

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Which era of history began at the end of the Middle Ages?
2. Who lived to the north of the Roman Empire when it fell apart?
3. What kind of people were the Huns? Who was their leader?
4. Where did the originally Vikings come from?
5. What did the Vikings do when they landed on shore?
6. What did the Vikings call Newfoundland? Why?
7. Who was William the Conqueror?
8. What did the Normans bring to Britain?
9. Why did the Crusades start?
10. Who were the first Europeans to go on Crusades?

THE MIDDLE AGES – EXERCISES

11. What did the knights and soldiers do when they reached Jerusalem?
12. Why weren't the Crusades successful?
13. What was Joan of Arc often called?
14. How did she help the French king?
15. What happened when the British caught her?
16. Where did the Black Death come from and who brought it?
17. Why did the Black Death spread across Europe so quickly?
18. How did people die? What kind of symptoms did they have?
19. Who was the first Islamic prophet?
20. How far did Islam spread during the Middle Ages?

2

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What was Charlemagne's goal?
2. What was a manor?
3. What did noblemen promise the king in exchange for land?
4. What kind of life did peasants lead?
5. Some peasants were craftsmen. What kind of objects did they make?
6. What kind of work did women do in medieval times?
7. Women who were thought to have magical powers were called
8. Describe the life of pilgrims on journeys.
9. Nuns lived in _____, monks lived in _____.
10. Cathedrals were the most important religious buildings. What happened there ?
11. In which style were they built?

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12. Describe the layout of a typical castle.
13. Describe what people ate during the Middle Ages.
14. How was meat preserved?
15. In which ways were the homes of richer people different from those of poor people?
16. Why were kitchens sometimes in other buildings?
17. How did poor people make their clothes?
18. What did rich women wear?
19. The coats of men were called
20. How did doctors help people?

3**Multiple Choice Task****Choose the correct answer for each question**

1. Towards the end of the Middle Ages, castles lost their importance because
 - a. people started living in bigger cities.
 - b. many lords sold them to their kings.
 - c. kings had no use for them anymore.
 - d. they could not defend themselves anymore.
2. The curved end of a cathedral is called the
 - a. aisle.
 - b. transept.
 - c. apse.
 - d. nave.
3. The Black Death came to Europe
 - a. through African rats.
 - b. when Marco Polo came back from China.
 - c. when Scandinavian Vikings attacked central Europe.
 - d. with sailors who came back from Asia.
4. The Huns originally came from
 - a. Scandinavia.
 - b. central Asia.
 - c. central Europe.
 - d. China.
5. During the Crusades, Christian armies wanted to free
 - a. the Holy Land.
 - b. Rome.
 - c. Constantinople.
 - d. Muslims in Jerusalem.
6. People in the Middle Ages preserved food by
 - a. adding salt.
 - b. filling it with spices.
 - c. putting sugar on top of it.
 - d. wrapping it in bread.
7. In 1066 William the Conqueror
 - a. became king of the Roman Empire.
 - b. invaded England.
 - c. took control of Spain.
 - d. started a war with Gothic tribes.
8. The Middle Ages began when
 - a. the Vikings settled in Normandy.
 - b. Charlemagne became king of the Franks.
 - c. the Roman Empire collapsed.
 - d. William the Conqueror invaded Britain.

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4

TRUE or FALSE? Decide if the sentence is True or False and tick off (✓) the correct box. If the sentence is false write a correct sentence into the box on the right. The first two have been done for you.

		T	F	Correct Statement
1	Monks lived in convents.		✓	Monks lived in monasteries; nuns lived in convents
2	In return for working on their land, lords protected peasants.	✓		
3	When people became ill from the Black Death, it usually took them months to die.			
4	The western Roman Empire ended in the 5th century A.D.			
5	Sailors brought the plague to Europe from Asia.			
6	A battle-axe was a typical weapon that the Vikings used.			
7	The joust was a competition in which knights fought with swords on the ground.			
8	The Middle Ages were often called the Dark Ages because Christians fought against Muslims.			
9	Islam spread to many parts of northern Africa and even reached Spain.			
10	In the early Middle Ages, churches were built in Gothic style.			
11	Pilgrims went on journeys to holy places.			
12	A knight got his weapons when he reached 16.			
13	The Vikings had slow ships that could only travel on the open seas.			
14	The Huns originally came from Scandinavia.			
15	William the Conqueror was a powerful Norman king.			
16	During the Crusades, Muslims wanted to free the Holy Land from Christian rule.			

5

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	peasant		the highest priest in the church of a country
B	migrate		a period of a hundred years
C	pilgrim		very poor person who had no land
D	mutton		big old house with a lot of land around it - mostly belonging to lords and noblemen
E	century		disease that kills many people
F	conquer		place where monks live
G	settle		the meat of a lamb
H	warrior		a very small insect without wings that bites people and animals and sucks their blood
I	plague		to say words to God
J	flea		to move away from your home and start living somewhere else
K	vision		a deep hole , usually filled with water, around a castle
L	moat		a pole used to tie people against
M	monastery		religious person who travels a long way to a holy place
N	pray		to live in a place where not many people have lived before
O	archer		a fight with lances on horseback
P	bishop		a brave soldier who lived in the past
Q	stake		someone who makes or repairs things made out of iron
R	manor		something that you see but other people cannot
S	joust		someone who shoots arrows with a bow
T	blacksmith		to invade a country with soldiers and take control

6

Put the events into the correct order.

