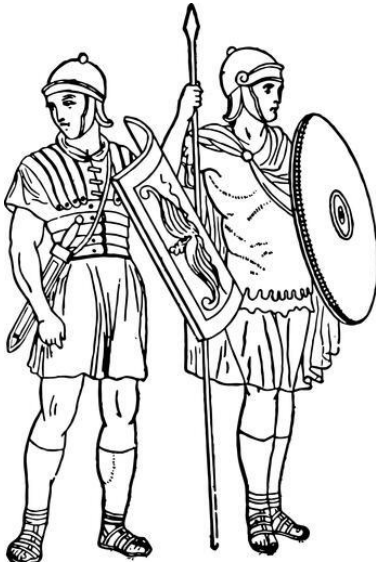


Year 10 History

European History

Romans to Renaissance

The Roman Empire	2
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1. The Romans

The Roman Empire was one of the greatest and most influential civilizations in world history. It began in the city of Rome in 753 BC and lasted for well over 1000 years. During that time Rome grew to rule much of Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa.



1. Find the city of Rome on the map above. (Note that place names are in Italian so you are looking for 'Roma'.)
2. In which country is Rome?
3. What is today's capital of Italy?
4. In which countries would the following places be today, using today's English place names? (Use an Atlas to compare this map to a modern-day map of the same region.)
 - a) Palestina
 - b) Aegyptus
 - c) Hispania
 - d) Macedonia
 - e) Phrygia
 - f) Gallia

Timeline of the Roman Empire

753 BC - The city of Rome was founded. Legend says that the twin sons of Mars, the god of war, named Romulus and Remus founded the city. Romulus killed Remus and became ruler of Rome and named the city after himself. Rome was ruled by kings for the next 240 years.

509 BC – The Roman people overthrew the monarchy, forcing the king to leave Rome. The people elected a new government called a republic. A constitution was formed with laws and a complex system of government.

200 BC – Rome established control over the lands around Italy.

100 BC–44 BC – Generals in charge of armies fought one another to gain control of Rome. The general who finally took control of Rome was Julius Caesar. The Romans invaded Palestine in 63 BC. and Palestine was then under Roman rule.

44 BC - Julius Caesar was assassinated and the republic collapsed. Octavian, Caesar's nephew took control, hoping to bring back the republic, but civil war broke out.

27 BC – Octavian was given the name Caesar Augustus, meaning 'the great one'. He was given the title 'emperor'.

2-4 BC – Jesus Christ was born. (The actual year is uncertain but it is somewhere between 2 and 4 BC.) The emperor at the time of Jesus' birth was Caesar Augustus, who ruled until 14 AD.

AD 14 – AD 37 – Tiberius became Emperor. He was the Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' death. While Tiberius was the emperor, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, was responsible for the execution of Jesus.

AD 41 – Palestine became a Roman province. The Romans were strict and cruel so the people of Palestine revolted against the Romans.

AD 46 – 60 – Paul's missionary journeys

64 AD - Much of Rome burned. Legend says that Emperor Nero watched the city burn while playing a lyre.

AD 70 – The Romans burned Solomon's temple. The Jews continued to rebel against the Romans, so the Romans passed a law to prevent Jews from living in Jerusalem. Nine hundred and sixty Jews lived in the city of Masada. They defended the city for two years while the Romans built a huge ramp up to the city. When the Romans finally broke through the city gates (AD 73), they discovered that the people had killed themselves rather than being captured. Only seven inhabitants survived to tell the story.

79 AD – The volcano, Mount Vesuvius erupted, destroying the city of Pompeii.

80 AD - The Colosseum was built. This is one of the great examples of Roman engineering. It could seat 50,000 spectators.

117 AD – The Roman Empire was at its peak. It extended to England.

121 AD - The Hadrian Wall was built. This was a long wall is built across northern England to keep out 'barbarians'.

AD 135 The Romans finally destroyed Palestine. Many Jews left their country. Those who stayed were captured and sold as slaves.

306 AD - Constantine became Emperor. Constantine converted to Christianity and Rome became a Christian empire. Prior to this Rome persecuted the Christians. Now they were protected.

