

World Civilizations I Middle Ages Time Travel Report

Your Role: After years of rigorous training, you've been selected by a secret branch of the United Nations Human Studies Unit (UNHSU) to participate in a unique opportunity for humankind – time travel! You're one of about 100 candidates selected to go back in time to a period of human history to see what life was actually like, and add to our record of history. Each candidate has been assigned a **period of world history** and a **region** to go back and study.

Your Task: *The period and region you've been assigned is the **Middle Ages in Western Europe (from about 800-1300 C.E.)**.* You must go back to this time period, observe what it was like, and then write a report on findings.



Now, the new technology isn't perfect... the Flux Capacitor (which is what makes time travel possible) can only hold a charge for 48 hours – or 2 full days. So that's all the time you've got on your first run – enough time to report back on **ONE** major topic from the period. In those two days, you must complete your task and return to the present day successfully, otherwise, you'll be stuck there forever. When you return, you'll be provided with a new time travel assignment. The UNHSU thanks you in advance for your service. Good luck. We're all counting on you.

The Plan: Before you go back in time, there's some information that you'll need to plan out. We've already provided you with the proper vaccinations against disease and over the past few weeks, we've trained you with some basic background information about the time period. Still, you'll be going "undercover" as a person from this time period, you'll need to create a "character" for yourself before you begin your mission. You'll need to decide the following based on the scenario you choose:

- **Your Character's Name** – you must choose something appropriate to the time period. Keep in mind that surnames (last names) were uncommon during this time – you would often only be called by your first name or your profession (ex. John the Miller) or by your royal name (ex. John, Duke of Normandy)
- **Your Occupation/Role** – what's your job or role in society? It should fit with the scenario.

The Report: After you've finished collecting evidence, you must create a report to submit to the UNHSU. **The purpose of this report is to create awareness of what life was like during the Middle Ages.** When you write the report of what you saw, **it will be done in the first person** because it will be from your character's point of view. We are relying on your accurate reporting to help us understand what life was like in the past. ***(Real note from Mr. T: your report must be about events that could actually have taken place. EACH THING DESCRIBED MUST HAVE EVIDENCE IN THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH. Simply put, you must describe something that the reader of your report can instantly identify as being set in the Middle Ages.)***

Your final report must have the following:

- Must be at least 1.5 full pages in length & no more than 3 full pages
- Must include a **TITLE PAGE** with your real name, your character's name and occupation or role, and scenario
- Must include an **INTRODUCTION** in which you will need to describe who you were, where you lived, and your role or occupation so your character's life is clearly defined.
- Must include **MAIN BODY PARAGRAPHS**, each with a focus on **ONE** aspect of the scenario you are describing. Information should be detailed based upon your research of the period.
 - ***Real note from Mr. T*** – Obviously, you're not really going back in time. So each main paragraph should describe what you "saw" based on the research you conduct about the period.
- Must include a **CONCLUSION** in which you provide a summary of your events and what you've concluded or learned about the experience.
- Must include a **BIBLIOGRAPHY** of the research you used to write your report

The Scenarios: Our time-travel analysts say that we can send you back to a specific time to let you see one of the events below over the course of two days. We're leaving it up to you to pick one event that you'd like to study. Please read each event below and pick one to go back in time and observe. (***Real note from Mr. T*** - for all scenarios, make sure you describe what your character's life was like based on your planning sheet, which you'll fill out AFTER you select a scenario. Explain which class you were in and what that meant as you describe the scenes. The bullet points for each scenario are intended to be a starting point for your research. Yes, you need to address them in detail, but your research should result in more information that extends beyond them.)

1) Castle Under Siege

You can describe the siege of a castle from the vantage point of a defender, the lord of a castle, an attacker, or a civilian within the castle. Regardless of the character you choose, you must describe and explain:

- The layout of the castle and how its defenses work
- Weapons and tactics that would be used
- How the castle is positioned on the land and any additional defensive facets inside or outside the castle
- How many people on both the offensive and defensive would be involved
- How long a siege would last
- What types of supplies they had beyond weapons (food, clothing armor, medical care for injured)
- Who is responsible for which tasks
- The different types of soldiers (archers, foot soldiers, etc.)

