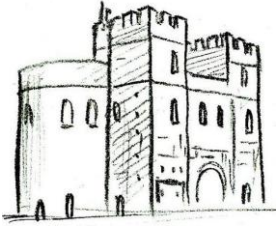


Introduction to the High Middle Ages



The High Middle Ages is sometimes called the medieval period. Most scholars define the High Middle Ages as the time period between the 11th and the 13th Century and essentially covers the time in Europe when Kings ruled over Europe, the Christian Church heavily influenced the lives of people and populations began to consolidate in the towns and cities that grew up around the great stone castles and magnificent **cathedrals** that were being built at this time.

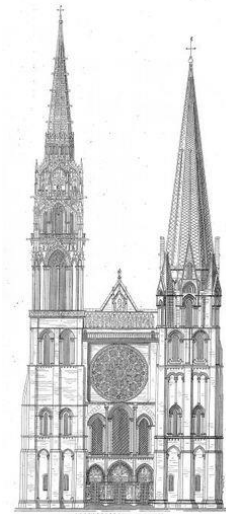
Feudalism, Castles and Chivalry

Feudalism, or the system of governance where people were ruled by local lords who pledged allegiance to a King, was still in use in the High Middle Ages, but we begin to see more complicated **political** relationships develop as towns grew into cities, nobles gained more wealth and the Church became more powerful and influential.

The High Middle Ages also saw a huge growth in the amount of large castles throughout Europe. Castles were the last line of defense for a King. It was where the King lived, where he kept his wealth, and where he housed and trained his Knights. The wealth that was being created by the people of Europe was being turned into larger and more elaborate castles during the medieval period. Often great cities would

eventually be formed around a castle. In addition to the great castles of Europe, the Church was using its wealth to create magnificent cathedrals, some of which would become some of the highest structures in the known world at that time.

Chivalry was a code of conduct that came to be associated with Knights during the medieval period. Knights were more than just soldiers; they were highly trained, heavily equipped weapons of war. A mounted Knight on a battlefield was a fearsome opponent and it was their strength that maintained the power and control of the King. Chivalry or the chivalric code was the morals and beliefs that the Knights followed. Often these beliefs were religious in nature and promoted loyalty to both Kings and the Church, but it also focused on a warrior culture and eventually courtly manners (court is the term used to describe the social setting and influence of Kings and Queens). Not all Knights were linked to Kings, certain Knights, such as the Knights Templars were a religious order of warriors who fought to protect the Church's interests in both Europe and abroad.



A Medieval Cathedral

Cathedrals - Large and impressive buildings used to evoke a sense of wonder. Medieval cathedrals were some of the tallest structures in the known world at the time.

Politics - The actions and activities associated with the governing of a population. Often it involves different points of view with people trying to put their interests ahead of others.

Chivalry - a code of conduct that outlined how people, particularly Knights and Nobles should act and behave.

The Influence of the Church and the Crusades

At the beginning of the 11th century, Christianity would split into Western European Catholicism based out of Rome and Eastern Orthodoxy based out of Constantinople. This divide still exists today and it is the Catholics who would influence most of the people of Western Europe until the **Reformation**. It was during this time that the Church proceeded to gain considerable wealth through their monasteries and their relationships with Kings. The Catholic Church's leader is called the Pope and the Pope would become a very influential leader in Europe as more and more Kings converted to Catholicism.

The power and influence of the Pope was such that during the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, the Pope could call on Knights like the Templars and Kings from all over Europe to fight in **Crusades**. The Crusades were the Christian desire to reclaim much of the territory of the Middle East (the birthplace of Christianity) which was falling under control of a new religion called Islam. Men, women and even children would listen to the Pope's call to reclaim the Middle East and would travel vast distances to do battle in his name.



A Crusader Knight

Trade and Economy

The High Middle Ages also saw an increase in trade and the economy of Europe. At first trade existed within local economies, meaning that it centered on towns or villages. Soon, thanks in part to the Crusades which saw Europeans travelling to the Middle East, Europeans began to see the benefit of travelling afar to obtain goods and foodstuffs like spices that could be sold at home for a profit. The Romans had an entire empire to trade within but after the fall of Rome, it wasn't until the High Middle Ages that Europeans began to see the benefit of foreign trade.

One of the most important overland trade routes that brought exotic goods that were much in demand in Europe (such as spices like pepper) was the famous **Silk Road**. The Silk Road would bring items from as far away as China and South East Asia, overland to Europe.

