

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Which era of history began at the end of the Middle Ages? **The Renaissance**
2. Who lived to the north of the Roman Empire when it fell apart? **Germanic tribes**
3. What kind of people were the Huns? Who was their leader? **A violent tribe from Central Asia; they attacked the Chinese empire and forced other European tribes to move westward; their leader was Attila**
4. Where did the originally Vikings come from? **Scandinavia**
5. What did the Vikings do when they landed on shore? **They overran, set fire to and plundered villages**
6. What did the Vikings call Newfoundland? Why? **They called it Vinland because it was so warm that they could grow grapes there**
7. Who was William the Conqueror? **A Norman king who invaded Britain in 1066**
8. What did the Normans bring to Britain? **A lot of French words**
9. Why did the Crusades start? **Christians wanted to free Jerusalem and the holy land from the Muslims**
10. Who were the first Europeans to go on Crusades? **French , German and Italian soldiers and knights**
11. What did the knights and soldiers do when they reached Jerusalem? **They tried to get across the city walls**
12. Why weren't the Crusades successful? **Because Muslims captured the city back shortly afterwards**
13. What was Joan of Arc often called? **Maid of Orleans**
14. How did she help the French king? **She beat the English in the Battle of Orleans**
15. What happened when the British caught her? **They returned her to the French king and she was burned at the stake**
16. Where did the Black Death come from and who brought it? **It came from Asia (China) and was brought to Europe by sailors who came back.**
17. Why did the Black Death spread across Europe so quickly? **There was not enough medicine and people ate rotten meat**
18. How did people die? What kind of symptoms did they have? **Aching arms and legs; they vomited blood, skin turned dark and became swollen; many died within a few days**
19. Who was the first Islamic prophet? **Mohammed**
20. How far did Islam spread during the Middle Ages? **Across all of Northern Africa up to Spain**

2

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What was Charlemagne's goal? **He wanted to unite all Germanic tribes under his rule**
2. What was a manor? **a big house in which noblemen and lords lived**
3. What did noblemen promise the king in exchange for land? **Soldiers for his armies**
4. What kind of life did peasants lead? **They were very poor, and worked on the land that the lords gave them; they had to pay taxes and bring in the harvest for the noblemen; in exchange they were protected**
5. Some peasants were craftsmen. What kind of objects did they make? **Cloth, jewelry and they repaired and fixed broken things**
6. What kind of work did women do in medieval times? **Housework – cooking, baking as well as spinning and weaving; some worked as blacksmiths and merchants who traded things**
7. Women who were thought to have magical powers were called **witches**
8. Describe the life of pilgrims on journeys. **They travelled for weeks and months, slept in monasteries; they told stories on long trips**
9. Nuns lived in **convents**, monks lived in **monasteries**.
10. Cathedrals were the most important religious buildings. What happened there? **normal people went to mass; weddings and funerals took place there; kings and queens were crowned and buried in cathedrals**
11. In which style were they built? **Romanesque and Gothic styles**
12. Describe the layout of a typical castle. **Early ones were made of wood, later of stone; most had a moat with a drawbridge to get to the main entrance; the bailey was the inner part**
13. Describe what people ate during the Middle Ages. **Peasants and poor people ate dark bread and a lot of vegetables; rich people and noblemen ate meat and white bread; food was prepared with herbs, garlic and onions**
14. How was meat preserved? **Salt was put on it**
15. In which ways were the homes of richer people different from those of poor people? **Homes of poor people were dark and damp, usually with a small window and only one room; thatched roofs – rich people lived in manors and larger houses; had paved floors and larger rooms; windows were made of glass**
16. Why were kitchens sometimes in other buildings? **Because people were afraid a fire might spread to the living areas**
17. How did poor people make their clothes? **They made their own clothes by spinning and weaving**
18. What did rich women wear? **Fashionable clothes made of silk, wool or fur; colorful; jewelry**
19. The coats of men were called **tunics**
20. How did doctors help people? **With plants and herbs, they laid stones on people's bodies**

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.

THE MIDDLE AGES - KEY

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.

		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.		✓	After getting the illness, they died within a few days
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.		✓	In a joust, knights fought with lances on horseback.
8	The Middle Ages were often called the Dark Ages because Christians fought against Muslims.		✓	Scholars thought there was little progress during this part of history.
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.		✓	Gothic churches were built from the 12th century onwards.
11	Pilgrims went on journeys to holy places.	✓		
12	A knight got his weapons when he reached 16.		✓	Knights got weapons at the age of 21.
13	The Vikings had slow ships that could only travel on the open seas.		✓	They had fast ships that could also travel on rivers.
14	The Huns originally came from Scandinavia.		✓	The Huns came from Central Asia.
15	William the Conqueror was a powerful Norman king.	✓		
16	During the Crusades, Muslims wanted to free the Holy Land from Christian rule.		✓	European Christians wanted to free Jerusalem and other holy places from the Muslims.