395 AD - Rome split into two empires – Western and Eastern Empires.

410 AD - The city of Rome was attacked by a wandering tribe called Visigoths. This is the first time in 800 years that the city of Rome had fallen to an enemy.

476 AD – The western Empire was overthrown by German tribes. The Eastern Empire survived for another 1000 years under the name of the Byzantium Empire, with the capital being Constantinople. It was finally overrun by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. This signalled the start of the Dark Ages/Middle Ages in Europe.

Activities

1. When was the city of Rome founded?
2. What happened in 509 BC?
3. Who ruled the country after the king was forced to leave?
4. Who was the governor when Jesus was born?
5. Who was the emperor at the time of Jesus' death? Who was the governor?
6. Why did the people of Palestine revolt?
7. Make a study of Paul's missionary journeys to Rome in Acts chapters 27 and 28. Make a summary of the events. Who was the governor?
8. What happened to the Jews in 70 AD?
9. Where was Hadrian's Wall and why was it built?
10. What happened to the Jews in 135 AD?
11. What significant event happened in 306 AD?
12. When did Rome split into two empires? (east and west)

Palestine under Roman Rule

At the time of Jesus' birth, the land of Israel (called Palestine by the Romans) was ruled by the Romans, who had granted Herod the Great the title of "king" over the region. His domain included most of the land that once belonged to Israel.

Palestine was only a small country, yet it was situated in a strategic position. It was on the edge of the Roman Empire at the cross-roads of three continents:

- Europe to the North
- Africa to the South
- Asia to the East

The Romans knew that whoever controlled Palestine had control of all the roads in and out of those areas.

The Romans invaded the land of Palestine in 63BC. The Roman army marched into Jerusalem and took over the city. Very soon they took control of the entire country. Then the Romans put their own governors in charge to rule the people. Each governor had to make sure that the Jewish people of Palestine obeyed Roman laws and paid Roman taxes. In return the Jews were allowed to follow their own customs, and practice their own religion. However, the Jews did not accept the Romans. They believed Palestine was their land, given to them by God.

Jesus lived in Palestine at a time when it was occupied by a foreign power. The Romans, Roman governors, Roman soldiers and tax collectors, are mentioned several times in the New Testament. Jesus surprised many Jews by the way he treated all these people.

Tax collectors

In Jesus' time ordinary people in Palestine lived very simple lives. They earned just enough money for food, clothes and a small house for their families. Now they had to pay heavy taxes as well. These new taxes paid for the upkeep of the Roman army based in Palestine.

The money was collected by a few Jewish people called tax collectors. Most Jews hated the tax collectors because they worked for the Romans. Some tax collectors were cheats; they kept part of the money for themselves. As a result, many of them became very wealthy.

Activities

Copy and complete the following passage:

1. The Romans took control of P_____ because it was at the crossroads of three continents: E_____, A_____ and A_____.
2. The R_____ invaded Palestine in the year _____.

3. The Jews did not want the Romans in their country. They believed Palestine belonged to the Jewish people because G_____ had given it to them.
4. But the Jews were forced to obey Roman l_____ and pay Roman t_____.
5. People called T_____ C_____ collected money for the upkeep of the Roman army.
6. Most Jewish people h_____ the tax collectors because they worked for the Romans.
7. Why was control of Palestine important for Romans?
8. How did the lives of ordinary people change after the Roman invasion of Palestine?
9. Why did the Jews resent the Roman presence in Palestine?
10. Why do you think the Jews looked down on tax collectors?

The Roman Empire was an occupying power yet it brought many benefits to the countries it occupied. It had a building programme for towns and cities. Public buildings were erected; water systems were installed, and roads laid down.

In 63 BC, the Romans conquered the land and called it Palestine. In 40 BC, they appointed Herod as king. Because Herod was not a Jew, the Jewish people never accepted him.

At the time of Jesus, Palestine (the Holy Land) was still part of the Roman Empire, and Roman law and customs were being imposed on the Jewish people. The Jews didn't like the Romans and there was always a great deal of tension between them.

