

# WORLD BOOK® ONLINE:

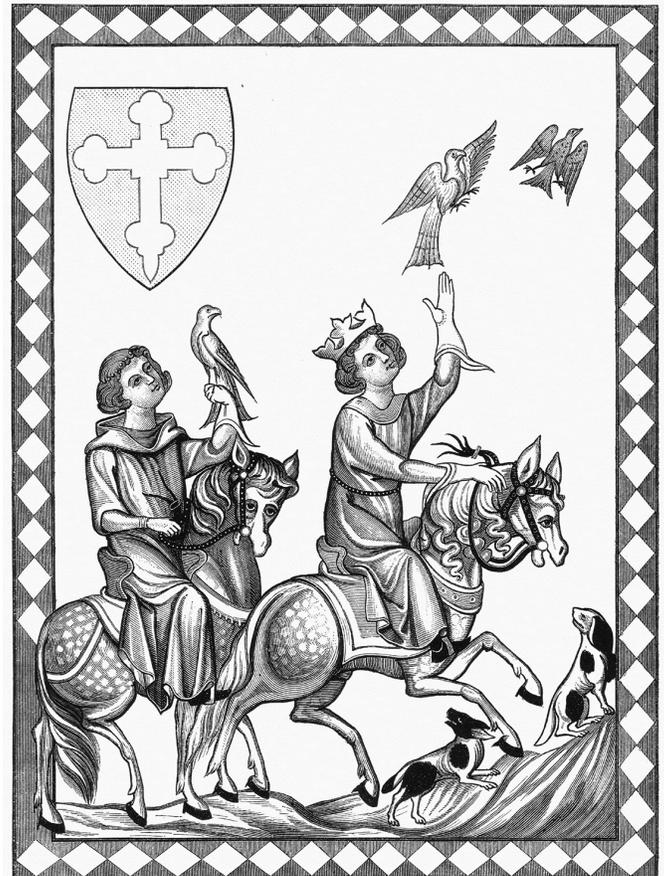
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MIDDLE AGES: Life in the Middle Ages

The Middle Ages lasted for more than 1,000 years—from the A.D. 400's to the end of the 1400's. While the Middle Ages is often considered a time of turmoil and violence, medieval people had a clear idea of where they belonged in the hierarchy of their own society. What role might you have been born into during the Middle Ages? Would you be noble knight or peasant farmer? What about a peasant, townsfolk or religious leader? Explore life the Middle Ages and find out what life was like for everyday people!

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### FIND IT!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about Middle Ages, you can find many of the answers by searching the key word "Middle Ages." Sometimes "hints" will also suggest other articles.

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

- Medieval people divided their society into three main groups: **clergy**, **lords**, and **peasants**. Can you match each group with the role assigned to it by medieval tradition?

