

I. Read the reading passage about the Middle Ages.

Middle Ages

Timeline

The Middle Ages, or Medieval Times, in Europe was a long period of history from 500 AD to 1500 AD. That is 1000 years! It covers the time from the fall of the Roman Empire to the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

This was a time of castles and peasants, guilds and monasteries, cathedrals, and crusades. Great leaders such as Joan of Arc and Charlemagne were part of the Middle Ages as well as major events such as the Black Plague and the rise of Islam.

Middle Ages, Medieval Times, Dark Ages: What's the Difference?

When people use the terms Medieval Times, Middle Ages, and Dark Ages they are generally referring to the same period of time. The Dark Ages is usually referring to the first half of the Middle Ages from 500 to 1000 AD.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, a lot of the Roman culture and knowledge was lost. This included art, technology, engineering, and history. Historians know a lot about Europe during the Roman Empire because the Romans kept excellent records of all that happened. However, the time after the Romans is "dark" to historians because there were no central government recording events. Therefore, historians call this time the Dark Ages.

Although the term Middle Ages covers the years between 500 and 1500 throughout the world, this timeline is based on events specifically in Europe during that time. Go here to learn about the Islamic Empire during the Middle Ages.

Timeline

- **476** - The fall of the Roman Empire. Rome had ruled much of Europe. Now much of the land would fall into confusion as local kings and rulers tried to grab power. This is the start of the Dark Ages or the Middle Ages.
- **481** - Clovis becomes King of the Franks. Clovis united most of the Frankish tribes that were part of Roman Province of Gaul.
- **570** - Muhammad, prophet of Islam is born.
- **732** - Battle of Tours. The Franks defeat the Muslims turning back Islam from Europe.
- **800** - Charlemagne, King of the Franks, is crowned Holy Roman Emperor. Charlemagne united much of Western Europe and is considered the father of both the French and the German Monarchies.
- **835** - Vikings from the Scandinavian lands (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden) begin to invade northern Europe. They would continue until 1042.
- **896** - Alfred the Great, King of England, turns back the Viking invaders.
- **1066** - William of Normandy, a French Duke, conquers England in the Battle of Hastings. He became King of England and changed the country forever.
- **1096** - Start of the First Crusade. The Crusades were wars between the Holy Roman Empire and the Muslims over the Holy Land. There would be several Crusades over the next 200 years.
- **1189** - Richard I, Richard the Lionheart, becomes King of England.

- **1206** - The Mongol Empire is founded by Genghis Khan.
- **1215** - King John of England signs the Magna Carta. This document gave the people some rights and said the king was not above the law.
- **1271** - Marco Polo leaves on his famous journey to explore Asia.
- **1337** - The Hundred Years War begins between England and France for control of the French throne.
- **1347** - The Black Death begins in Europe. This horrible disease would kill around half of the people in Europe.
- **1431** - French heroine Joan of Arc is executed by England at the age of 19.
- **1444** - German inventor Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press. This will signal the start of the Renaissance.
- **1453** - The Ottoman Empire captures the city of Constantinople. This signals the end of the Eastern Roman Empire also known as Byzantium.
- **1482** - Leonardo Da Vinci paints "The Last Supper."

II. Questions on this quiz are based on information from Middle Ages Timeline.

1. What period of time is covered by the Middle Ages?

2. What event signaled the start of the Middle Ages?

3. What is the difference between the Middle Ages and Medieval Times?

4. Does the Dark Ages refer to the first half or second half of the Middle Ages?

5. What leader of the Franks was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in the year 800 AD and is also considered the father of the French and German monarchies?

6. What document did the King of England sign that said the people had rights and that the king was not above the law?

7. What was the name of the disease that killed nearly half the people of Europe?

8. What were the wars between the Holy Roman Empire and the Muslims called?

9. What Scandinavian peoples began to invade northern Europe in 835?

10. Who invented the printing press in Europe?

III. Find the terms about the Middle Ages inside the word search puzzle.

E	G	B	G	J	J	C	I	D	L	L	A	V	E	I	D	E	M
J	U	W	U	X	F	Y	Q	C	S	G	Z	T	E	T	C	P	B
S	I	Z	R	R	O	O	R	G	T	A	E	N	H	E	A	M	R
M	L	K	U	F	T	U	N	E	Y	L	T	E	E	H	T	T	A
R	D	P	M	M	S	I	I	C	T	K	F	M	N	T	H	C	T
A	S	S	A	A	K	E	F	S	U	R	T	A	G	A	E	T	S
F	X	O	D	I	C	Q	A	F	A	J	H	N	A	E	D	H	I
O	X	E	V	O	B	C	L	N	D	H	G	R	M	D	R	U	U
T	S	U	F	I	C	P	K	D	Z	M	I	U	E	K	A	N	Q
A	N	X	J	M	E	S	W	R	J	Q	N	O	L	C	L	Y	N
O	Y	S	O	B	O	L	G	N	M	V	K	T	R	A	S	R	O
C	G	D	U	I	F	V	P	C	N	O	Y	X	A	L	X	L	C
A	A	A	S	N	U	K	K	E	U	F	N	J	H	B	Q	A	E
H	W	M	T	D	W	R	P	L	V	W	H	A	C	L	Y	V	R
M	O	N	A	S	T	E	R	I	E	S	I	T	R	J	G	I	U
A	M	E	T	S	Y	S	L	A	D	U	E	F	G	C	B	H	A
W	A	C	C	W	F	C	R	A	F	O	N	A	O	J	H	C	O
E	N	E	I	G	M	S	N	O	X	A	S	X	U	R	P	S	B

Crusades

Monarchs

Guilds

Castle

Vikings

Black Death

Joust

Chivalry

Monasteries

Saxons

Medieval

Joan of Arc

Coat of Arms

Knight

Feudal System

The Franks

Cathedrals

Charlemagne

Reconquista

Tournament

IV. Watch the video about the Middle Ages.