



A. READ THE PASSAGE AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Medieval knights were warriors of the Middle Ages who served a lord, usually a king or a nobleman, in exchange for land and protection. They were heavily armored and trained in the art of combat, both on horseback and on foot.

Knights were considered to be the elite soldiers of their time, and were usually from wealthy or noble families. They were required to live by a strict code of chivalry, which included virtues such as honor, courage, and loyalty.

Knights were also expected to be skilled in the use of weapons such as swords, lances, and shields. Lances were long poles used on horseback when charging into battle. They also had to be skilled horsemen and attend tournaments, which were a form of training and entertainment.

During battles, knights would charge into battle on horseback, using their lances to break through enemy lines. After breaking through enemy lines, they would drop their lances and would unsheathe their swords for hand-to-hand combat.

Knights also helped guard castles. Medieval castles were built to protect the lords and their knights. The castles had strong walls, towers, and a moat to protect them from enemy attacks. Knights would serve as guards around the castle and on its walls, protecting the lord and his family from anyone who might try to attack.

Despite the romanticized stories of chivalry and gallantry, medieval knights were not always very nice people. They were often involved in brutal and violent conflicts that could have been avoided. They also often mistreated those from lower classes whom they were responsible to protect. Knights were supposed to protect the lords' serfs and peasants. These are the farmers and craftsmen who lived and worked on the lords' lands. The knights would often take advantage of the situation, acting cruelly towards the peasants and taking what they wanted.

The role of the knight began to decline in the late Middle Ages, with the advent of gunpowder and new forms of warfare. However, the legacy of the medieval knight lives on in the modern day ideals of honor, courage, and loyalty. Overall, medieval knights were an important part of history and played a significant role in the Middle Ages. They were skilled warriors, protectors of their lords, and exemplars of chivalry.

1. What was a knight in the Middle Ages?

2. What does the word chivalry mean, based on the text?

3. How did knights become skilled in fighting?

4. What was a lance and what was it used for?

5. How were medieval castles designed so that they protected the lord's family?

6. How did medieval knights engage in battle?

7. In what ways did knights sometimes behave badly?

8. What were the main characteristics of a knight?
