

OVERVIEW

Grab the highlighter and have some interactive fun with the **Medieval Knights Reading Comprehension and Text Marking Activity!** An engaging reading passage for finding text evidence. Perfect way to integrate social studies into your reading curriculum! This resource includes **one non-fiction reading comprehension passage** that allow students to color code their answers. **Great addition to your Middle Ages and Dark Ages unit.**

This activity can be used for individual work, anticipatory sets, unit review, sub plans, extension activities, remediation, or early-finishers.





Each passage includes:

- ✓ 8 Text Marking Prompts
- ✓ 4 Words to Know

What's Included?

- ✓ 1 Non-Fiction Reading Passage
- ✓ Text Marking Answer Key
- ✓ Student Directions

What do students need?

-  Blue highlighter or crayon
-  Green highlighter or crayon
-  Yellow highlighter or crayon
-  Pink highlighter or crayon

SPARK SOME *creativity*

ESCAPE
ROOMS

SCAVENGER
HUNTS

SPY
MYSTERY

THINKTIVITY

SECRET
MESSAGES

TEXT
DETECTIVE

BREAKOUT
S

READING
CHALLENGE

INTERACTIVE
NOTEBOOK

COLOR BY
NUMBER

DIGITAL
ESCAPES

DIGITAL
BOARD
GAME

GOOGLE
SLIDES

TASK
CARDS
GAME

GOOGLE
FORMS

PUZZLE
STATIONS

BOOM
CARDS

READING
PASSAGES

LET'S CONNECT



BLOG



Lisa@Thinktankteacher.com

GRAB A FREEBIE

Grab a FREE
Boston Tea
Party activity!



STUDENT DIRECTIONS

Make sure you have a yellow, blue, pink, and green highlighter or crayon.

1. Read the passage
2. Read the passage a second time and mark your text
3. Fill in the definitions using context clues from the text

SAMPLE PASSAGE

Ancient Egypt was a civilization that started in 3100 BC. A civilization is a group of people who have their own way of life. They speak their own language, have their own agricultural methods as well as their own ways of government. Ancient Egypt was ruled by over 30 dynasties for over three thousand years. It was an extremely powerful civilization located along the Nile River, the longest river in the world.

The Nile River, located in northeast Africa, brought many benefits. Because Egypt was in a desert, it was difficult to grow crops. However, the soil by the Nile was very fertile and rich and allowed for great growth. The fertile soil made crops like papyrus, wheat, and flax easy to grow. When the river flooded every year, it would renew the soil and make it rich again for new crops. Ancient Egyptians called the Nile "Aur", which means 'black' for the black soil that resulted from flooding. Akhet refers to the season of river flooding, Peret was the growing season, and Shemu was the season of harvest. Transportation was also a very important part of the river. It allowed people to travel faster on boat to different cities in Egypt.

Ancient Egypt is known for many things. They were one of the first civilizations to write, using hieroglyphics. This was a form of writing that used picture words or symbols. There were thousands of pictures, some representing letters or sounds and some representing whole words. Those who knew how to read and write hieroglyphics were called scribes. Scribes studied hieroglyphics for many years and began their training around the age of six.

Ancient Egypt is also known for the pyramids. Pyramids are very large structures made of rocks and stones. The pyramids are so large, that archeologists are still unsure how exactly they built them at that time. Pyramids were built to act as memorials and burials for the Pharaohs, the leaders of the civilization. Many treasures could be found in the pyramids. This

TEXT MARKING

 **YELLOW**

How many dynasties ruled Ancient Egypt?

 **GREEN**

What does the word 'Akhet' mean?

 **BLUE**

What are hieroglyphics?

 **PINK**

What were scribes?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

dynasty -

fertile -

Text Marking Directions:

Find the answer in the text and highlight it with the appropriate color.

Words to Know:

Find the "words to know" in the reading and underline them. Then, use context clues to determine the meaning.

MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS

During the Middle Ages, there were three main types of soldiers: foot soldiers, archers, and knights. Knights were some of the most elite members of Medieval Society. Around the ages of seven, young boys had to decide if they wanted to be a knight and start training. Future knights had to be born wealthy and into the upper class, so the son of a merchant, blacksmith, or peasant could not become a knight. The boys had to have enough money for horses, weapons, and armor, which were very expensive.

Training was important in order to become a knight. Around age seven, the boys would become a page and serve the knight they were shadowing. This meant serving meals, cleaning, and delivering messages. The pages would also learn how to care for horses, how to hold and use wooden swords, along with basic battle tactics. The wooden swords were called a quintain. Once they were a teenager, around age 14 or 15, the knights in training became squires. The word squire meant "shield-bearer." A squire had more important responsibilities than a page. Squires began using real weapons, cleaning the knight's armor, taking care of his weapons in peace and in war, and began their education in chivalry. The Code of Chivalry was the medieval practice of being kind, courteous, polite, generous, gentlemanly, loyal, full of honor, and treating women very well - like queens. Most squires trained for five or six years.

If their training went well, a squire would become a knight at 18-21 years old. The squire needed to bathe well (a good bath was not very common in medieval times) and pray in church overnight. In the morning, they would wear a white shirt and belt representing purity, brown or black stockings to represent being grounded to the earth, and a scarlet cloak to show they were willing to shed their own blood in battle for their king and his people. He was given a sword with two sharp edges, one representing

TEXT MARKING



What is a quintain?



What was the Code of Chivalry?



What does the word squire mean?



At what age would boys become a page?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

elite -

tactics -

justice, the other representing loyalty and chivalry. With his sword, the squire was knighted or “dubbed” knight by a simple tap on both shoulders while he was kneeling. Then it was official, he was a knight.

Knights had to train constantly to maintain their strength and to be ready for battle whenever they were called upon. All knights needed to ride a horse very well. The knight’s war horse was called a destrier. In the midst of a medieval battle, there was a great advantage to being on a horse. A knight could simply ride through the men fighting on the field, wielding his sword, and defeating several enemies at once instead of hand-to-hand fighting on the ground.

Other tools that a knight had to be familiar with were his sword, shield, mace, and lance. A lance is a long pole that tapers to a point on the end. This was used to unseat other knights from their horses while remaining firmly in the saddle of their own horse; this action is also known as a joust. The mace was a club with a big steel head.

A knight had to get used to riding a horse and battling in full armor. The helmet partially obscured the knight’s vision to protect his face and eyes. A suit of armor with a helmet could weigh as much as fifty pounds!

Knights often had a coat of arms with a special symbol that represented their family. These symbols were first used to distinguish one knight from another. People called heralds had the job of tracking the symbols and different coats of arms. Using color on the coat of arms had different meanings. Red represented nobility, blue was used for truth, black for knowledge, and green for hope.

In times of war, knights used their skills in battle. In times of peace, they trained for competitions with other knights. The tournaments would test their battle skills with dull swords, jousting competitions with lances, and accuracy with a bow and arrow.

TEXT MARKING



What is a lance?



What did red represent on a coat of arms?



What is a destrier?



What was the job of the heralds?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

wielding -

obscured -

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THEN DEFINE**

elite - having the greatest power

tactics - strategies

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WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

wielding - hold and use

obscured - covered

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