

THE MIDDLE AGES

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WHY?

After the fall of the Roman Empire and a brief period of order under Germanic kings, centralized government in Europe became impossible to sustain under the pressure of new invaders. The Middle Ages were not, however, a “dark” time devoid of cultural advancement. Feudalism emerged as a decentralized system of government that attempted to make the best of this situation. However, the only tie that bound nearly all the people of Europe together was their faith, and the Roman Catholic Church was by far the most important institution of the Middle Ages. As the Middle Ages wore on, feudalism was successful enough to make itself obsolete. As trade, towns, and culture revived, the power of the Church diminished, and people began to develop a new sense of loyalty to emerging European nations.

Outcomes: Students will

- I. Content
 - A. analyze the structure and function of feudalism as a political and economic system in class discussion (4.2.1, 4.2.2)
 - B. comprehend by completing a wheel-shaped chart the unifying role of the Roman Catholic Church in medieval life (4.1.4)
 - C. identify similarities and connections between the English and American systems of government by using a chart (4.1.2)
 - D. in writing, analyze how growth of nationalism, trade, and European monarchies led to the decline of the feudal system (4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3)
 - E. comprehend the short and long-term effects of the Crusades by viewing and taking notes on a video (4.4.1, 5.3.1)
 - F. develop the skills to analyze and appreciate medieval art & (4.1.3, 5.1)
 - G. read and comprehend literature of the Middle Ages
 - H. comprehend through reading and class discussion how natural disasters such as famine and plague changed Europe in the Middle Ages (4.1.4, 4.2.4)
- II. Skill
 - A. Develop the ability to make use of different modes of thought to illuminate study
 - B. Recognize themes in history
 - C. understand the long-term historical significance of events and people
 - D. use etymology to learn new domain specific concepts
 - E. Develop aesthetic appreciations
 - F. identify short and long term consequences of decisions and events in history
 - G. Develop an informed understanding of the role of science and technology

Resources

- A. text
 - 1. Chapter 13, p. 286-315
 - 2. Chapter 14, p.316-347

Outline

- I. The Early Middle Ages
 - A. The Germans & the Fall of Rome
 - B. The Frankish kings

- C. The Empire of Charlemagne
 - D. Renewed invasions & decline of the Frankish empire
- II. Feudalism: a localized system of government
 - A. feudal relationships: lords & vassals
 - B. the manorial system & serfdom
 - C. the feudal pyramid: social classes
 - D. lifestyles of the nobles; chivalry
- III. "From Cradle to Grave:" The Role of the Roman Catholic Church
 - A. the church in society: the wheel
 - B. church hierarchy & organization
 - C. monasticism
 - D. problems of the church
- IV. The Rise of Kings
 - A. England
 - 1. Early England
 - 2. Anglo-Saxons & Danes
 - 3. The Norman Conquest
 - 4. William & his successors
 - B. France: The Capetians
 - C. The Holy Roman Empire: Germany & Italy
- V. The Crusades
 - A. causes
 - B. the Crusades (list)
 - C. effects & results
- VI. Transforming ways of life
 - A. revival of trade
 - B. growth of towns & the rise of the middle class
 - C. Disasters: the plague
- VII. Culture of the Middle Ages
 - A. literature
 - B. education
 - C. science & technology
 - D. architecture
 - 1. cathedrals
 - a) Romanesque
 - b) Gothic
 - 2. castles
- VIII. The Decline of Feudalism & the Rise of Nationalism
 - A. England, France, and the Hundred Years' War
 - B. Spain
 - C. The Holy Roman Empire
 - D. decline of the church
 - E. The Coming of the Renaissance

Vocabulary

abbess	Great Schism	primogeniture	Geoffrey Chaucer
abbot	Habsburg (Hapsburg)	sacraments	Henry III
apprentice	Hanseatic League	Scholasticism	Henry IV
Babylonian Captivity	heretics	Seljuq Turks	Henry Tudor
barter economy	Holy Roman Empire	serf	Hildegard of Bingen
Black Death	Hundred Years' War	shires	Isabella
canon law	Inquisition	simony	Jan Hus
capital	interdict	three field system	Joan of Arc
cardinals	journeyman	tithe	John Wycliffe
Carolingians	knight	troubadours	Louis the Pious
charter of	lord	usury	Louis XI
incorporation	Magna Carta	vassal	Otto I
Children's Crusade	Magyars	vernacular languages	Peter Abelard
chivalry	manorial system	Vikings	Pope Gregory VII
common law	market economy	Wars of the Roses	Pope Innocent III
courtly love	masterpiece		Pope Urban II
craft guilds	medieval		Richard the Lion Heart
crusade	merchant guild	Alfred the Great	Saint Augustine
curia	Merovingians	Charlemagne	Saint Benedict
Domesday Book	Middle Ages	Charles Martel	Saint Patrick
domestic system	middle class	Dante Aligheri	Saladin
Estates General	monasticism	Edward the Confessor	Simon de Montfort
feudalism	moral economy	Eleanor of Aquitaine	Thomas Aquinas
fief	Norman Conquest	Ferdinand	Thomas Becket
flagellants	Parliament (Eng.)	Frederick Barbarossa	William of Normandy