\_\_\_\_\_ to govern and fight

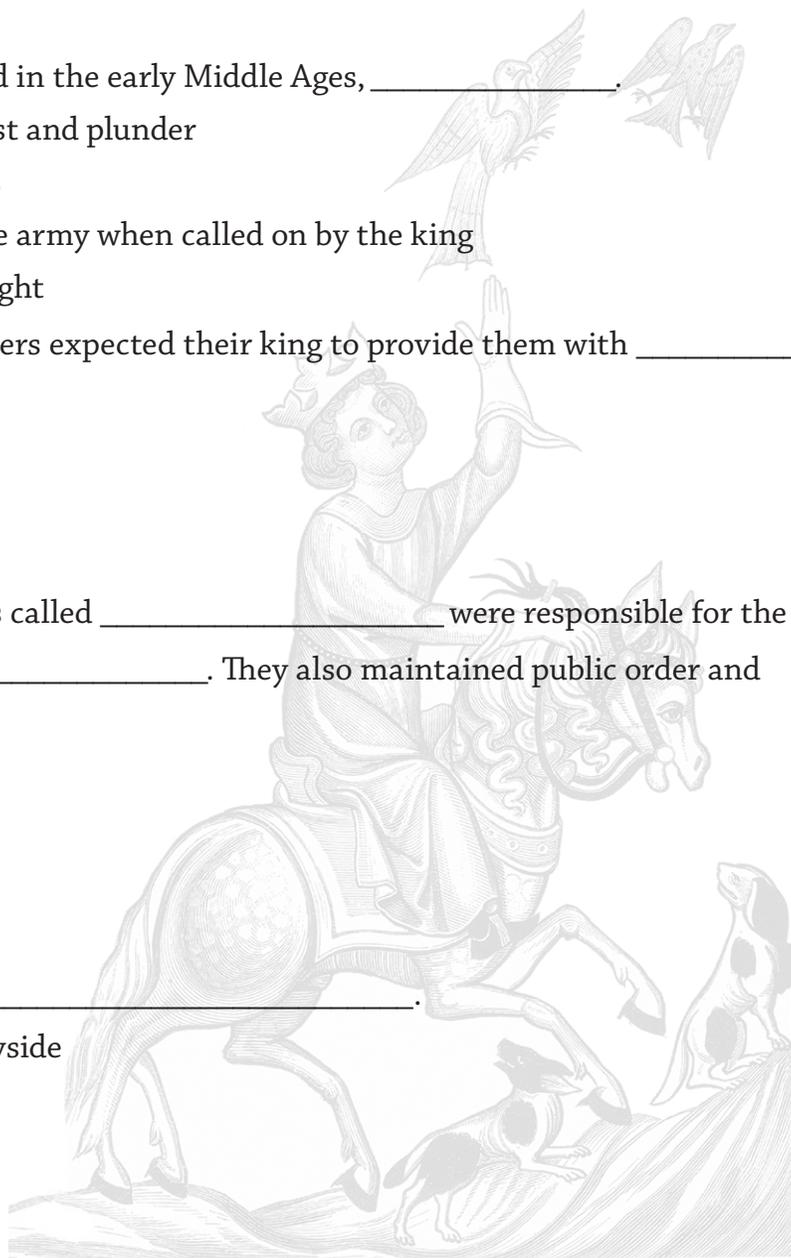
\_\_\_\_\_ to serve the church

\_\_\_\_\_ to work the land

## The Lords

Lords were the military, political, and social leaders in the Middle Ages. Their role in society grew in part out of the need for people to find protection during the change and instability of the early part of the Middle Ages. Later, they continued to shape many aspects of medieval society. Circle the correct answers to demonstrate your knowledge of the life and times of a medieval lord.

2. In the early Middle Ages, Germanic leaders in Europe \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. formed many small kingdoms
  - b. often received support from local Roman officials
  - c. continued using many old Roman practices to govern
  - d. a and b
  - e. all of the above
3. In the Germanic kingdoms that emerged in the early Middle Ages, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. most royal income came from conquest and plunder
  - b. heavy land taxes paid for large armies
  - c. free men were expected to serve in the army when called on by the king
  - d. everyone in the king's army was a knight
4. In return for loyalty, the Germanic soldiers expected their king to provide them with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. armor
  - b. money
  - c. land
  - d. cities
5. In the Carolingian Empire, local officials called \_\_\_\_\_ were responsible for the judicial system within their \_\_\_\_\_. They also maintained public order and mobilized men in times of war.
  - a. missi, counties
  - b. counts, counties
  - c. priests, parishes
  - d. sheriffs, shires
6. Wealthy lord usually lived \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. in large fortified homes in the countryside
  - b. at the king's court
  - c. in large castles in the cities
  - d. in old Roman fortresses

