

Village Life

Describe what village life was like for the Medieval peasant. Include the following:

1. Education
2. Law and punishment
3. Markets
4. Clothing
5. Merchants
6. Tradesmen (blacksmith, tailor, baker, livery, etc)
7. Religion
8. Farming
9. Children's lives
10. Medicine and health

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Make a panorama of a Medieval village showing village life.
2. Demonstrate how candles were made.
3. Explain weaving and the use of a loom.
4. Show how cloth was made from wool.
5. Demonstrate the spinning wheel.
6. Set up a blacksmith shop showing tools and techniques.
7. Demonstrate how wheat/grain was grown, harvested, and milled.
8. Embroider or cross-stitch a Medieval design. (This may be anything you choose. Example: a sampler, napkin, bookmark, handkerchief, etc.)
9. Demonstrate a game children or adults would have played during the Middle Ages. You may choose one game and build it. Example: chess board and pieces, a home made doll, any of the carved wooden toys, etc.

The Black Death

Answer all of the following questions in your report. Be sure to add other information of interest.

1. What was the Black Death?
2. What were the symptoms of the disease?
3. How did it start?
4. How did it affect the towns and villages?
5. How were people treated who contacted the plague?
6. What were the treatments for the disease and were they effective?
7. Where did the plague occur and how far did it spread?
8. How many people were effected and how many died?
9. What effect did the Black Plague have on Europe as a whole?

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Make a display showing herbs and how they were used. (You may use live seedling, plants and flowers.)
2. Display a mortar and pestle.
3. Show different methods of healing used during the Middle Ages.
4. Make a graph of different plagues that spread through Europe, the dates, and the number of people that died. Tell how each plague started and what the symptoms were.
5. Research the history of medicine and make a timeline showing milestones, achievements and discoveries. Make sure you include dates from the Middle Ages.
6. Create warning fliers to distribute in the cities. Include the symptoms and warning signs of the disease.
7. Make an illustrated chart showing the progression and stages of the disease.

The Beginning of the Crusades

Answer all of the following questions in your report. Be sure to add other information of interest.

1. Why did the Crusades begin?
2. Explain the Pope's involvement.
3. How were men convinced to go off to war?
4. Who fought in the Crusades?
5. Where did the Crusades take place?
6. Who were they fighting against and what were they fighting for?
7. How did men prepare to go off to war?
8. How long were the men gone?
9. How many casualties did the Christians experience?
10. What did the women do while the men were gone to war?
11. How many campaigns were there and were the Crusades considered a success or a failure?
12. Did any good or valuable information or discoveries come about because of the Crusades?

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Design and build a knight's shield.
2. Draw or display a suit of armor.
3. Show how a knight's horse was dressed in armor.
4. Make a display of Medieval weapons.
5. Build a display of a catapult or trebuchet
6. Build a panorama of a famous battle.
7. Design a royal family crest that would be carried into battle. Cross-stitch, embroider, or create it from felt.
8. Recreate a Medieval weapon and explain how it was used.

The Church in the Middle Ages

Research the role of the Church in the Middle Ages. Answer the following questions in your report.

Be sure to add other information of interest.

1. What was the most powerful church during the Middle Ages in Europe?
2. What powers did the Church hold?
3. Where did the Church's power come from?
4. Where was the head of the Church located?
5. Did the Church treat the royalty and the peasants differently?
6. How did the Church help the common man?
7. Was the Church corrupt?
8. What were some landmark events in Church history during the Middle Ages?

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Research a famous cathedral such as Amiens or Notre Dame. Include pictures and details of floor plans, architecture, stained glass windows, statues and figures, etc.
2. Design a stained glass window to display.
3. Make a display of famous stained glass windows and tell the story behind them.
4. Make a timeline of popes through the Middle Ages. Include a picture and short biography.
5. Make a display of saints of the Middle Ages. Include a picture and their story. Examples: St. Jerome, St. Gregory, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Stephen Harding
6. Retell the story of St. George and the Dragon.
7. Embroider or cross-stitch an example of initials drawn to illustrate the manuscripts in the Middle Ages.
8. Dress a model as the Pope or as a Cardinal. Be sure to include the hat and staff.

Monks in the Middle Ages

Research the role the monks played during the Middle Ages. Answer the following questions in your report. Be sure to include added information.

1. Who was St. Benedict and what did he do?
2. What was the role of the monks and nuns during the middle ages?
3. Where did the monks live?
4. What was the life of a monk like?
5. How did the monks dress? Were there symbols behind the clothing they wore?
6. How did the monks preserve education and history throughout the Middle Ages?
7. How did the monks practice healing?