The Roman Emperor was called Caesar. He allowed Herod to continue as a token leader (i.e. without any real power), but he sent governors to Palestine to take care of his interests and, therefore, the real power was firmly held by Rome. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor from AD 26 to 36. His job was to keep law and order in Palestine and make sure the Jewish people paid their taxes.

The Romans could not understand the Jewish faith. They were polytheist (i.e. they believed in many different gods) and the Jews were monotheists (i.e. they believed in one God). The Jews called their God 'Yahweh'. (The name 'Yahweh' is so sacred that it is never said out loud.) The Romans allowed the Jewish people to continue to practice their religion. They saw this as a way of keeping the people happy and so making it easier for them to govern Palestine.

The Sanhedrin was the religious governing body located in Jerusalem. It also served as the highest court of Jewish law in Palestine. The High Priest was president of the Sanhedrin and its members were made up of Sadducees and Pharisees, two religious groups who disagreed on many issues.

The Romans allowed the Sanhedrin to:

- act as a law court
- punish Jewish people who broke the Jewish law
- keep its own guards, who maintained order.

This was quite a cunning plan on behalf of the Romans because they now had a situation where the two main Jewish groups were fighting and disagreeing amongst each other and inflicting punishment on their own people for not upholding the strict Jewish laws.

Activities:

1. What religion was Jesus born into?
2. What happened in 63 BC?
3. Who was appointed king in 40 BC?
4. Who was made governor in AD 26?
5. What was the role of the Roman governor?
6. What was the Sanhedrin?
7. Who was the president of the Sanhedrin?
8. Who were the two main Jewish groups that were involved in the Sanhedrin?
9. What powers did the Sanhedrin have?
10. Why were the Romans happy to have a court like the Sanhedrin?
11. How do you think the political and religious structures might have impacted upon (affected) Jesus as he was growing up?

Daily life in Ancient Rome

A Typical Day

A typical Roman day would start off with a light breakfast and then off to work. Work would end in the early afternoon when many Romans would take a quick trip to the baths to bathe and socialize. At around 3pm they would have dinner which was as much of a social event as a meal.

Ancient Roman Jobs

Ancient Rome was a complex society that required a number of different job functions and skills to function. Most of the menial tasks were performed by slaves. Here are some of the jobs a Roman citizen might have:

Farmer - Most of the Romans who lived in the countryside were farmers. The most common crop was wheat which was used to make bread.

Soldier - The Roman Army was large and needed soldiers. The army was a way for the poorer class to earn a regular wage and to gain some valuable land at the end of their service. It was a good way for the poor to move up in status.

Merchant - Merchants of all sorts sold and bought items from around the Empire. They kept the economy rolling and the Empire rich.

Craftsman - From making dishes and pots to crafting fine jewellery and weapons for the army, craftsmen were important to the empire. Some craftsmen worked in individual shops and learned a specific craft, usually from their father. Others were slaves, who worked in large workshops that produced items in large quantities such as dishes or pots.

Entertainers - The people of Ancient Rome liked to be entertained. Just like today, there were a number of entertainers in Rome including musicians, dancers, actors, chariot racers, and gladiators.

Lawyers, Teachers, Engineers - The more educated Romans could become lawyers, teachers, and engineers.

Government - The government of Ancient Rome was huge. There were all sorts of government jobs from tax collectors and clerks to high-ranking positions like Senators. The Senators were the wealthy and the powerful. Senators served in their position for life and at times there were as many as 600 members of the Senate.

Family

The family unit was very important to the Romans. The head of the family was the father called the paterfamilias. Legally, he had all the power in the family. However, usually the wife had a strong say in what went on in the family. She often handled the finances and managed the household.

School

Roman children started school at the age of 7. Wealthy children would be taught by a full-time tutor. Other children went to public school. They studied subjects such as reading, writing, math, literature, and debate. School was mostly for boys; however, some wealthy girls were tutored at home. Poor children did not get to go to school.

