

Year 4 General Studies

The Middle Ages

The Middle Ages, or Medieval Times, in Europe was a long period of history from 500 AD to 1500 AD. That's 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 Bubonic Plague and the rise of Islam.

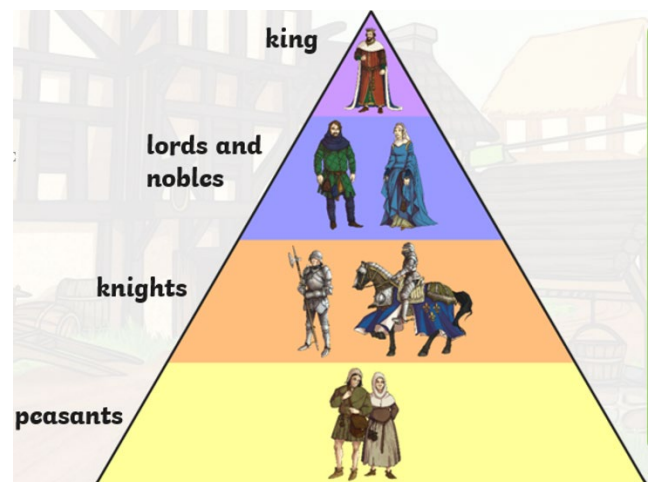


Middle Ages, Medieval Times, Dark Ages: What's the Difference?

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 was no central government recording events. This is why historians call this time the Dark Ages.

The Feudal System

The feudal system provided order and stability. Everyone knew their place and what they had to do. Groups were ordered into a social hierarchy. It had the king at the top with all of the control, and the peasants at the bottom doing all of the work.



Black Death - The Bubonic Plague

Today we call this disease the bubonic plague. Very few people get the disease today and most of those that do recover fine. When people got the disease in the Middle Ages, they almost always died. People would get really sick including black and blue blotches all over their body. It is estimated that somewhere between 75 million and 200 million people died of the plague. The plague was not called the Black Death until many years later. Some think it was called this because of how the skin turned dark at the late stages of the disease, but it was more likely called "Black" to reflect the dark and horrible time in history.

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Questions

1. How many years were the Middle Ages?

2. Who was at the top of the feudal system? (Circle the answer)

- Peasants

- Knights

- King

3. Historians know very little about the time period from 500 to 1000 AD because there was no central government recording events. That is why historians call this time the Dark Ages.

True / False

4. Why was the Bubonic Plague called the Black Death?

5. Medieval Times, Middle Ages, and Dark Ages are precisely referring to the same period in time.

True / False

6. Approximately how many people died from the Bubonic Plague?