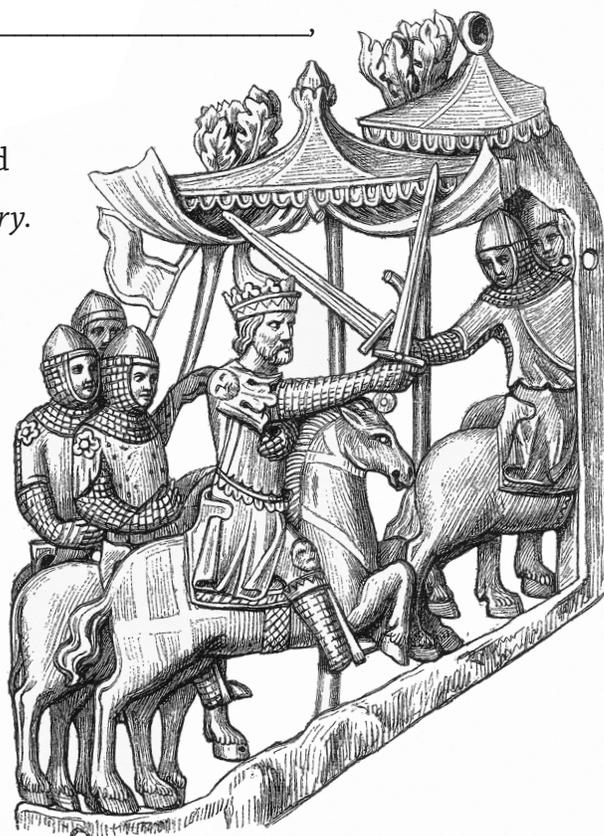


7. In the late Middle Ages, kings began to make alliances with a new middle class made of up \_\_\_\_\_ and small \_\_\_\_\_, offsetting the influence of the great lords.
- townspeople, businessmen
  - laborers, craftworkers
  - bishops, traders
  - townspeople, landowners
8. Traditionally, medieval kings received advice from a council of high-ranking aristocrats and clergy. Later, representatives from towns and counties were also invited to the assemblies. In England, the gatherings developed into \_\_\_\_\_.
- the king's court
  - Parliament
  - the House of Lords
  - an annual holiday

## The Knight Life

(Hint: For information about knights, see the “Knights and knighthood” article.)

9. The word *knight* comes from the Old English word \_\_\_\_\_, which means *household retainer*.
10. The word *chivalry* comes from the Old French word *chevalerie*, meaning \_\_\_\_\_ *soldiery*.



11. Face this bold challenge! Use the definitions below to identify the words describing knightly life that lie hidden in the tangle of letters below:

- \_\_\_\_\_ : first level of training for knighthood, starting about age 7
- \_\_\_\_\_ : more advanced knight-in-training, who rode into battle with his lord
- “I \_\_\_\_\_ you knight”: words said by someone bestowing knighthood on another
- \_\_\_\_\_ : a mounted warrior
- \_\_\_\_\_ : knight’s code of behavior
- \_\_\_\_\_ : protective garments made of small interlaced metal rings
- \_\_\_\_\_ armor: heavy metal plating worn to protect against blows
- \_\_\_\_\_ : combat practice between two groups of knights
- \_\_\_\_\_ : competitive combat between two knights with blunted weapons
- \_\_\_\_\_ : competition in which two knights charged on horseback, each trying to unseat the other with a blunt lance or sword
- \_\_\_\_\_ : symbolic markings indicating a knight’s identity

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



12. List at least four qualities of a true knight, according to the code of chivalry.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why did knights wear a coat of arms?

## Home Sweet Castle

*Castles served as homes, fortresses, barracks, prisons, storehouses, centers of local government and more for medieval monarchs and nobles. They were also central to the lives of peasants—as the home of their landlord and a place of refuge in times of danger.*

14. Fill in the blanks to identify these basic parts of an early medieval castle made of earth and wood. Later, builders incorporated these features into more elaborate stone castles.

(Hint: To answer these questions, see the “Castle” article.)