Bathing

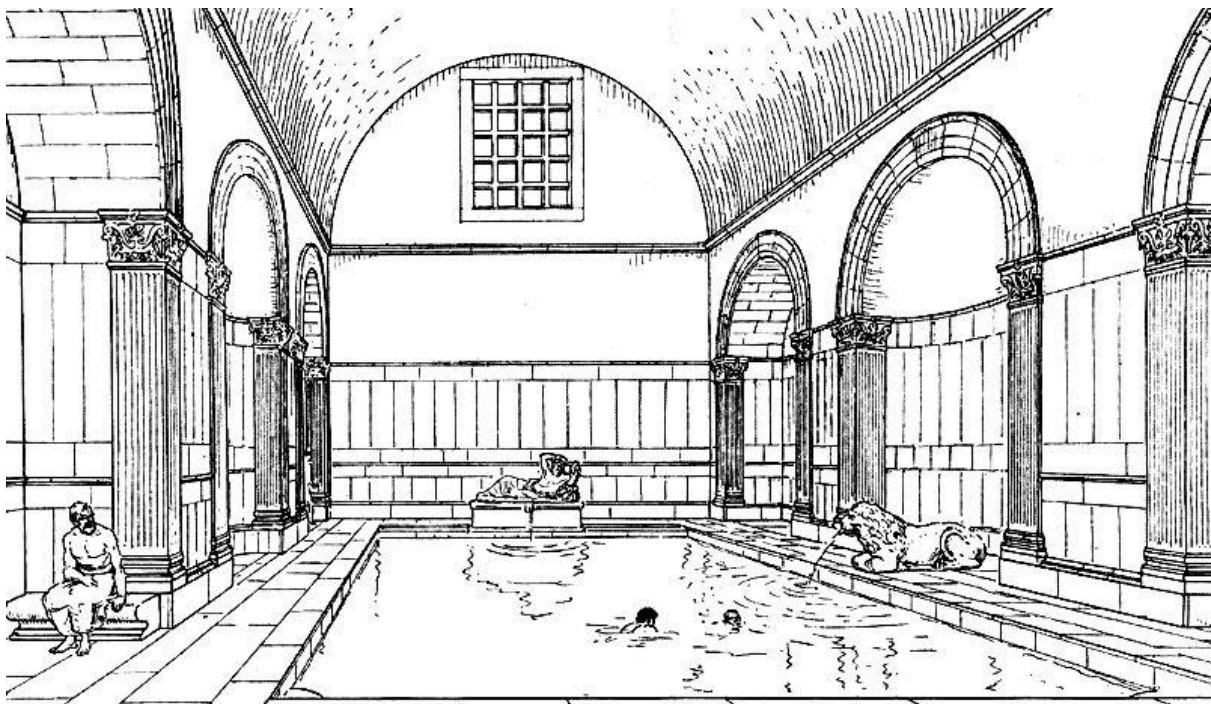
Bathing was an important part of Roman life, although most houses didn't have baths. Instead, people visited public baths or bathhouses every day.

Activity

Make a summary under headings of daily life in Rome. Include drawings.



A Roman Town



Roman baths

Entertainment: The Colosseum



For over two centuries the arena known as the Colosseum was the scene of unbelievable cruelty and violence. Opened in AD 80, it had 80 entrances and 45,000 seats. Fights between gladiators, battles between men and wild animals and other violent public entertainments were held here. People and animals were slaughtered in their thousands to satisfy the Romans' desire for blood-thirsty spectacles. It was here that Christians were fed to the lions and other wild animals.

Gladiators were professional fighters, sometimes forced to fight to the death. Gladiators attended training schools and by the first century AD, gladiator contests were enormously popular. Gladiators often fought opponents who were not properly trained, such as bankrupt citizens who could not pay their debts, slaves or criminals. These unlucky people were armed with only a small shield and dagger.

Emperor's Box

The best seat in the house belonged to the emperor who sat in the Emperor's Box. Of course, a lot of times it was the emperor who was paying for the games. This was one way for the emperor to make the people happy and to keep them liking him.

Underground Passages

Below the Colosseum was a labyrinth of underground passages called the hypogeum. These passages allowed for animals, actors, and gladiators to suddenly appear in the middle of the arena. They would use trap doors to add in special effects such as scenery.

