

Year 7) Term 3B: Medieval Society

Learning objective: To understand chronology, sources and factors through the history of the Medieval realms and society.

Assessment Skill focus:

Source usefulness = explaining how useful evidence is based on its content and reliability.

Describe = giving a description of an event, period or person.



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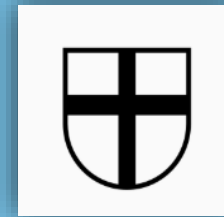
What do I need to know about life for ordinary Medieval people?

- What life was like for a peasant and what towns were like.
- How people had fun in the Medieval period and how they dressed.
- Why the Medieval Church held so much power over people.



What do I need to know about knights and criminals?

- What heraldry was and why knights and houses used symbols.
- What types of crimes were committed in the Medieval period.
- How crimes were punished by the law in the Medieval period.



What do I need to know about the Black Death?

- What type of medicine people used in the Medieval Period.
- What caused the Black Death.
- How people treated and attempted to prevent the Black Death.
- What the consequences were of the Black Death on Europe.



KEYWORDS:

Chronology = events put in the order that they happened.
Sources = evidence from the past.

Interpretations = a persons opinion on a historical event.

Key events/people:

Peasants
Heaven
The Church
Heraldry
Crime and punishment
Medieval Medicine
The Black Death

1066 AD



William the Conqueror brings Christian Churches to England

1066 - 1342



England gets split into different 'houses' – factions who rule over different areas for the King. They each have a different symbol or crest.

1342 – 1353 AD



The Black Death sweeps through Europe, killing millions.



What first-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A first-order concept is a word historians use to describe facts related to events.

➤ Facts on the life of ordinary Medieval people:

- Remember, peasants were at the bottom of the feudal system. They had very little power and money, were often slaves to the local landowners and barons. If they were a slave, this was called serfdom.
- Medieval towns were often cramped, unhygienic places. Raw sewage flowed through the streets, people drank too much alcohol because water was dirty and dangerous, and many died of disease.
- People had fun in different ways in the Medieval period. A common past time was jousting – a sport played by knights on horses who would charge at each other with spears. It was a dangerous sport!
- Fashion in the Medieval period was very different to modern times. Clothes were made out of leather, animal hides, cotton, and – if you were really rich – dyed silk. Red dye was made from animal blood!

➤ Facts on the knights and criminals:

- As part of the feudal system created by William the Conqueror, England was split into different regions – which were controlled by different ‘houses,’ who were groups of wealthy landowners.
- These houses had knights – who often decorated their shields with family crests – like a rose or a lion.
- Criminals were punished in different ways to nowadays. Trials by combat and ordeals were common.

➤ Facts on the Black Death:

- Medieval doctors did not know what caused the Black Death – a disease that swept through Europe and killed millions of people. We know it was caused by fleas on rats that bit humans.
- Symptoms included sickness, nausea, and black buboes that popped on the armpits, groin and neck.
- Medieval people thought that the disease was a punishment sent by god, or was caused by an imbalance in the Four Humours – the idea that humans are made of four elements.

What second-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A ‘second-order concept’ is a phrase historians use to describe the history skills that are used in history – like putting events in chronological order, or analysing sources!

- Culture and diversity is a second-order concept that helps historians identify different aspects of society and appreciate their differences. Medieval England and culture contrasts modern England.

Look to the past:

Below is a primary source: a painting from 1342 depicting the Black Death. The men are carrying many wooden boxes and burying them.

What have the people inside died of? What does this also tell you about the consequences of the Black Death?