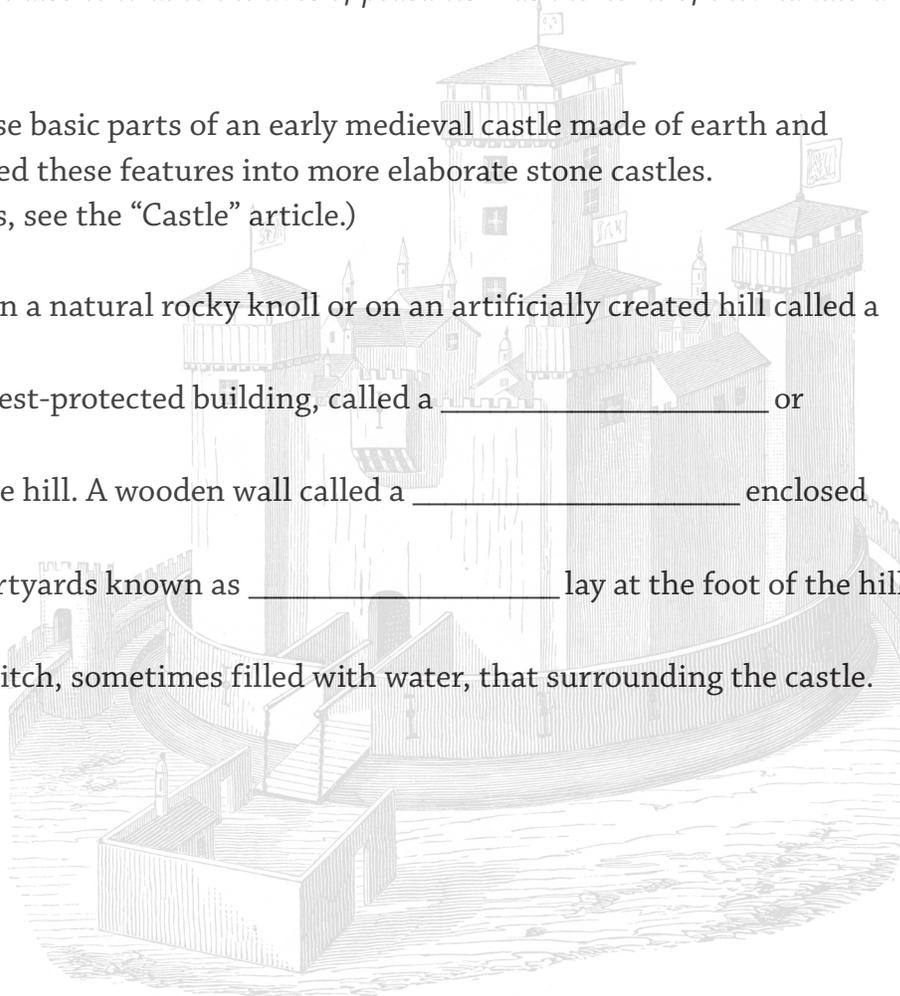
Builders usually constructed castles on a natural rocky knoll or on an artificially created hill called a

\_\_\_\_\_. The castle’s best-protected building, called a \_\_\_\_\_ or

\_\_\_\_\_, stood atop the hill. A wooden wall called a \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

the hilltop. One or more fortified courtyards known as \_\_\_\_\_ lay at the foot of the hill.