Construction

The walls of the Colosseum were built with stone. They made use of a number of arches in order to keep the weight down, but yet still keep them strong. There were four different levels that could be accessed by stairs. Who could enter each level was carefully controlled. The floor of the Colosseum was wooden and covered with sand.

Outside of the Colosseum was an enormous 9 metre bronze statue of the emperor Nero called the Colossus of Nero. It was later turned into a statue of the Sun god Sol Invictus. Some historians believe that the name for the Colosseum comes from the Colossus.

The Velarium

To keep the hot sun and the rain off of spectators, there was a retractable awning called the velarium. There were 240 wooden masts around the top of the stadium to support the awning. Roman sailors were used to put up the velarium when it was needed.

Activity

Draw the Colosseum and make a summary of its purpose and the construction techniques.

Slaves

As in many ancient civilizations, slavery played a big part in the culture of Rome. Slaves performed much of the labour and hard work that helped to build the Roman Empire and keep it running.

Did they have a lot of slaves?

A fairly large percentage of the people living in Rome and Italy were slaves. Historians aren't sure of an exact percentage but somewhere between 20% and 30% of the people were slaves. During the early parts of the Roman Empire, as many as one third of the people in Rome were slaves.

How did someone become a slave?

Most slaves were people captured in times of war. As the Roman Empire expanded, they often captured slaves from new lands they conquered. Other slaves were bought from slave traders and pirates who captured people from foreign lands and brought them to Rome.

Children of slaves also became slaves. Sometimes criminals were sold into slavery. A few people even sold themselves into slavery in order to pay their debts.

What work did slaves do?

Slaves did all sorts of work throughout the empire. Some slaves worked hard labour in the Roman mines or on a farm. Other slaves worked skilled jobs such as teaching or business

accounting. The type of work generally depended on the previous education and experience of the slave.

There were two main types of slaves: public and private. Public slaves were owned by the Roman government. They might work on public building projects, for a government official, or in the emperor's mines. Private slaves were owned by an individual. They worked jobs such as household servants, labourers on farms, and craftsmen.

Were they treated well?

How a slave was treated depended upon the owner. Some slaves were likely beaten and worked to death, while others were treated almost like family. In general, slaves were considered valuable property and it made sense to treat them well. Sometimes slaves were paid by their owners if they worked hard.

Were slaves set free?

Yes, slaves were sometimes set free by their owner (called "manumission"). Sometimes slaves were able to purchase their own freedom. Freed slaves were called freedmen or freedwomen. Although they were free, they still had the status of a "freed slave." Freed slaves were considered Roman citizens, but couldn't hold public office.

Slave Rebellions

The slaves of Rome banded together and rebelled several times during the history of Ancient Rome. There were three major rebellions called the "Servile Wars." Perhaps the most famous of these was the Third Servile War led by the gladiator Spartacus.

Activity

Imaging that you are a slave in Roman times. Write a story of your life.

Roman Art

Cantered in the city of Rome, the civilization of Ancient Rome ruled much of Europe for over 1000 years. The arts flourished during this time and were often used by the wealthy and powerful to memorialize their deeds and heritage.

Influenced by Greek Art

The Romans admired the Greek culture and arts. After conquering Greece, they brought many Greek artists to Rome to make sculptures for them in the Greek fashion. The art of Ancient Greece had a great influence on the art of Ancient Rome.

Other Influences

Although Greek art had the greatest influence on the Romans, other civilizations that they conquered and encountered over their wide empire also had influence. These included the Ancient Egyptians, eastern art, the Germans, and the Celts.

Roman Sculpture

Roman sculpture played an important part of the Roman daily life. Sculptures took the form of full statues, busts (sculptures of just a person's head), reliefs (sculptures that were part of a wall), and sarcophagi (sculptures on tombs). The Ancient Romans decorated with sculptures in a number of places including public buildings, public parks, and private homes and gardens.

Roman sculpture was heavily influenced by Greek sculpture. In fact, many of the Roman sculptures were just copies of Greek sculptures. The wealthy Romans decorated their large homes with sculptures. A lot of times these sculptures were of themselves or their ancestors. Other popular subjects for sculptures included gods and goddesses, philosophers, famous athletes, and successful generals.

