

THE DARK AGES

1. Read the information about the Dark Ages. Then complete it with the past tense of the verbs in brackets.

As the Roman Empire spread through Europe, it _____¹ (bring) with it many improvements in art and culture. However, after the Roman Empire _____² (fall) around A.D. 500 many of these improvements _____³ (be) lost. This period, which _____⁴ (last) hundreds of years, _____⁵ (become) known as the Dark Ages. Modern historians, however, prefer not to use the term Dark Ages anymore. Research has shown that many great achievements were made in this period, both in Europe and in other parts of the world.

2. Watch the video from minute 3:00 to minute 7:00 and complete the summary. Use the verbs in the box and conjugate them.

can / make / evolve / have / collect / find / build / call / converted
--

-Camera – Ibn al-Haytham

Ibn al-Haytham laid the foundations for modern cameras by explaining how our eyes work. He _____¹ a way of projecting an image onto another surface through a small hole in a dark room –later _____² “camera obscura”. Many things _____³ from this discovery—cameras, cinema, all share the same principle.

-Flying – Abbas ibn Firnas

Abbas ibn Firnas gazed up to the heavens passionate in his belief that man _____⁴ fly. He dared to dream about flying a thousand years before the Wright Brothers.

-Advances in Engineering – Al-Jazari

Al-Jazari _____⁵ some groundbreaking advances in engineering. He most significant discovery _____⁶ rotary motion into linear motion using a crank and connecting rod—it’s essentially pumps and engines. The industrial revolution could have not happened without such device. Also, he _____⁷ the famous Elephant Clock. It _____⁸ dozens of components _____⁹ from different cultures around the world—Indian, Greek, Arabian, Egyptian, Chinese.