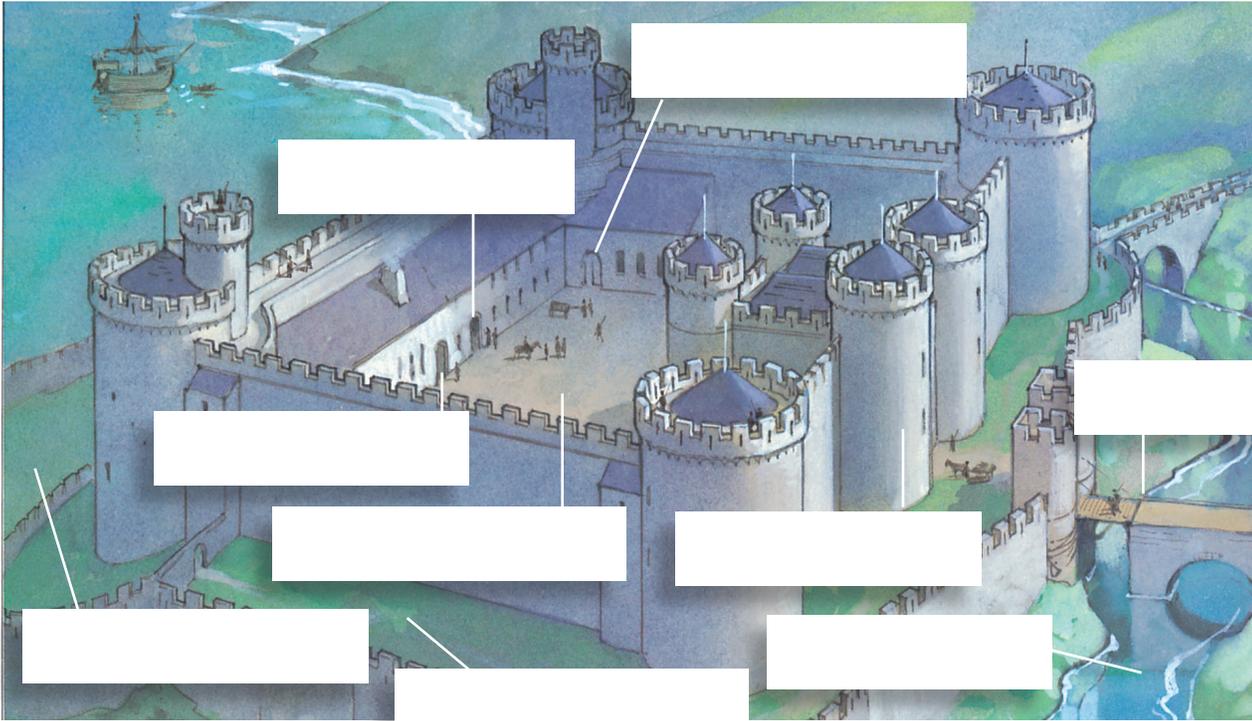
A \_\_\_\_\_ was a deep ditch, sometimes filled with water, that surrounding the castle.



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## SEE IT!

15. Look at the drawing of a “Stone castle of the Middle Ages” in the “Middle Ages” article. Label nine parts of the castle, as shown in the image.



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## FIND IT!

*What role did aristocratic women play in medieval life? To find out, return to the “Middle Ages” article.*

16. A. What were the responsibilities of aristocratic women in managing a medieval household?

B. What were some of the limitations on what women could do?

17. What was an abbess? In addition to religious duties, what other responsibilities might an abbess have?

# The Peasants

*Most medieval people were farmers. What was it like to work on the land in medieval times?*

- 18. In the 500's, the old Roman system of large farms worked by slaves began to be replaced by a type of estate called a bipartite estate or a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 19. On these estates, a landlord controlled part of the land directly and rented out portions to tenant farmers. What sort of rents did these tenants pay?
- 20. Many peasant and landless farm laborers were what historians call "semifree." What did it mean to be "semifree?"

