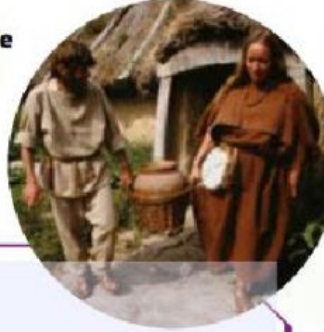




## Social Studies

# What Was the Life of Peasants Like?

**01** Look at the picture on the right. What assumptions can you make about the life of peasants? Discuss with a classmate and write a concluding sentence in the space below.



A large, empty rectangular box with a purple border, intended for students to write their conclusions.

1.1) Choose the affirmative or negative form of future tense that best completes each sentence.

- A) Children to harvest in September.
- B) Peasants the field tomorrow morning.
- C) Peasants asking for a raise next month
- D) They plowing wheat next month.
- E) They planting vegan bread next week.

## Peasants, Peasants Everywhere

During the Middle Ages, most of the people were peasants. They used to live and work in a **fief**, a land that belonged to a lord. There were two types of peasants, **serfs** and **free peasants**.

**Serfs** had to live all their life on the piece of land where they were born. They weren't free to do even simple things like travel or get married. They usually **suffered** abuse from their lord.

Free peasants lived in villages and owned land. They had to pay taxes to the lords and the Church. They also had to pay the lord if they wanted to use the **mill**, the **oven**, or the press. However, they were free to make their own decisions.

People who worked in agriculture had to do tough work. This meant that entire families had to work, including the children. They used to **grow** crops such as wheat to make bread, but they would also grow some vegetables. Some peasants kept animals. The work was especially hard because they had the most basic tools like the Roman plough to prepare the soil, and sickles and scythes to **harvest** the crops. The only **fertilizer** they had was cow excrement.

02) Read "Peasants, Peasants Everywhere" and choose the correct word for each definition.

1. to experience something bad
2. a place where grain is processed
3. a hot machine used to make bread
4. to cultivate
5. to take the product of a field
6. a component that helps crops to grow

- |               |
|---------------|
| a) Fertilizer |
| b) Harvest    |
| c) Mill       |
| d) Oven       |
| e) Grow       |



**03 Read the text again. Then, circle the correct option to complete the sentences below.**

1. Serfs had to
2. If serfs wanted to marry, they needed
3. Peasants had to pay taxes
4. Agriculture was so difficult that
5. Agriculture was difficult because people only had

1. **a.** marry.      **b.** work the land.      **c.** stay in the fief.
2. **a.** a Lord.      **b.** permission.      **c.** pay taxes.
3. **a.** to their lord and the Church.      **b.** to the Church.      **c.** to the Lord.
4. **a.** serfs had to work.      **b.** even children had to work.      **c.** Romans had to work.
5. **a.** sickles and scythes.      **b.** Roman ploughs.      **c.** basic tools.

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## Why Was the Clergy Privileged During the Middle Ages?

### *A Divine Job*

Religion was a significant part of people's lives during the Middle Ages. People usually took part in Christian **rituals** during births, marriages, and deaths. The Church affected almost all areas of life.

The main task of the Church was to teach Christianity and to administer sacraments. The members of the church were called the clergy. There were two types of clergy, the secular and the regular. The secular consisted of the **priests** and bishops. They gave services to the general population.

The regular clergy were members of religious orders, like the Benedictines or the Cistercians. They lived in communities far from society. They lived, prayed, studied, and worked in **monasteries**. Women had their own religious orders and could become nuns in convents.

The Church, particularly the secular clergy, had an influence on politics. The Pope was the highest authority of the Roman Catholic church. The Pope could even **expel** kings. The emperors and kings had members of the Church as their **advisers**.

The Church received donations from nobles. They also received a **share** of the peasants' harvest called a tithe. The Church also changed the culture. Reading and writing weren't common. Monks copied manuscripts and most artworks were created to decorate churches and cathedrals.