5

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

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

6

Put the events into the correct order.

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

7

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

1. **Charlemagne** was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
2. **Pope Urban** organized soldiers and knights to fight Muslims in Jerusalem.
3. **William the Conqueror** was a Norman king who invaded Britain in 1066.
4. **Leif Ericson** was a Viking who sailed as far as North America.
5. **The Huns** came to Europe from Asia and forced other tribes to move westward.
6. **Mohammed** was the founder of Islam in the 7th century.
7. **The Vikings** attacked seaside villages and plundered them.
8. **Joan of Arc** beat the English in the Battle of Orleans.

Charlemagne

Joan of Arc

Leif Ericson

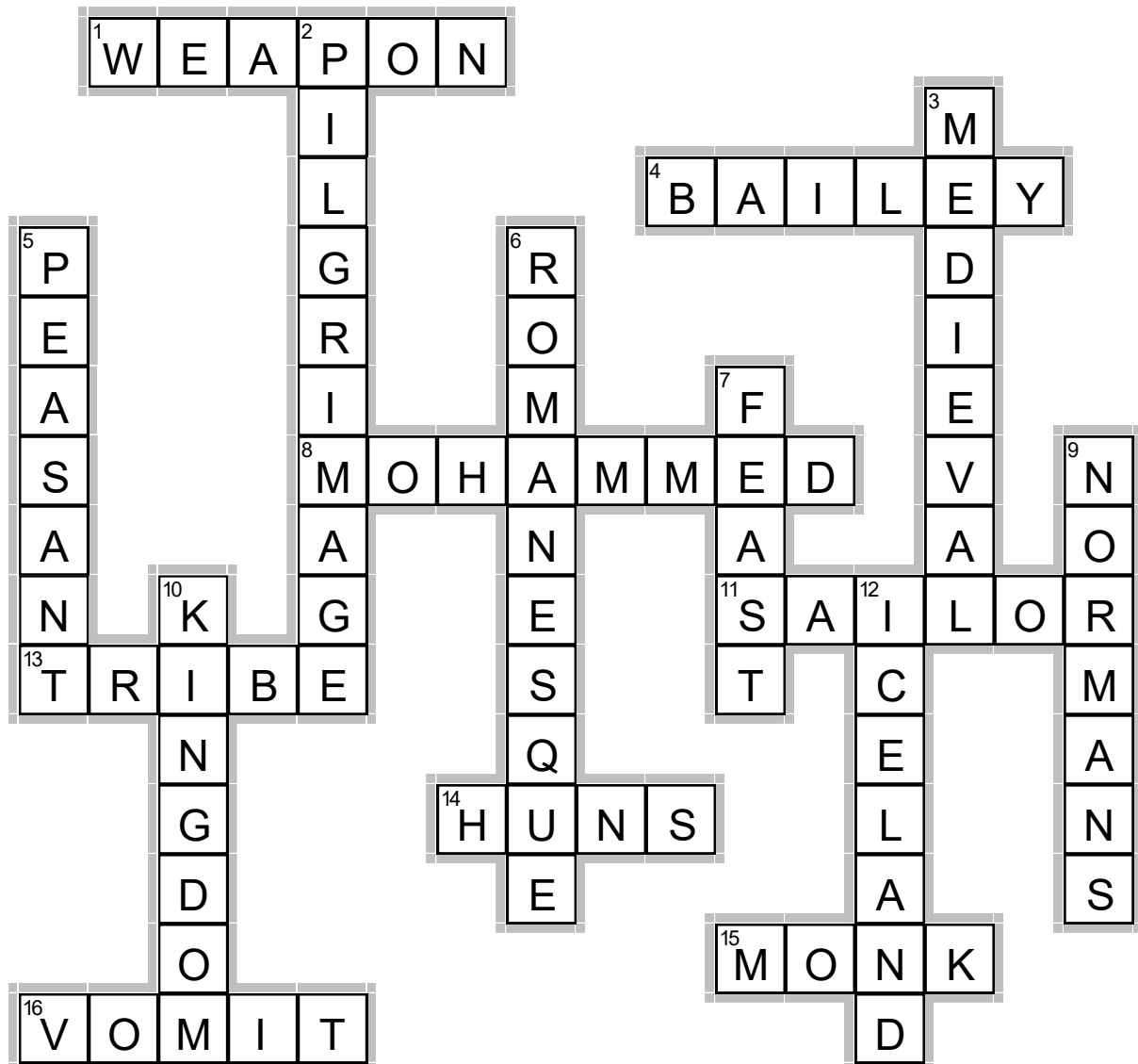
Mohammed

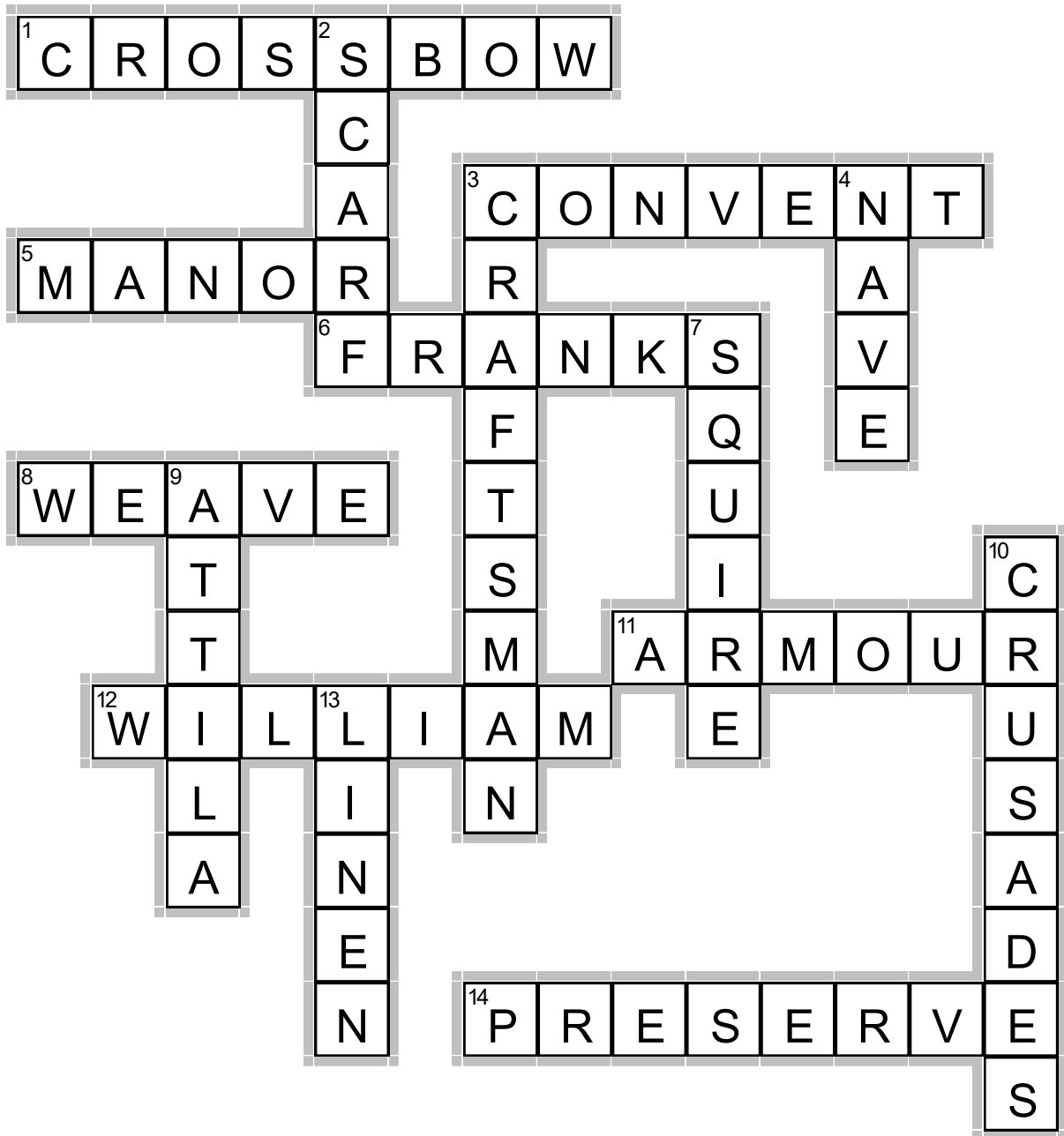
Pope Urban

The Huns

The Vikings

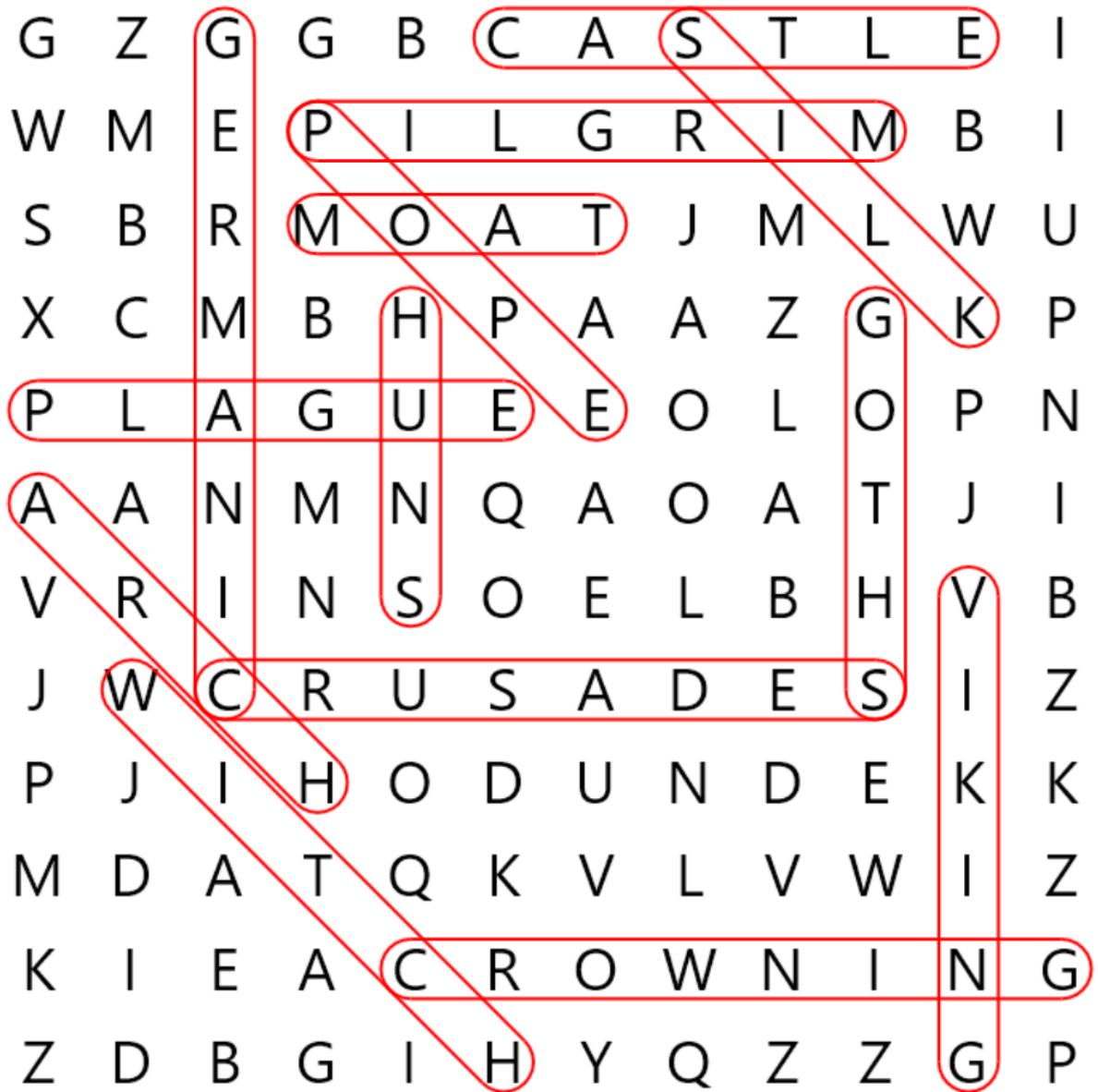
William the Conqueror





10

Find 14 words about the Middle Ages.



