

The End of the Middle Ages



By the End of the Middle Ages:

- Feudalism began to decline
- A new middle class emerged



What led to the end of the Middle Ages?

- **The Black Death (1347-1351)**
 - **Killed 30-50% of the population, creating a labor shortage**
 - **Peasants were able to negotiate better wages and work in other jobs**



What else led to the end of the Middle Ages?

- **The Growth of Trade and Commerce**
 - **Trade led to the development of cities that became economic centers**
 - **More people moved to the cities, so there were fewer people available to work the land**
 - **People got jobs outside of farming and were paid money**

What else led to the end of the Middle Ages?

- **The Rise of Nation-States**
 - Small kingdoms joined together to create big countries called nation-states
 - Lords and nobles became less powerful
 - A new middle class emerged made up of merchants, craftspeople and other professionals



What Else Happened?

- People began to question the church. As a result, it became less powerful.
- Gunpowder became widely used. This led to the end of the armoured knight.



In Summary:

- The foundations of medieval society (feudal land system, the Church, knights and nobility) were breaking down.
- A rebirth - the Renaissance - was about to begin.