**02** Read "A Divine Job." Use the words in bold to complete the definitions below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are places where nuns or monks live.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the church.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of a ritual.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ is to officially tell someone to leave, often by force.
5. Important people sometimes need \_\_\_\_\_ to make decisions.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of something whole.

**03** Read the text again and write the letter of the correct answer.

- |   |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Religion was important in people's lives because | <input type="radio"/> | a. there were many parties in the year.         |
|   |                       | b. there were rituals for many aspects of life. |
| 2. Kings had to obey the Pope                       | <input type="radio"/> | a. to be part of the church.                    |
|   |                       | b. because he was the personification of god.   |
| 3. The advisers of kings and emperors               | <input type="radio"/> | a. were not important people.                   |
|   |                       | b. influenced important decisions.              |
| 4. Most people did not know how to                  | <input type="radio"/> | a. make art.                                    |
|   |                       | b. read or write.                               |
| 5. The regular clergy                               | <input type="radio"/> | a. didn't serve the people.                     |
|   |                       | b. didn't work.                                 |

**04**  
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**Q5 Connect the sentences using conjunctions. Look at the example.**

1. Kings made decisions. They needed advisers.

Kings made decisions, so they needed advisers.

2. People usually took part in rituals. They took part in festivals.

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3. Emperors ruled. They received advice from noblemen.

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4. People entered monasteries. They became monks.

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5. The Church was stable. It was appropriate to study there.

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6. Nuns could live in a monastery. Monks could live in a monastery.

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Use:

**And , but, so, then** to connect the sentences.



## Social Studies

# How Did the Middle Ages Transform the World?

**01** Work in pairs and discuss what was the best and worst parts of the Middle Ages. Write down your conclusions in the space below.

## Medieval Times at their Peak



The High Middle Ages was the period during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries when there were **improvements** in society such as developments in the technology used in agriculture, resulting in more food than before. Trade also grew, and this resulted in the creation of banks.

At the beginning of the twelfth century, people invented new agricultural techniques that expanded around Europe. Two significant developments were the implementation of **irrigation** and mills. Irrigation meant that droughts didn't affect crops as much as before. **Windmills** and **watermills** could do the work of many people, so people were free to do other things.

More food also meant an increase in the population, which resulted in more demand for products and the development of trade and banking. **Merchants** went to trade fairs where they could buy and sell their products from other continents. They needed more effective ways to manage money, and that was the beginning of banking. Banks created credit, the chance to receive financial support that could be paid later.

The economic development resulted in more changes in society. The population was free from the authority of feudal lords so that people could move to cities. Monarchs became stronger, resulting in stronger and more stable **kingdoms**. During this period, extraordinary cathedrals were built and many universities were founded.

02) Read Medieval "Times at their peak" and choose the correct definition for each word.

1. a mill propelled by water
2. a system to water plants
3. everything in a king's land
4. a mill propelled by wind
5. when something gets better
6. a person who buys and sells

- a) Improvements
- b) Irrigation
- c) Windmills
- d) Watermills
- e) Kingdoms
- f) Mercahants



**03 Read the text again and match the questions to the answers.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What are some highlights of the High Middle Ages? | a. because merchants needed more effective ways to manage money |
| 2. What problem did irrigation solve?                | b. developments in agriculture, culture, and economics          |
| 3. Why did banks come into existence?                | c. the construction of cathedrals and universities              |
| 4. Why did more people live in cities?               | d. lost crops because of drought                                |
| 5. What are examples of cultural developments?       | e. because they were free from the authority of lords           |

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04) Fill in the gaps to complete the following sentences.

1. The economy during the twelfth century was the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Middle Ages. (
2. The population grew \_\_\_\_\_ most rapidly during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ important development was the mill.
4. Merchants were \_\_\_\_\_ richest during the High Middle Ages.
5. Trade developed the \_\_\_\_\_ tremendously during that period. (