The Roman Bust

One of the most popular types of sculpture in Ancient Rome was the bust. This is a sculpture of just the head. Wealthy Romans would put the busts of their ancestors in the atrium of their homes. This was a way for them to show off their lineage.



Roman Painting

The walls of the homes of wealthy Romans were often decorated with paintings. These paintings were frescos painted directly on the walls. Most of these paintings have been destroyed over time, but some of them were preserved in the city of Pompeii when it was buried by the eruption of a volcano.

Mosaics

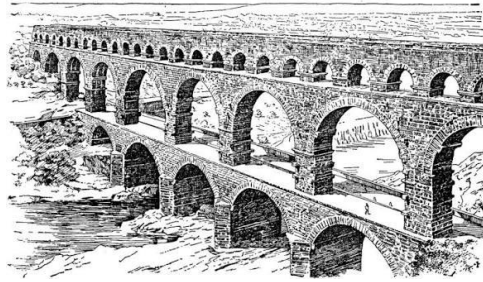
Romans also made pictures from coloured tiles call mosaics. The mosaics have been able to survive the test of time better than the paintings. Sometimes the tiles would be applied direct at the site of the mosaic. Other times the tiles and the base would be made in a workshop and the entire mosaic installed later. Mosaics could be art on a wall, but also worked as decorative flooring.



The Pantheon, Rome, still standing today.

Architecture

Roman architecture continued the legacy left by Greek architects. They used the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns, especially the Corinthian. The Romans also used new construction techniques and materials with creative design to produce a whole range of brand-new architectural structures. Typical innovative Roman buildings included the basilica, triumphal arch, the aqueduct, amphitheatre, and residential housing block.



Roman Aqueduct

Roman roads - At the peak of Rome's development, no fewer than 29 great military highways radiated from the capital, and the empire's 113 provinces were interconnected by 372 great roads. These major roads were often stone-paved or gravelled, and were flanked by footpaths, bridleways and drainage ditches.

Activity

Make a summary of Roma art and architecture., under headings. Include drawings.

The City of Pompeii

The city of Pompeii was a major resort city during the times of Ancient Rome. However, in 79 AD, disaster struck the city when it was buried under 20 feet of ash and debris from the eruption of the nearby volcano, Mount Vesuvius.

The City

The port city was in a prime location for trade as well as farming. The rich volcanic soil from earlier eruptions of the volcano Vesuvius created prime farmland for grapes and olive trees.

The city of Pompeii was a popular vacation destination for the Romans. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 20,000 people lived in the city. Many wealthy Romans had summer homes in Pompeii and would live there during the hot summer months.

Pompeii was a typical Roman city. On one side of the city was the forum. It was here that much of the business of the city was carried out. There were also temples to Venus, Jupiter, and Apollo near the forum. An aqueduct carried water into the city to be used in the public baths and fountains. The rich even had running water in their homes.

The people of Pompeii enjoyed their entertainment. There was a large amphitheatre that could seat around 20,000 people for gladiator games. There were also a number of theatres for plays, religious celebrations, and musical concerts.

The Volcano Erupts

On August 24, 79 AD Mount Vesuvius erupted. Scientists estimate that 1.5 million tons of ash and rock shot out of the volcano every second. The ash cloud likely towered over 20 miles high above the mountain. Some people managed to escape, but most didn't. It is estimated that 16,000 people died.

Did they know what was coming?

The days prior to the eruption were recorded by a Roman administrator named Pliny the Younger. Pliny wrote that there had been several earth tremors in the days leading up to the eruption, but Roman science didn't know that earthquakes could signal the start of a volcano erupting. Even when they first saw smoke rising from the top of the mountain, they were merely curious. They had no idea what was coming until it was too late.

A Great Archaeological Find

The city of Pompeii was buried and gone. People eventually forgot about it. It wasn't discovered again until the 1700s when archaeologists began to uncover the city. They found something amazing. Much of the city was preserved under the ashes. Buildings, paintings, houses, and workshops that would never have survived all these years remained intact. As a result, much of what we know about everyday life in the Roman Empire comes from Pompeii.

