

The Middle Ages

- The Middle Ages in Europe is approximately a 1,000-year time period, lasting from 476 AD to 1492 AD.
- The mighty Roman Empire grew too big for one emperor to rule and broke apart into the eastern and western parts of the empire.
- Different tribes took this opportunity to seize some of its lands.
- This was a time with negative aspects, such as conflict and hardship, and positive aspects, such as creation and innovation.

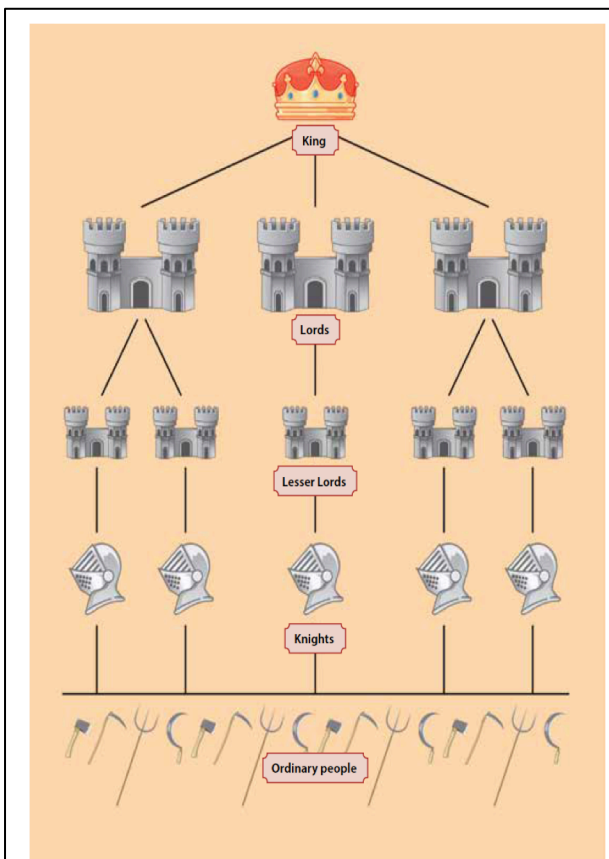
Key Vocabulary

- Feudalism – a way of life based on land ownership and land use.
- Serfs – people who worked and fought for lords who, in return, provided protection and the use of land.
- Knights – soldiers who fought on horseback, and sometimes on foot, for their Lord.
- Lords – men of the nobility who owned land that they leased to others.
- Monks – men who chose to live apart from society and devote their lives to the church. They lived in monasteries.
- Merchants – business people who participated in retail and trade.
- Craftsmen – skilled men who made crafts such as leather, candlesticks, armour and shoes.

Castles and Knights

- These were violent times and all young men learned how to use a weapon.
- Knights had to be able to afford a powerful horse and expensive armour.
- Knights were usually sons of wealthy, influential members of society.
- Many kings and nobles lived in castles, which provided protection from enemies.
- Knights were often given land in reward for fighting for the king.
- Knights had to train very hard and were very skilled in using different weapons.

Year 5 Europe in the Middle Ages



The Feudal System

Life in a Town

- Towns developed as a result of increasing trade.
- More people became involved in commerce and wealth grew.
- A middle class, including merchants and craftsmen, emerged.

The Power of the Church

- The Church was at the heart of the community.
- Many people began their day by going to church.
- The Church grew in power and influence and became very wealthy.
- The Church raised taxes and it owned land.
- People who held powerful positions within the Church often came from wealthy, noble families.
- The Church influenced political decisions and supported or opposed kings.
- Architects and craftsmen in the Middle Ages built beautiful churches to express their love for God.

Life in Wales

- Welsh farmers were called herders.
- Welsh Princes helped establish 80 towns in the period 1100-1300.
- One third of the population of Wales perished in the Black Death (plague) of 1348.
- Cosmeston Village was built by the de Costentin family from Northern France in around 1350.

1066: The Battle That Made History.

- In 1066 CE, the Normans, led by William the Conqueror, defeated King Harold in the Battle of Hastings.
- The Battle of Hastings transformed English and Welsh society and culture and helped bring about a change in the English language.
- The Bayeux Tapestry tells the events of the Battle of Hastings in text and picture form.