

4th Grade Middle Ages Project

Dear Parents,

We have begun our Middle Ages Unit in Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). Your students will be learning many interesting facts about this time period in class. While we will be reading about the significant events of that time, we want the students to have an opportunity to explore a topic in a more creative way.

In Literacy class, students will spend time researching and writing a well developed informative essay about their chosen topic. **All the writing will be completed at school. An art/craft project, chosen from the list of ideas, should be created at home.** Our unit will end with a Middle Ages Feast on Friday, November 17th.

Please sign and return the packet on **Wednesday, October 25th.**

Project Due Date: Monday, November 13th.

Research Topics:

The Crusades
Medieval Clothing
Knights and Jousting
Women of the Middle Ages
Castles of the Feudal System
Monks in the Middle Ages
Joan of Arc
The Church in the Middle Ages
Food of the Times
The Black Death

Topic: _____

Parent Signature _____

The Crusades

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- Why did the Crusades begin?
- Explain the Pope's involvement.
- How were men convinced to go off to war?
- Who fought in the Crusades?
- Who were they fighting against and what they were fighting for?
- How did men prepare to go off to war?
- How long were men gone?
- How many casualties did the Christians experience?
- What did the women do while the men were gone?
- How many campaigns were there and were the Crusades considered a success or a failure?

Project Ideas:

Pick ONE from the list below to do along with your report.

- Draw or display a suit of armor.
- Show how a knight's horse was dressed in armor.
- Make a display of Medieval Weapons
- Build a Panorama of a famous battle

Medieval Clothing

Informative Paragraph

Use these questions to guide your research.

- Describe the different types of clothing used by both men and women. Include everything from head to toe.
- What types of fabrics were used to make the clothing?
- What colors were used?
- What type of Jewelry was worn?
- Did the wealthy affect the type of style of clothing?

Project Ideas:

Pick ONE from the list below to do along with your report.

- Create medieval clothing for a doll or mannequin.
- Create a display of materials used during the Middle Ages and what types of designs and dyes were popular.
- Create or draw a variety of head or hair ornaments worn by men or women of the time.
- Choose one specific type of class during the medieval period and make designer drawings of what type of clothing was worn. Example: What type of clothing would be worn by the royal family? What type of clothing would be worn by servants? What about the knights and squires? What type of clothing would be worn by a peasant family.

Knights and Jousting

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- What was Feudalism?
- What are the steps to Knighthood?
- Describe the different colors knights wore during the knighting ceremony.
- What is the Code of Chivalry?
- What types of armor did a knight wear?
- What types of weapons did knights use?
- What did knights do at a tournament?

Project Ideas:

- Make a chart with pictures and words showing the steps to knighthood.
- Draw a picture of a knight during their knighting clothing. Label what the different colors meant and what they symbolized.
- Make an official poster listing the requirements for the code of chivalry.
- Draw or make a 3-D model of a knight in full armor. Label the parts of the armor.

Women of the Middle Ages

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- How were women looked upon during the Middle Ages?
- Were women of class treated differently?
- What were the duties of the women?
- Could women read and write?
- How were young girls raised?
- Did women have jobs in which they were paid?
- Name some outstanding women of the Middle Ages and tell what they accomplished during their lifetime (at least 2).

Project Ideas:

- Create a display showing the types of clothing worn by women of different classes.
- Build a panorama of what you think the common woman's house looked like. Include all aspects of life such as cooking, sleeping, gardening, working with livestock, weaving etc.
- Make a display of hair pieces and hats that women wore during this time period.
- Make a display of herbs or flowers that women had in their gardens. (Using live seedlings, plants, and flowers, make a wonderful display).
- Compare the life of a peasant woman to the life of a noble woman. Make a display showing the activities for one day for each class subject.

Castles of the Feudal System

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- What were the first castles like and who built them?
- Were there different types of castles and how did they evolve?
- What was the Feudal system?
- What was it like living in a castle?
- Name several (2-4) famous castles and where they are located. Give a brief history of each one of them.

Project Ideas:

- Build a replica of a Medieval castle
- Make a picture/display of a famous castle detailing location, architecture, floor plans, people who lived there, battles that were fought etc...
- Write an illustrated glossary of the parts, sections, structures, room and unique features of a medieval castle.
- Create an example of a Medieval design that would be used on a wall hanging in a castle.

Monks in the Middle Ages

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- Who was St. Benedict and what did he do?
- What was the role of the monks during the Middle ages?
- Where did the Monks live?
- What was the life of a monk like?
- How did the monks dress? Were there symbols behind the clothing they wore?
- How did monks preserve education and history throughout the Middle Ages?

Project Ideas: Pick ONE from the list below to do along with your report.

- Make a display of 5 saints of the Middle Ages. Include pictures and a short biography. Examples: St. Jerome, St. Gregory, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas Aquinas.
- Latin was a popular language of the church in the Middle Ages. Make an illustrated dictionary of Latin words and their English meanings.
- Build a panorama of what a monastery may have looked like in the Middle Ages.

Joan of Arc

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- Who was Joan of Arc?
- When and where did she live?
- What is she famous for?
- What did she do that proved her bravery?
- How did she disguise herself in battle?
- Describe a famous battle that she fought in.
- Why were others opposed to her fighting?
- Why did she have to have a trial?
- How did she die?
- What is she remembered for?

Project Ideas: Pick ONE from the list below.

- Retell the story of Joan of Arc, dressed as her.
- Paint a scene from the book Joan of Arc.
- Write a short poem about her life.

The Church in the Middle Ages

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- What was the most powerful church during the Middle Ages in Europe?
- What powers did the church hold?
- Where was the head of the church located?
- Did the Church treat royalty and peasants differently?
- How did the Church help the common man?
- Was the Church corrupt?
- What were some of the landmark events in Church history during the Middle Ages?

Project Ideas: Pick ONE from the list below.

- Design a stained glass window to display.
- Retell the story of St. George and the Dragon.
- Make a timeline of popes throughout the Middle Ages. Include a picture and short biography.
- Make a display of a famous cathedral in Europe such as Amiens or Notre Dame. Include pictures and details of the architecture, floor plans, statues, etc.

Food of the Times

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- What types of food were eaten during the Middle Ages?
- How did the people get their food?
- How was the food prepared? Give examples of each.
- What types of seasonings were used?
- What type of daily fare food did the common person have for his meals?
- Describe a feast given for royalty.
- What types of dishes or cooking utensils were used?

Project Ideas:

Pick ONE from the list below to do along with your report.

- Create a cookbook of at least 5 recipes used in the Middle Ages.
- Create a display showing the types of herbs used in cooking and how they were used (live flowers, seeds, plants may be used)
- Plan a great feast for your cousin the king. Include a food menu, foods, amounts, preparation, drinks, recipes, table set up and decorations.

The Black Death

Informative Paragraph

Use the questions to guide your research and writing.

- What was the Black Death?
- Where are the symptoms of the disease?
- How did it start?
- How did it affect the towns and villages?
- How were people treated who contracted the plague?
- What were the treatments for the disease and were they effective?
- Where did the plague occur and how did it spread?
- How many people were affected and how many died?
- How did the plague affect Europe?

Project Ideas: Pick ONE from the list below to do along with your report.

- Create a creative warning poster. Include symptoms, a warning sign, pictures and details describing the black death and its effects on this time period.
- Make a display showing how herbs were used.
- Make a graph of different plagues that spread through Europe, the dates, and the number of people that died. Tell how much each plague started and what the symptoms were.