Importance of the High Middle Ages

The High Middle Ages came to define an era when Europe began to really climb out of the darkness of the Dark Ages and began to exert its influence politically, economically and militarily over other parts of the world. There will be lots of fighting within Europe, but the High Middle Ages will also be the start of what will eventually become a region with global influence and power.

Reformation - A very influential turning point in human history where Christianity and the power and influence of the Catholic Church was broken up.

Crusades - Nine separate violent invasions of the Middle East by European Christians whose aim was to reclaim the "Holy Land" from the Muslims.

Silk Road - An overland trade route between Asia and Europe that introduced many new goods to Europe and encouraged Europeans to expand their economies to include foreign trade.

Introduction to the High Middle Ages

Directions: READ the handout entitled; "Introduction to the High Middle Ages" and then answer the following questions;

1. Use your handout to provide definitions for the following terms; (1 mark each).

Cathedrals	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Politics	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Chivalry	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Reformation	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Crusades	
Silk Road	

2. On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions using **COMPLETE SENTENCES** and or **COMPLETE THE UNDERLINED PORTIONS INSTEAD** (your choice):

- a. In your own words, describe how scholars describe the medieval times or the High Middle ages. Be sure to include what time period it covers. (2 marks for quality of response and inclusion of details)

Scholars describe the High Middle ages as the time when _____ ruled most of Europe, the _____ heavily influenced people's lives and when people began to live in _____, rather than villages and farms. The time period is between the _____ and _____ centuries.

- b. In your own words describe what a Knight was. What did he do and who did he work for? Provide a specific example of a group of Knights from the High Middle Ages. (2 marks for the quality of your response and evidence of thought and effort)

A Knight was _____ who worked for _____
 _____ . An example of a group of Knights that worked for the church were the _____ Knights.

- c. In your own words, describe how trade expanded in the High Middle Ages. Identify and describe a specific trade route that existed during the High Middle Ages. (2 marks for quality of response and evidence of insight)

Trade expanded in Europe during the High Middle Ages when the Europeans expanded out of their local economies and started to _____ with other parts of the world. A famous trade route to the Far East was called the _____ .

3. Castles- Use the descriptions provided to identify the important parts of a Medieval Castle. Once you've identified the parts, then color.

You will be marked out of 10 for accuracy, quality of work,
and evidence of effort

Total: _____ /22

Directions: Use the following descriptions to identify the important parts of a castle on the drawing provided. Once you've identified all the parts, colour the castle.

You will be marked out of 10 for accuracy, quality of work, and evidence of effort.

1. The Outer Bailey was the first courtyard inside the outer walls of the castle.
2. The Inner Bailey was the inner courtyard of a castle. It was protected by two walls.
3. The Wall, or Curtain, as it was sometimes called, surrounded the courtyard of the castle. Strongly built, it was not uncommon for the castle's walls to be 3 or more meters in thickness.
4. The Keep was known in French as the Donjon. It was the strongest and most heavily fortified part of the castle as it was designed to be the last line of defense. Keeps were sometimes built round, sometimes square. Square Keeps made nicer rooms, but round keeps were easier to defend. The Keep usually housed the owner of the castle and his family. In it the *Great Hall* was often located. The *Great Hall* was the heart of the castle. It was used for family dinners, banquets, games, dancing, entertainment, and sometimes as a courtroom. In some castles the *Great Hall* was a separate building rather than in the Keep itself.
5. The Drawbridge was a bridge which could be raised or lowered. It was usually located over a moat.
6. Parapets, were low walls around the top edge of a tower or castle wall.
7. Corbels were strong projections in the walls which acted like brackets to support parapets.
8. The Moat was the ditch around the castle. It was usually filled with water. Sometimes castles were built on rock ledges. If a castle was built on rock, it could not be seized by tunneling.
9. The Barbican was a forward gate of the castle located before the main gate. It offered extra protection since the weakest part of the castle was considered to be the gate.
10. The Postern Gate was a back gate. It was supposed to be a secret, but often it was not. The gate was used for attacking and surrounding the enemy outside the castle, as an escape route, or for the coming and goings of scouts and spies.
11. Arrow-Loops were narrow openings in the castle's towers through which archers fired their arrows on the enemy below.
12. The Portcullis was the main gate to the castle. It was made of very heavy wood and was reinforced with iron grating. It could be raised or lowered for the protection of the people inside.
13. Murder Holes, were holes in the ceiling just after the front gate. The holes were used for dropping large stones on attackers who got through the front gate.

The Parts of a
NORMAN CASTLE

ca. 1200

