight’s vision to protect his face and eyes. A suit of armor with a helmet could weigh as much as fifty pounds!

Knights often had a coat of arms with a special symbol that represented their family. These symbols were first used to distinguish one knight from another. **People called heralds had the job of tracking the symbols and different coats of arms.** **Using color on the coat of arms had meanings.** Red represented nobility, blue was used for truth, black for knowledge, and green for hope.

In times of war, knights used their skills in battle. In times of peace, they trained for competitions with other knights. The tournaments would test their battle skills with dull swords, jousting competitions with lances, and accuracy with a bow and arrow.

TEXT MARKING



What is a lance?



What did red represent on a coat of arms?



What is a destrier?



What was the job of the heralds?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

wielding - hold and use

obscured - covered

SPARK SOME *creativity*

ESCAPE
ROOMS

SCAVENGER
HUNTS

SPY
MYSTERY

THINKTIVITY

SECRET
MESSAGES

TEXT
DETECTIVE

BREAKOUTS

READING
CHALLENGE

INTERACTIVE
NOTEBOOK

COLOR BY
NUMBER

DIGITAL
ESCAPES

DIGITAL
BOARD
GAME

GOOGLE
SLIDES

TASK
CARDS
GAME

GOOGLE
FORMS

PUZZLE
STATIONS

BOOM
CARDS

READING
PASSAGES

LET'S CONNECT

f

E

BLOG

p

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GRAB A FREEBIE

Grab a FREE
Boston Tea
Party activity!