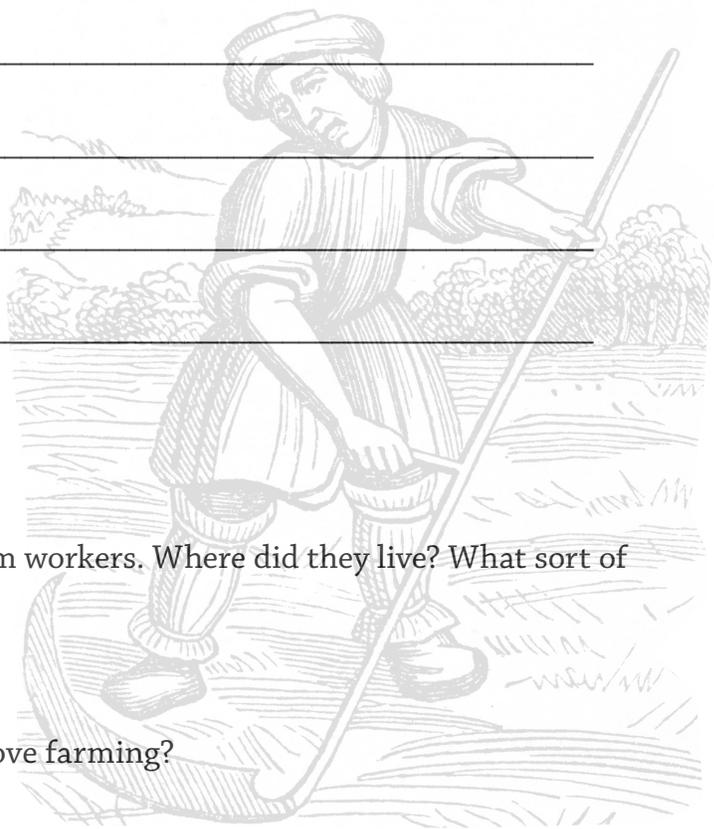
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## SEE IT!

- 21. Examine the pictures titled "Life in the Middle Ages" and "Food production in the Middle Ages," that can be found in the "Middle Ages" article or in the "Images, Video, and Audio" tab.

Name at least 4 aspects of life on a medieval manor that are illustrated in the pictures.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_



- 22. Did peasants ever own their own land?
- 23. Landless laborers were usually the poorest farm workers. Where did they live? What sort of foods did they eat?
- 24. How did the invention of the heavy plow improve farming?

# The Clergy and the Church

The Christian church touched nearly every aspect of life in the Middle Ages, from birth and baptism to burial. The clergy (people ordained for religious work), came from all classes.

- 25. A. From what class did most high-ranking church leaders come?
- B. What non-religious responsibilities did they sometimes handle?
- 26. A. What job did peasants usually do if they became clergyman?
- B. What were their responsibilities?

(Hint: See the “Monastery” article to answer the remaining questions about church activities.)

- 27. What are Christian monasteries and convents?
- 28. For a Christian monk of the Benedictine order living in the 1100’s, when and how did the day begin? List at least three daytime activities. When and how did the day end?

### Start of Day

When: \_\_\_\_\_

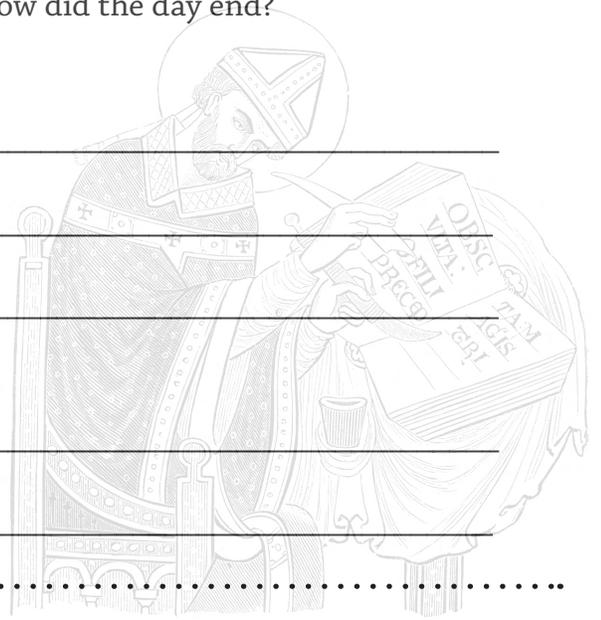
What: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

### End of Day

When: \_\_\_\_\_

What: \_\_\_\_\_



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## SEE IT!

Some monasteries were important centers of learning. Find and examine the picture titled “Monk in a scriptorium” in the article or in the “Images, Video, and Audio” tab.

- 29. A. What is the monk doing?
- B. Why do you think this work would have been important in the Middle Ages?



35. What role did guilds play when they were first organized?

36. How did guilds help towns win more self-government?