	William the Conqueror invaded Britain.
1	The Huns attacked the Chinese empire.
	The plague killed millions of people in Europe.
	Charles the Great was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
	Mohammed became the main prophet of Islam.
	Joan of Arc was burned at the stake.
	Christian soldiers and knights fought in the Crusades.
	Germanic tribes overran Southern Europe and ended the Roman Empire.
	The Vikings explored Iceland and Greenland.

7

Who's who in the Middle Ages? – Fill in the correct name for each blank.

- _____ was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
- _____ organized soldiers and knights to fight Muslims in Jerusalem.
- _____ was a Norman king who invaded Britain in 1066.
- _____ was a Viking who sailed as far as North America.
- _____ came to Europe from Asia and forced other tribes to move westward.
- _____ was the founder of Islam in the 7th century.
- _____ attacked seaside villages and plundered them.
- _____ beat the English in the Battle of Orleans.

Charlemagne

Joan of Arc

Leif Ericson

Mohammed

Pope Urban

The Huns

The Vikings

William the Conqueror

8

Crossword 1

<https://shop.english-online.at/the-middle-ages-crossword-1/>



9

Crossword 2

<https://shop.english-online.at/the-middle-ages-crossword-2/>



10

Find the Words.

<https://shop.english-online.at/the-middle-ages-word-search/>



11

Complete the text with the missing sentence parts. Put the letters into the blanks. There are TWO parts you will not need.

The Plague

During the 14th century, about 25 million people died from a disease **(1)** ____ the plague, or Black Death. It swept through Europe and killed about 40% of the continent's population. It is thought that sailors brought the plague with them from Asia, probably through rats and fleas **(2)** ____.

In 1347 the plague hit Messina in Sicily and soon spread to cities all over the Mediterranean Sea. It struck London in 1348 and Scandinavia and Russia soon after that.

Doctors at that time did not know the cause of the disease. They **(3)** ____ from spreading and didn't have any cure. It caused panic among the population, and many people tried desperately to save themselves. In Spain, France and Germany people accused the Jews of poisoning wells to spread the disease. Others thought that the plague was God's punishment.

The symptoms were horrible. Tumours, sometimes as big as an egg or an apple, as well as purple dots, covered the whole body. People showed swellings in their lymph nodes and smelled badly **(4)** ____ from the inside.

Widespread fever drove people mad, wandering around and shouting in the streets. Many who were infected vomited and coughed up blood. **(5)** ____, the victim only had a few days left to live. There wasn't enough space in the graveyards, so the bodies were often left on the streets.

The population used strange methods to fight against the plague. Fires were started to clean the air and people took scents, like rosemary and amber with them. Some put wooden frames over their windows **(6)** ____ from coming in. Most of the population didn't eat meat. Those who could fled to the countryside where there were not so many infected people.

In order to control the disease, people were quarantined and many areas built public hospitals for the general population. **(7)** ____, the Black Death moved fast and travelled at an average speed of 4 km a day.

By 1352 the plague slowly lost its muscle. Those who survived **(8)** ____ because they believed God had turned against them. Survivors started celebrating by drinking wildly, organizing parties and death dances.

The plague returned to Europe in following centuries but it **(9)** ____ as during the 14th century. The Black Death changed Europe completely. There were not enough people to work anymore so labour became more expensive. Some villages in the countryside even disappeared.

A	because they were rotting
B	could not prevent it
C	lost faith in the church
D	that became known as
E	once it hit Europe
F	to stop the polluted air
G	which hid on ships
H	that spread the infectious disease
I	was not as devastating
J	as soon as the plague was over
K	when the symptoms appeared

12

Fill in the correct words from the box to complete the sentences.

There are TWO words you will not need.

archers - arrows - bailey - cannons - chambers -
drawbridge - feasts - importance - iron - lord -
mountains - protection - public - wood

Castles

1. Some castles had a _____ that could be let down.
2. Early castles were made of _____ .
3. A closed area around the inner castle was called the _____ .
4. Many castles were built on high _____ .
5. The doors of a castle were made of heavy _____ .
6. _____ could shoot arrows through holes in castle walls.
7. Everyone wanted to live in castles because they offered _____ .
8. A castle helped a _____ defend the surrounding land.
9. Castles had many rooms, which were called _____ .
10. Big _____ were held in castles on special occasions.
11. Towards the end of the Middle Ages, castles had started to lose their _____ .
12. Later on, enemies started to use _____ to attack them.



De Haar castle, Utrecht, The Netherlands

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13

Complete the text with the words from the list. There are TWO parts you will not need .

Medieval Tournaments

Tournaments started in France in the 11th century. They were often held to (1) _____ the king and his family. They took place in (2) _____ around the (3) _____ and many people came to watch them.

The most interesting sport was the (4) _____. Two knights, who wore (5) _____, rode on horseback towards each other. They held a sharp (6) _____ in their hands. Each knight wanted to knock his (7) _____ off his horse. Sometimes they even fought on the ground.

When a knight won, the daughter or wife of the king would throw him a (8) _____ or a glove to show that they liked him. Tournaments were the (9) _____ of life in the Middle Ages, but they ended in the 17th (10) _____.

armour
castle
century
enemy
entertain
fields
highlights
joust
lance
moat
scarf
tournament



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14

Write down the most important facts of each event into the boxes below .

