

The Middle Ages

Middle Ages Basics

The Middle Ages was a time between the 5th and 15th centuries, after the Roman Empire fell and before the Renaissance. It was a time of big changes in Europe, with feudalism, the Catholic Church, and new art styles.

Society and Politics

Feudalism

Feudalism was how society worked during the Middle Ages. Land ownership was important and decided who had power. The king gave land to nobles, who gave land to knights, and the lowest group was the peasants.

The Catholic Church

The Church was very important in the Middle Ages. It brought people together, provided education, and was involved in politics. Monasteries, abbeys, and cathedrals were important places for learning and worship.

Culture and Art

Gothic Architecture

Gothic architecture was popular in the Middle Ages. It had pointed arches, ribbed vaults, and flying buttresses, which let buildings be taller and more open. Examples include Notre-Dame de Paris and Chartres Cathedral.

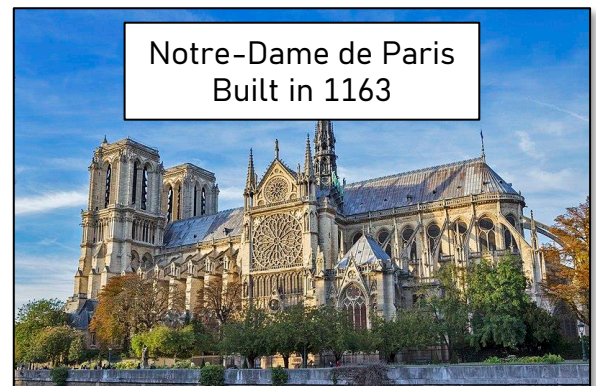
Literature and Language

During the Middle Ages, people started writing in their own languages instead of Latin. Famous works include Dante's "Divine Comedy," Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales," and the poem "Beowulf."

Art and Illumination

Art in the Middle Ages focused on religion and teaching Bible stories. Manuscript illumination, or decorating handwritten texts with pictures, was popular. Famous examples are the Book of Kells and the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry.

In summary, the Middle Ages was a time of big changes in society, politics, and culture. It helped create the foundation for later developments during the Renaissance and beyond.



The Middle Ages

Questions

Use information from the text to support your answer

1) What are the middle ages? What time period was it and where was it?

2) What was the feudal society? How did it work?

3) Which church was important in the middle ages? What did they affect?

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer

1) Which work did Chaucer create?	Beowulf	Canterbury Tales
2) What determined hierarchy in feudalism?	Land	Education
3) Which church played a central role?	Catholic	Protestant
4) What's a key feature of Gothic architecture?	Pointed Arches	Round Arches
5) What language did medieval people write in?	Latin	Vernacular

Questioning

What questions do you have after reading the information?

1)	
2)	