Archaeologists found holes in the ashes that were once the bodies of people that were buried in the eruption. By pouring plaster into these holes, scientists have been able to make detailed casts of many of the citizens of Pompeii.



Questions

- 1) What two major crops were grown in the rich soil near the city of Pompeii?
- 2) What natural disaster were the people of Pompeii accustomed to experiencing?
- 3) What empire did the city of Pompeii belong to when it was destroyed?
- 4) Why was the city of Pompeii popular among Romans?
- 5) What happened that destroyed the city of Pompeii?
- 6) In what way was Pompeii like many other major Roman cities?
- 7) What year did Mount Vesuvius erupt?
- 8) Around how many people died in the eruption?
- 9) True or False: The people of Pompeii knew that the mountain was going to erupt any day. They were very prepared.
- 10) What did archaeologists find when they dug up the city of Pompeii nearly 2,000 years later?

Check your answers below and give yourself a score.

Answers

1. Grapes and olive trees
2. Earthquakes
3. Roman
4. It was a popular summer vacation destination
5. Nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted burying the city in ash and debris
6. It was a business centre. It had a forum. There were aqueducts, public baths and running water in the homes.
7. 79 AD
8. 16,000
9. FALSE
10. That the city was well preserved under the ash and debris

The Barbarians

Who were the barbarians?

The Romans referred to people groups outside the Roman Empire as barbarians. The barbarians had different cultures than the Romans. They dressed differently, ate different foods, and had different religions. They did not have the same level of government, education, or engineering as the Romans.

The barbarians weren't just one people group. The term "barbarian" was used to describe a wide variety of different peoples that had little to do with each other. Many of the groups that attacked and invaded the Roman Empire were Germanic tribes from Northern Europe.

Goths - One of the most powerful and organized groups of barbarians were the Goths. They were from today's Germany.

Vandals - The Vandals migrated from Northern Europe to Spain, and eventually to North Africa where they established a powerful kingdom.

Huns - The Huns were a nomadic warrior people who came from the east.

Franks - The Franks were a number of Germanic tribes that settled in the region that is today the country of France (France gets its name from the Franks).

Saxons - As Rome began to weaken, the Saxons moved from Western Europe and began to invade Great Britain. They took over many Roman settlements in Great Britain as the Emperor was too weak to send the Romans in Great Britain aid.

Celts – The Celts came from today's Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

Activity

Make a list of the 6 main people groups referred to as 'the Barbarians'. Say where each group came from.



England in the Roman Empire

We often think of the Roman Empire as ruling Italy and the areas around the Mediterranean Sea. However, for nearly 400 years, Rome also ruled much of Britain. They called the land Britannia.

Hadrian's Wall

In 122 AD the Roman Emperor Hadrian had a wall built across the middle of England. This wall created a fortified border between northern and southern Britain. The wall was 117 km long. It varied in size from 3 – 6 metres wide and 3 – 6 metres tall. It is estimated that more than 10,000 troops manned the wall at some point. The wall helped to keep out the northern barbarians and also served as a point for taxation on imports and exports. Sections of Hadrian's Wall still remain, particularly in its hilly central sector. Little remains in lowland regions, where it was used as a source of stone for new buildings.



The End of Roman Rule

The Romans ruled Britain for nearly 400 years from 43 AD to 410 AD. They left Britain because they needed to put their efforts into defending their homeland in Italy, which was being threatened by barbarians such as the Goths and the Vandals. The Western Roman Empire collapsed in 476 AD.

Lasting Culture

The Roman left a lasting legacy on the culture of Britain. Roman construction such as aqueducts, roads, and concrete had a lasting impact on the people of Britain. Other aspects of Roman culture that remained in England included the Julian calendar, Roman laws and government, and many words from the Latin language.

The City of London

The Romans also established the city of Londinium around 50 AD, which later became London. The Romans built a network of roads throughout England many of which went through Londinium making the city an important trade centre.

