

Medieval Europe Review: Lessons 33-47

A ¹The Middle Ages began when the Western Roman Empire fell in 476. ²The collapse of the empire was brought about by invading Germanic, Slavic, and Celtic tribes. ³The invaders had no written language or complex political structure.

B ⁴During the first 500 years of the Middle Ages, these illiterate and pagan peoples dominated Europe. ⁵Chaos reigned. ⁶However, one institution from the Western Roman Empire survived to influence Europe and the world: the Christian Church, centered in Rome. ⁷Christian missionaries converted Europe's leaders, and the leaders encouraged, or forced, their people to be baptized. ⁸Their faith led many Europeans to adopt Roman culture. ⁹Europe's leaders and the Christian churches encouraged the founding of Europe's first universities. ¹⁰In the eleventh century, a division of the church, called the Great Schism, occurred. ¹¹Instead of one church, it became two: the Roman Catholic Church in the west, and the Eastern Orthodox Church in the east.

C ¹²Historians call the Middle Ages in Western Europe the "Age of Faith," because religion played such a large role in daily life. ¹³During the violence of medieval life, the Roman Catholic Church—the leader of Western European Christians—provided hope, education, medicine, and even a place of refuge. ¹⁴The Church and the Crown cooperated closely for most of the Middle Ages, until the later years when kings and popes clashed over who was strongest. ¹⁵In the 1200s, the Roman Catholic Church set up an inquisition (court) which tried and tortured those they suspected of being evil or unfaithful to the Catholic Church. ¹⁶Jews faced scrutiny from both Christians and Muslims and were banished from many countries by the end of the Middle Ages.

D ¹⁷The Crusades were a series of religious wars Western European Christians (Roman Catholics) fought against Muslims. ¹⁸Christians wanted to visit the Holy Land where Jesus had lived and to win the land back from the Muslims. ¹⁹The result was a mixture: Christians did not win any land but were allowed to travel safely to the Holy Land. ²⁰Europeans were introduced to foreign cultures and goods because of the Crusades. ²¹This led to new ideas and an expansion of the trading industry.

E ²²To provide order and security in a chaotic and violent world, medieval Europeans adopted feudalism. ²³This was a hierarchical system, where the leaders promised their subjects land in return for service. ²⁴The king granted land to nobility, who provided fighters (knights) for the king. ²⁵The nobility gave land to knights, who promised to fight. ²⁶The knights promised protection and care for the serfs, who were allowed to work on the land. ²⁷Every person had a set place in society, and there was no social mobility.

F ²⁸Toward the end of the Middle Ages feudalism began, over time, to decline. ²⁹Growing trade made kings and nobles wealthier, allowing them to pay their armed men with money instead of land. ³⁰An economy based on trade, rather than land, offered everyone greater opportunities to earn money. ³¹A banking system based on letters of credit emerged. ³²A new class of people, the merchants, began to have more power and money than many nobles. ³³The Hundred Years' War and the bubonic plague killed more than one third of the population. ³⁴With so few people left, labor costs rose and peasants demanded wages for their work.



G ³⁵The medieval kingdom of England was the world's leader in the development of individual freedom. ³⁶The Magna Carta established the idea that the king should have limited power, and that all free people were guaranteed rights. ³⁷The United States used these practices to set up a new government.

H ³⁸In medieval Europe, art and education were supported by the Christian churches, nobles, and royalty. ³⁹Many of Europe's beautiful churches were built during this time.

Questions

1. In the feudal system, what was the economy based on?
- credit
 - international trade
 - war
 - land

Which sentence best supports the answer?

2. What was a major cause for the end of feudalism?
- Kings refused to pay for knights.
 - Merchants demanded land.
 - Soldiers were paid with money instead of land.
 - Queens stopped giving orders.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

3. The Middle Ages are sometimes called the "Age of Faith" because:
- The Crusaders had faith they would defeat the Muslims.
 - Religion was very important to people in their everyday lives.
 - Kings were forced to place their faith in the knights who would fight for them.
 - Pagan nations were forced to give up their religions.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

4. Before 1215, a king's power probably was:
- very limited.
 - nearly unlimited.
 - limited to royal subjects.
 - dependent on his serfs.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

5. Identify two things that Christianity brought to Europe.
- Europeans gave up many Roman traditions.
 - Universities were built.
 - Kings had absolute authority.
 - Many Europeans became heavily influenced by Roman culture.

Which sentences best support the answer?

_____, _____

6. A person in Medieval Europe who gave speeches against the teachings of the Catholic Church may have:
- become a hero.
 - been rewarded with land.
 - been tortured after an inquisition.
 - been encouraged to speak his or her mind.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- 7. The purpose of the Crusades was:
 - a. to reclaim the Holy Land from the Muslims.
 - b. to create new trade routes.
 - c. to recruit knights for the king's army.
 - d. to stop peasant rebellions.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- 8. Feudalism:
 - a. converted polytheists to Christianity.
 - b. enslaved the peasant class.
 - c. encouraged new farming methods.
 - d. ensured a system of protection for the king.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- 9. Number the events in chronological order.
 - a. _____ Magna Carta is signed.
 - b. _____ The Great Schism occurs.
 - c. _____ The Middle Ages begin.
 - d. _____ The Hundred Year's War is fought.

Written Response Question

- 10. Name two events described in the lesson that brought about the merchant class.

Medieval Europe Review: Lessons 33-47 Answers

1. d, sentence 23
2. c, sentence 29
3. b, sentence 12
4. b, sentence 36
5. b, d, sentences 8, 9
6. c, sentence 15
7. a, sentence 18
8. d, sentence 22
9. a. 3
b. 2
c. 1
d. 4
10. Key points:
 1. An increase in trade meant kings and nobles could pay knights with money rather than land.
 2. Trade, increased profits, and a new banking system also led to the creation of a powerful middle class.
 3. The plague left fewer people available to work, causing the cost of labor to rise.