

What Were the Middle Ages?

By Sharon Fabian



¹ What were the Middle Ages? The Middle Ages has always been big news, so let's use the journalists' five W's to answer this question. We'll start with when.



² **When** did the Middle Ages happen?

³ The Middle Ages began sometime around 400 AD, and ended around 1500 AD. That's a long time - about 1,100 years!

⁴ **Where** did the Middle Ages happen?

⁵ During this time span, interesting developments were taking place all over the globe, but the events that we usually think of as belonging to the Middle Ages happened mainly in Europe - although sometimes they spilled over into other places.

⁶ **What** happened during the Middle Ages?

⁷ The answers to that question could fill up books, but here are a few of the whats of the Middle Ages: knights in shining armor, damsels in distress, a sword in a stone, dragons breathing fire, castles with moats, drawbridges for crossing the moats, and dungeons deep inside the castles.

⁸ Lords and ladies dressed in those wild medieval fashions - long dressy dresses and pointy hats (for the ladies), short jackets and tight hose (for the men). Kings and queens ruled. King Arthur consulted his Knights of the Round Table. Merlin, the magician, was his trusty assistant. Robin Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor. There was a War of the Roses and a Hundred Years' War. There was the Black Death.

⁹ Jousts and tournaments took people's minds off of their troubles. Jugglers and troubadours did too.

¹⁰ A few of these things may or may not have really happened, but they're all part of the story of the Middle Ages.

¹¹ **Who** lived during the Middle Ages?

¹² Groups like the Angles, the Saxons, the Goths, and the Vikings made big names for themselves. So did Charlemagne. Kings Henry and Richard and John did too. So did Chaucer, but he used a pen, not a sword, to win his fame.

¹³ There were lords, ladies, knights, and monks. Everyday people included

merchants, stonecarvers, jesters, shoemakers, farmers, troubadours, acrobats, stained glass window makers, and rat catchers.

¹⁴ **Why** was it called the Middle Ages?

¹⁵ The Middle Ages seems to have gotten its name because it is sandwiched in between two time periods known for making great advances. Before the Middle Ages, there was the Roman Empire, a highly developed civilization with many scientific and artistic achievements. After the Middle Ages, there was the Renaissance, known as the great rebirth of culture in Europe. In between there was a period of about 1,100 years, and for lack of a better name, it became known as the Middle Ages.

¹⁶ Now, here's one more *why*. **Why** should we study the Middle Ages?

¹⁷ Because it's interesting! Do you like action and adventure? The Middle Ages has it!

Heroes and villains? Lots!
How about romance? Plenty!
Dark, creaky castles? The creakiest!
Scary monsters? Remember the fire-breathing dragons!
Games? Chess anyone?
Jokers? With bells on!
Cool clothes?
Weird music?
Strange foods?

The Middle Ages has it all. Did we mention catapults? Gargoyles? The Middle Ages has something for everyone. So don't wait; start reading and check it all out!

Copyright © 2013 edHelper



edHelper.
com

Date _____

Name _____

What Were the Middle Ages?

<p>1. The Middle Ages lasted for about _____ years.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 1,500</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 1,100</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 400</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 4,000</p>	<p>2. The Middle Ages occurred between the _____ and the _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Roman Empire, modern times</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Prehistoric times, Renaissance</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Prehistoric times, modern times</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Roman Empire, Renaissance</p>
<p>3. The events associated with the Middle Ages happened mainly in _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Rome</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Europe</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Asia</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Italy</p>	<p>4. Which of the following is not associated with the Middle Ages?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Knights</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Dragons</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Coliseums</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Castles</p>
<p>5. Which of the following is not associated with the Middle Ages?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Mummies</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Jesters</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Moats</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Robin Hood</p>	<p>6. The Goths were _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A A musical group of the Middle Ages</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Fictional characters</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Imaginary creatures like dragons</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D A group of people of the Middle Ages</p>
<p>7. The Middle Ages is known as the great rebirth of culture in Europe.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>	<p>8. The Middle Ages is known for knights and castles.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>