

The Middle Ages

In A.P. European History, we will cover some 672 years of Europe's history in just 8 months. In order to give us a starting point, we will do some background work over the summer. Your summer assignment is to learn about the Middle Ages in Europe.

First, watch these videos on the Middle Ages. One is very short, while the other two are quite a bit longer. Perhaps the longer ones are something your whole family would enjoy watching together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EAMqKUimr8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4o1dc41r28>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbifXkmOx8&list=RDNbifXkmOx8&start_radio=1&t=8

(This is one of Terry Jones' documentary series - this one is on "The Peasant". Some of the others are also very good, so look them up and feel free to watch some more.)

Now do a little reading on Medieval history. Start here to remind yourself of the terminology and chronology:

https://westernreservepublicmedia.org/middleages/big_intro.htm

Next, go to this website: <http://www.medieval-life-and-times.info/medieval-life/>

Scroll down and read the section on "Medieval History." Once you're done with that, go to a few other pages on that same website and read about specific topics within Medieval history.

Okay, now that you have some background, your assignment is to become an expert in ONE aspect of the Middle Ages. You will do some research and then create a project aimed at teaching the class about your topic during the first days of the semester.

Here are some POSSIBLE topics. The list is by no means exhaustive.

****We will start our studies in 1348; therefore, so do not make the Fourteenth Century (1300 – 1399) the topic of your research (Black Death, Great Schism, Hundred-Years War).**

Inventions	Cathedrals	Richard 1
Health/Medicine	Magna Carta	St. Francis of Assisi
Clothing	Medieval Law	Monasteries / Monks
Hunting/Falconry	Music of the Middle Ages	William the Conqueror
Housing	Entertainment	Thomas Aquinas
Castles	Medieval Art	The Crusades (or just pick one, like the Children's Crusade, for example)
Food	Medieval Architecture (perhaps focus only on churches)	Eleanor of Aquitaine
Famines	Knights and Chivalry	The Bayeux Tapestry
Transportation	Poetry	The Doomsday Book
Paper Making	Roles of women	Life of:
Writing	Vikings	Peasants
Weaponry	Guilds	Nobles
Jousting	Charlemagne /Holy Roman Empire	
Tournaments		
Armor		
The Church		

Research Requirements:

- You will hand in a complete bibliography – all sources from which you obtained information.
- Your bibliography must contain AT LEAST 5 sources; these can be books, websites, articles, and videos. Wikis and blogs ARE NOT acceptable sources. 3 extra points for EACH actual book you include (yeah, so get to the library, guys!).
- You will hand in a list of facts covered by your project. You must have AT LEAST 15 facts.

Project Requirements:

The goal of the project is to teach the class the facts you uncovered in your research in a way that will both interest them and allow them to retain at least some of the information.

Project possibilities include:

- A traditional slide show presentation (powerpoint, for example). Your facts should be on this powerpoint, as well as some interesting visuals. *Please note that the best "grade" you can earn for a slide show is a B+. However, if you combine it with the next option, you may be okay.)*
- An oral presentation: this one might be particularly applicable if your project really has few visuals – such as that you are presenting medieval music or poetry. This can be accompanied by audio clips or visuals (in fact, let's say that it should be so accompanied.)
- A poster or posterboard with facts and visuals. Again, all facts need to be on this poster.
- A digital story video. In other words, something like an imovie with images and words. This can be images with voice-over or images with words (accompanied by music).
- A web quest (look at some examples online), complete with questions and links.
- A model, complete with a fact sheet (remember that a "model" can be anything from a mill to a castle to a painting to a crossbow).
- An "artifact" that you make that contains your facts (like, say, a diary of a monk). Make sure to include the provenance of your "artifact" (the place and time of its origin).
- A performance piece, either live (must be memorized) or filmed, which presents the facts (like an appearance of Charlemagne on *Good Morning Holy Roman Empire*).
- A Research Paper is NOT an option.

If you have any ideas or questions, please email me: smato@stjoeacad.org