2) Medieval Banquet / or Wedding (of nobility)

You can describe the event from the vantage point of a host, guest, bride or groom (if wedding), servant or entertainer (troubadour or poet) at the event. Regardless you must describe and explain:

- what foods people ate, what clothes they wore
- what the home (or wherever the event was held) was like
- what the entertainment would be
- the order of events, how the guests were served
- dancing and music
- if it's not a wedding, why the event was held
- what went into the planning of the event and who was responsible for
- Remember, if your person is a peasant and you want to have them describe something a noble did (such as attending a banquet) you would have to describe these things as a servant observing what the people you are serving are doing.

3) Tournament / Joust

You can describe the event from the vantage point of a participant, spectator, servant or entertainer (troubadour or poet) at the event. Regardless you must describe and explain:

- The order of events as well as what happens during each event
- How does a participant win, what are the prizes
- How long does the full tournament/joust last
- How does one become a participant
- What is the frequency of when these contests are held / is travel involved
- Who plans these events, how are they officiated
- how many people attend, what social class(es) are they
- What foods and entertainments are offered to spectators beyond the contest itself
- What the participants as well as the spectators look like (how are they dressed, what are the expected behaviors)

4) Life on a Medieval Manor

Choose one and then describe life from the vantage point of either a peasant or the lord of the manor. Regardless you must describe and explain:

- the routines of work, what was involved in it, what tools and equipment they had
- What games they played, what clothes they wore, what foods they ate
- going to the market, attending an event or performance (if town)
- the other people they would interact with (and the nature of those interactions) on a regular basis
- their home-how big it was, what was it made out of, what was in it
- what regular routines they had outside of work
- class obligations (if manor) and what they involved

Research Process

Information will be recorded on NoodleTools note cards along with the source citation. Remember: when using note cards, there should only be one source per note card and one piece of information per notecard.

- Any note card with a direct quote must have the same information expressed in your own words in the paraphrase section.
 - Note: There should be no reason to direct quote in your report. All information should be in your own words.
- The “my ideas” section should indicate how you will use the information in your report.
- All sources indicated on a note card must be cited in the bibliography.
- Minimum of 5 sources used not including the textbook or any general reference source.
- Five sources must include books, databases and free websites (at least one of each)
- You must share your NoodleTools project for this assignment with your teacher’s drop box. The title of the Drop Box is Turgeon Middle Ages - “X” with “X” representing the number of your class period.
 - All note cards will be checked.
- You should not begin the report until all research is completed.

Formatting Rules

- Report is to be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins all the way around.
- No additional space is necessary between paragraphs; the spacing between paragraphs should be the same as it is between lines.
- The report must be in size 12 font, no use of boldfacing in the text, and a font like Ariel, Calibri, or Times Roman.
- Use past tense, since we’re talking about events that happened **IN THE PAST**.
- Must be at least 1.5 full pages in length & no more than 3 full pages. Pages need to be numbered, with a cover page and a separate page for bibliography (these do **NOT** count toward your page requirement.)
- You must use **at least** three different sources, including at least one physical book, not including general encyclopedias or the textbook.
- Each main body paragraph will have a description of something that could have happened in the Middle Ages. You should not have a paragraph that covers more than one topic. If so, split it into multiple paragraphs.
 - It is OK if these paragraphs end up different lengths because of this.
- If you use any illustrations, maps, drawings, et cetera... they should be at the **END** of your report, and are not part of the three pages. These must be cited.
- Follow all rules of formal grammar.
- Proper MLA parenthetical citations in the text of your report to indicate the source of information used

Scoring:

Letter

- Cover page _____/ 5 points (This is an all or nothing grade)
- MLA citations _____/ 10 points
- Bibliography _____/10 points
- Letter itself _____/40 points

Total for letter _____/65 points

Notecards Shared w/ me on NoodleTools _____/10 points

(By the end of class period on Friday, Feb 19, 2016. This is an all or nothing grade!)

Upload Letter to Turnitin! _____/10 points

(By 8 PM on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. This is an all or nothing grade! MAKE SURE YOU UPLOAD TO TURNITIN! ASSIGNMENT THAT IS LABELED "MEDIEVAL LETTER")

Grand Total _____/85 points

Good Luck! I will be available each day in class should you need my help. Simply raise your hand. Likewise, I will be available for extra help each day after school during the duration of this project. You must schedule time in advance to come see me should you need extra help.

Please use the time in class constructively. If you are not making good use of class time, I reserve the right to ask you to stay after school with me to make up the wasted time.