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Display examples of initials drawn to illustrate manuscripts in the Middle Ages.
2. Make a display of 5 saints of the Middle Ages. Include a picture and a short biography. Examples: St. Jerome, St. Gregory, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas Aquinas.
3. Latin was the popular language of the Church in the Middle Ages. Make an illustrated dictionary of Latin words and their English meanings. Also list some of our English words that are derived from Latin.
4. Prepare a manuscript the way you think the monks would have written it using script and elaborate first letter drawings. You may redesign your report in manuscript form if you wish.
5. Embroider or cross-stitch an example of initials drawn to illustrate the manuscripts in the Middle Ages.
6. Create a display showing the types of herbs used for healing and how they were used. (Live seedling, plants and flowers may be used.)

Robin Hood

Many stories were written about Robin Hood. Find out who he really was. Answer the following questions in your report. Be sure to include added information.

1. Who was Robin Hood?
2. Was he a real person or just the subject of stories and legends?
3. Where and in what time period did Robin Hood live?
4. What did he fight for?
5. Who did he fight against?
6. Was he a hero or a villain?
7. Who were his friends and companions? Write a short introduction of each person.
8. What were some of his accomplishments during his lifetime?
9. How did Robin Hood die?
10. Include a short poem or part of a poem from Medieval literature about the life of Robin Hood.

Craft Project - Choose One

1. Make a traditional bow and arrows. (Remember to use dull points on the arrows.)
2. Construct a quiver.
3. Build a panorama of what you think Robin Hood's camp would have looked like.
4. Dress a model in the type of clothing Robin Hood and his men would have worn. Be particular with detail.
5. Make a display showing the types of animals that were hunted for food during this time period.
6. Show how the game was skinned, gutted and cleaned.
7. Show how the animal skins were tanned to use as leather.

Food of the Times

Research the types of foods eaten during the Medieval Era. Include food preparation, spices, rules of etiquette, table settings, etc. Be sure to answer the questions below in your report.

1. What types of foods were eaten during the Middle Ages?
2. Were the types of foods determined by whether the people were rich or poor?
3. How did the people get their food?
4. How was food prepared? Give examples of each.
6. What types of seasonings were used? Was there a reason for the use of certain herbs?
7. What type of daily fare did the common person have for his meals?
8. Describe a feast given for royalty.
9. What type dishes or cooking utensils were used?
10. What was considered proper etiquette for the Medieval time period?
11. Include several recipes of the day.

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Prepare a display of recipes and foods served during the Middle Ages. (Include at least four different recipes)
2. Create a display showing the types of herbs used in cooking and how they were used. (Live seedling, plants and flowers may be used.)
3. Plan a Great Feast for your cousin the King. Include menu, foods, amounts, preparation, drinks, recipes, table setup, and decorations.
4. Make a display showing how food was prepared and cooked. You may show outdoor cooking, indoor kitchens, how bread was baked, etc.
5. Build an outdoor oven.
6. Show how the game was skinned, gutted and cleaned.
7. Create a cookbook of at least 5 wild game recipes.

Medieval Clothing

Research the clothing worn by men and women of the early Medieval times. Answer the following questions in your report. Be sure to add any additional information of interest.

1. Describe the different types of clothing worn by both men and women. Include everything from head to toe. (Use information from the early Medieval times before dress became more complicated and clothing more fitted.)
2. Include a brief description of each type or piece of clothing from the list below.
3. What type of fabrics was used in making clothing?
4. How were colors used?
5. Did certain pieces of clothing pertain to certain occupations?
6. What type of jewelry was worn?
7. Did wealth affect the type or style of clothing?

Craft Project - Choose One

1. Show how cloth was made from wool.
2. Create Medieval attire for a mannequin or a doll. Include both clothing for men and women.
3. Choose a specific class during the Medieval period and make designer drawings to illustrate what type of clothing was worn. Example: What type of clothing would be worn by a royal family? Include husband, wife, children. What type of clothing would be worn by servants of the household? Maids, cooks, vassals, messengers, carriage drivers, etc. What type of clothing for knights and squires? Peasant families? Religious orders?
4. Create a display of the materials used during the Middle Ages and what types of designs and dyes were popular.
5. Create a variety (3) of head or hair ornaments worn by men or women of the times.
6. Explain weaving and the use of a loom.
7. Build a spinning wheel.
8. Embroider or cross-stitch a Medieval design on a piece of clothing. This may be anything from a vest or blouse to a handkerchief or scarf.

Knights and Tournaments

Find out what it took to be a knight during the Middle Ages. Answer the following questions in your report. Be sure to add any interesting additional information.

