

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS I-II MEDIEVAL RESEARCH PROJECT

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this project is:

1. To develop basic research skills necessary to conduct in-depth research on a given topic
2. To be able to accurately use notecards and create a works cited page throughout the research process
3. To gain an understanding of what life was like during the Middle Ages, specifically the time period between 850-1300 A.D.
4. To be able to incorporate your research into a writing activity

BACKGROUND HISTORY:

The Middle Ages was a period of time that spanned from about 500-1500 A.D. Feudalism as a political system and manorialism as an economic system became important institutions during the 9th century through the 13th century. With the disappearance of a centralized form of government, a system of local government developed, with power being held by the landowning nobility. 2-5% of the population belonged to the nobility while 95-98% of the population belonged to the peasant class. The middle class disappeared during this period of history and would not reemerge until the late middle ages.

ASSIGNMENT:

The job of an historian is to research what happened in the past and then provide an analysis for why it happened. In that way, we can use our understanding of the past to better understand the present and plan for the future.

For this project, you will take on the role of an historian. As a member of a team of researchers studying medieval Britain, you will be required to research one aspect of medieval life and keep a record of your research by using the notecards in Noodle Tools. All sources consulted should be listed in Noodle Bib.

Once your research has been completed, you will begin to write a journal entry, describing your experiences in the Middle Ages. Your task is to provide a fictional story around an historical backdrop. Be creative in your story-line, but be sure to accurately address the historical issues outlined in your situation. Journal entries should be detailed and provide AT LEAST the basic information on your topic. Additional credit will be given to students who go beyond the minimum requirements.

Your final project should include the following:

-A Title Page with your name, class period, and the title of the topic you researched (for example: Tour of the Castle) (Include relevant images on your title page.)

-A typed, double-spaced journal entry using Times New Roman (font 12)

-Electronic submission of your notecards (a minimum of 10) to Ms. Gesualdi

(Note: Each notecard should contain information about ONE aspect of your research from a single source. Each notecard will be linked to each source through the use of NoodleTools.)

-No less than 2 pages and no more than 3 pages of text in your journal entry (Visual images do not count as one of the required journal pages.)

-A Works Cited Page (MLA Advanced Format) at the end of your journal entry. A minimum of 4 print sources is required along with a minimum of 1 article from the electronic database *Daily Life Through History*. The sources for images inserted into your journal must be included on your works cited page. So, too, you must place the URL (in small font) below each image.

Each student will be required to conduct in-depth research on ONE topic from the list below:

- The Castle and Family Life (**Tour of the Castle**)
- Peasants and Village Life (**Tour of the Manor**)
- Food and Feasts (**Medieval Feast**)
- Sports, Games, and Knighthood (**The Tournament**)
- Medieval Warfare (**The Siege**)

You will be given a description of the scenario for each of the situations listed above in class. The research prompts given for each of the situations only serve as a **starting point** for your research.

ASSESSMENT:

- Overall Format - Ability to follow directions
- Quality of notecards - use of sources and paraphrasing of research
- Historical Content - Depth and quality of informational detail on your topic
- Creativity
- Visual Content
- Works Cited Page
- Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar

NOTE: **This assessment will be worth 100 points. Grades for late projects will be reduced by 10 points per day late.**

As high school students in the year 2500 A.D., you have been given the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of medieval life in the 13th century.

You have volunteered to travel back in time for the purpose of observing and recording first-hand the daily life of people who lived during that time.

You will be transported back to medieval Britain by way of a time machine.



It is 1250 A.D. It is late afternoon. You have just arrived in Great Britain via the time machine.

You are at the gate of the home of the York family. You will be staying with this family in their castle for approximately one month. The York family is expecting you. You are dressed appropriately in period clothes. The members of the York family are:

- The Lord and Lady of the Castle, John and Mary
- Edward, 18 years old
- Elizabeth, 16 years old
- Charles, 10 years old



ALL STUDENTS WILL BEGIN THEIR JOURNALS WITH “YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE CASTLE.”

YOUR ARRIVAL AT YORK CASTLE

IT IS THE EVENING OF YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE YORK MANOR. WHEN YOU ARRIVED, YOU WERE INTRODUCED TO THE YORK FAMILY.

- What were your first impressions?
- Describe the members of the York family.
- What type of clothing are you wearing?
- How do you like your “new” clothes?