11

Complete the text with the missing sentence parts. There are TWO parts you will not need.

The Plague

During the 14th century, about 25 million people died from a disease **(1) D** 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) H**.

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) B** 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) A** 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) K**, 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) F** 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) E**, 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) C** 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) I** 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.

THE MIDDLE AGES - KEY

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 **drawbridge** that could be let down.
2. Early castles were made of **wood**.
3. A closed area around the inner castle was called the **bailey**.
4. Many castles were built on high **mountains**.
5. The doors of a castle were made of heavy **iron**.
6. **Archers** could shoot arrows through holes in castle walls.
7. Everyone wanted to live in castles because they offered **protection**.
8. A castle helped a **lord** defend the surrounding land.
9. Castles had many rooms, which were called **chambers**.
10. Big **feasts** were held in castles on special occasions.
11. Towards the end of the Middle Ages, castles had started to lose their **importance**.
12. Later on, enemies started to use **cannons** 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) **entertain** the king and his family. They took place in (2) **fields** around the (3) **castle** and many people came to watch them.

The most interesting sport was the (4) **joust** . Two knights, who wore (5) **armour**, rode on horseback towards each other. They held a sharp (6) **lance** in their hands. Each knight wanted to knock his (7) **enemy** 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) **scarf** or a glove to show that they liked him. Tournaments were the (9) **highlights** of life in the Middle Ages, but they ended in the 17th (10) **century**.

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 .