1. What did it mean to be a knight?
2. Who did the knights serve? Was this a paid position or done strictly for honor?
4. What was the Code of Chivalry?
5. How did a man become a knight?
6. How did a knight dress and what type of equipment did he have?
7. Who did the knights fight for/against and why?
8. What was the order of the Knights Templar?
9. How were tournaments carried out?
10. Explain jousting and other tournament battles of skill.

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Design and build a knight's shield.
2. Draw or display a suit of armor.
3. Show how a knight's horse was dressed in armor.
4. Make a display of Medieval weapons.
5. Build a display of a catapult or trebuchet.
6. Build a panorama of a famous battle.
7. Make a display of famous knights and their deeds. (5)
8. Create a herald banner to carry in the tournament.
9. Design a coat of arms for your noble house. (You may use a coat of arms from your own family name.)

King Arthur

Was King Arthur a real person? Research his life and times to answer the following questions. Be sure to add any additional or interesting information.

1. Who was King Arthur?
2. Was he a real monarch or a legend handed down for centuries?
3. When did the first mention of Arthur appear and in what literature?
4. Who were Arthur's mother and father?
5. How did Arthur become king?
6. Who was Arthur's wife and closest friend? How did they betray Arthur?
7. Why was Arthur considered such a great king? What were his accomplishments?
8. What gave Arthur an advantage in battle?
8. Why was the Round Table created?
9. What was the Holy Grail and why were Arthur and the knights searching for it?
10. Who were Arthur's enemies and why were they against him?
11. How did Arthur die?
12. Was Arthur's body/grave ever found?

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Make a herald flag showing symbols of King Arthur.
2. Build a panorama of Camelot or of Arthur's castle as you think it might have looked.
3. Design a knight's shield.
4. Make a replica of Arthur's cross.
5. Build a Round Table and seat Arthur's Knights.
6. Use Medieval writing and symbols to write out the Code of Chivalry in an elaborate display.
7. Make a display of the Knights of the Round Table telling of their famous deeds. (4-5)
8. Recreate Excalibur.

Castles and the Feudal System

Research the castles of Europe to answer the following questions.

1. What were the first castles like and who built them?
2. Were there different types of castles and how did they evolve?
3. What was the Feudal System and how did it start?
4. What was the order of the Feudal System?
5. What was it like living in a castle?
6. How did it act as a complete community?
7. Name several famous castles and where they are located. Give a brief history of each one. (3-5)
8. What brought an end to the Feudal System?

Craft Projects - Choose One

1. Build a replica of a Medieval castle.
2. Pretend your castle is under siege. Show how you would defend it. What weapons or strategies would you use?
3. Build a display of a catapult or trebuchet.
4. Make a picture display of famous castles detailing location, architecture, floor plans, famous occupants, battles fought there, etc.
5. Create an illustrated display showing the pyramid structure of the feudal system. Include order, persons, rank, occupation and responsibility.
6. Write an illustrated glossary of the parts, sections, structures, rooms, and unique features of a medieval castle.
7. Embroider or cross-stitch an example of Medieval designs that would have been used on clothing, wall hangings, linen, etc. in the castle.

The Women of the Middle Ages

A lot is written about men and the duties of men in the Middle Ages. What about the women? Answer the questions below but be sure to include other interesting and relevant information. Give examples to back up your information.

1. How were women looked upon during the Middle Ages?
2. Were women of class treated differently?
3. What were the duties of the women?
4. How were young girls raised?
5. Could women read and write?
6. What were some of the ways women rebelled against their situation?
7. During the Crusades when most men were away at war, what did the women do to survive?
8. What happened to a woman and her family if her husband died?
9. Did women have "professions"?
10. Name some outstanding women of the Middle Ages and tell what they accomplished during their lifetime.

Craft Project - Choose One

1. Write and illustrate a journal kept by a woman living in the Middle Ages on what her life was like, day to day, for one week.
2. Create a display illustrating the types of clothing worn by women of different classes during the Middle Ages.
3. Build a panorama of what you think the common women's house looked like. Include all aspects of life such as cooking, sleeping, garden, livestock, weaving, etc.
4. Dress a model in the type of clothing worn by women of the times. Be particular with detail.
5. Compare the life of a peasant woman with that of a noble woman. Make a display showing the activities for one day for each class.
6. Investigate the life of a famous woman living in the Middle Ages. Display an illustrated biography of her life - or - build a panorama of an important event in her life.
7. Women of the Middle Ages had many ways to adorn their hair. Make a display of hairpieces and/or hats women wore during this time period.
8. The women tended herb gardens or flower gardens. Make a display of the types of herbs or flowers that the Medieval woman had in her garden. (Using live seedlings, plants and flowers would make a wonderful display!)
9. Embroider or cross-stitch a Medieval design. (This may be anything you choose. Example: a sampler, napkin, bookmark, handkerchief, a design on a vest, blouse, etc.)