Situations

EACH STUDENT WILL SELECT ONE SITUATION FROM THOSE LISTED BELOW TO RESEARCH FOR THEIR JOURNAL.

TOUR OF THE CASTLE

THIS AFTERNOON, ELIZABETH AGREED TO GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE CASTLE BEFORE DINNER.

- What does the outside of the castle look like? How is the castle situated on the lay of the land? Include a picture/drawing.
- What does the interior of the castle look like? Draw a floor plan. Comment on any artwork, furniture, carpets, or any other items you noticed during your tour.
- How do you like living in a castle such as this one?

Situations

TOUR OF THE MANOR

EDWARD WAS EAGER TO GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS THIS MORNING. HE IS VERY PROUD OF HIS FATHER AND WANTED TO SHARE HIS "WORKINGS" OF THE MANOR WITH YOU. HE TOOK YOU ON A TOUR OF HIS FATHER'S DOMAIN. EDWARD WAS CALLED AWAY MOMENTARILY ON THE TOUR TO SPEAK TO ONE OF THE REEVES. YOU HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO SOME OF THE PEASANTS. WHEN EDWARD RETURNED, HE INFORMED YOU THAT SOME OF THE PEASANTS WERE UNHAPPY AND HE NEEDED TO SPEAK WITH HIS FATHER.

- What do the grounds look like? Draw a map of the fields.
- What does the peasant village look like? Where is the village located?
- What did you learn about peasant life while speaking to the peasant family?
- Why were some of the peasants unhappy?

Situations



THE MEDIEVAL FEAST

SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL, YOU HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY. LAST NIGHT, THE YORKS HELD A GRAND MEDIEVAL FEAST IN HONOR OF YOUR ARRIVAL. CHARLES AND ELIZABETH HAVE BEEN SO EXCITED SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL. TROUBADORS, MINSTRELS, AND COURT JESTERS PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE FEAST.

- Describe the Grand Hall where the feast was held.
- What were you served for dinner? With what utensils did you eat dinner? What did you think of the food?
- What type of entertainment was provided? What were your impressions?

Situations



THE TOURNAMENT

THIS MORNING AT BREAKFAST, CHARLES ANNOUNCED THAT THE FAMILY WOULD BE ATTENDING A TOURNAMENT AND YOU WERE TO BE INVITED. YOU ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS ADVENTURE. UPON ARRIVING AT THE TOURNAMENT, EDWARD INTRODUCED YOU TO SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS. THEY ARE KNIGHTS. THEY WERE HAPPY TO SHARE WITH YOU THE TRAINING THEY HAD TO ENDURE TO BECOME KNIGHTS.

- Describe your experience at the tournament. What was it like? What was your favorite event?
- What type of training did Edward's friends have to endure to finally become knights? What did they tell you about the years of preparation and the eventual knighting ceremony?

Situations

THE SIEGE

YOU AWOKE THIS MORNING TO A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AROUND THE CASTLE. CHARLES CAME RUNNING INTO YOUR BEDROOM TO INFORM YOU THAT EVERYONE AT THE CASTLE IS CONCERNED ABOUT A POSSIBLE SIEGE. IT SEEMS THAT LORD JOHN AND A NEIGHBORING FAMILY HAVE BEEN FEUDING OVER THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THEIR TWO ESTATES. THE DAY WAS SPENT IN PREPARATION FOR A POSSIBLE ATTACK. BY THE TIME EVENING CAME, EVERYONE WAS TOO NERVOUS TO SLEEP. FINALLY, IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, THE SIEGE BEGAN.

- What type of preparations did the York family and others on the estate have to make?
- What type of "military strategy" was planned?
- What type of weapons were to be used?
- What type of "armour" was worn by the knights who were to defend the castle?
- Describe the siege. What was the outcome?

Situations

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROJECT ONCE INDIVIDUAL JOURNALS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

EPILOGUE

- Why did a feudal/manorial system develop after the fall of the Roman Empire?
- Why did this feudal/manorial system eventually decline?
- How do we know what we know about 13th century Britain?
- Do you know what was going on in other parts of the world during the 13th century?
- Some historians suggest that every civilization has a rise, climax, and fall. According to this theory, where do you think we are today on the spectrum?

Situations

Click on the screen for questions.