The Romans built many major structures in Londinium including temples, bathhouses, a basilica for meetings, and a governor's palace. Around 200 AD, they built a defensive wall around the city called London Wall.

Activities

1. Why was Hadrian's Wall built?
2. What evidence can we see today, that Britain was once under Roman rule.

The Fall of the Roman Empire

Rome ruled much of Europe around the Mediterranean for over 1000 years. However, the inner workings of the Roman Empire began to decline starting around 200 AD. By 400 AD Rome was struggling under the weight of its giant empire. The city of Rome finally fell in 476 AD.

The Peak of Roman Power

Rome reached its peak of power in the 2nd century around the year 117 AD under the rule of the great Roman emperor Trajan. Virtually all of the coastline along the Mediterranean Sea was part of the Roman Empire. This included Spain, Italy, France, southern Britain, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and northern Africa.

Gradual Decline

The Fall of Rome didn't happen in a day; it happened over a long period of time. There are a number of reasons why the empire began to fail. Here are some of the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire:

- The politicians and rulers of Rome became more and more corrupt
- Infighting and civil wars within the Empire
- Attacks from barbarian tribes outside of the empire such as the Visigoths, Huns, Franks, and Vandals.
- The Roman army was no longer a dominant force
- The empire became so large it was difficult to govern

Rome Divides into Two

In 285 AD, Emperor Diocletian decided that the Roman Empire was too big to manage. He divided the Empire into two parts, the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire. Over the next hundred years or so, Rome would be reunited, split into three parts, and split in two again. Finally, in 395 AD, the empire was split into two for good. The Western Empire was ruled by Rome and the Eastern Empire was ruled by Constantinople.

The "fall" of Rome discussed here is referring to the Western Roman Empire which was ruled by Rome. The Eastern Roman Empire became known as the Byzantium Empire and remained in power for another 1000 years.



The City of Rome is Attacked

The city of Rome was thought by many to be unconquerable. However, in 410 AD, a Germanic barbarian tribe called the Visigoths invaded the city. They looted the treasures, killed and enslaved many Romans, and destroyed many buildings. This was the first time in 800 years that the city of Rome had been sacked.

Rome Falls

In 476 AD, a Germanic barbarian by the name of Odoacer took control of Rome. He became king of Italy and forced the last emperor of Rome, Romulus Augustulus, to give up his crown. Many historians consider this to be the end of the Roman Empire.

The Dark Ages Begins

With the fall of Rome, many changes occurred throughout Europe. Rome had provided a strong government, education, and culture. Now much of Europe fell into barbarianism. The next 500 years would be known as the Dark Ages of Europe.

Interesting Facts about the Fall of Rome

- The Eastern Roman Empire fell in 1453 to the Ottoman Empire.
- Many poor people were glad to see Rome fall. They were starving to death while being taxed heavily by Rome.
- Near the end of the Roman Empire, the city of Rome was no longer the capital. The city of Mediolanum (now Milan) was capital for a while. Later, the capital was moved to Ravenna.
- Rome was sacked once again in 455 AD by the Vandals. The Vandals were an Eastern Germanic tribe. The term "vandalism" comes from the Vandals.

Questions

- 1) Under which Roman emperor did the Roman Empire reach its peak?
- 2) Around how long was Rome the major power in Europe and around the Mediterranean Sea?
- 3) When the Roman Empire was split into two separate empires, what city was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire?
- 4) What is the common name for the Eastern Roman Empire?
- 5) Which group of barbarians sacked Rome in 410 AD signalling the start of the fall of Rome?
- 6) What caused Rome to decline and eventually fall?
- 7) What period of history began after the fall of Rome?
- 8) What year is considered to be the end of the Western Roman Empire and the fall of Rome?
- 9) True or False: The Fall of Rome happened very quickly in a matter of a few years.
- 10) Who was Odoacer?

Check your answers below and give yourself a score.

Answers

1. Trajan
2. 1000 years
3. Constantinople
4. Byzantium Empire
5. Visigoths
6. Corrupt politicians, civil war, barbarian attacks, the empire too large to govern properly
7. The Dark Ages
8. 476 AD
9. FALSE
10. The barbarian who overthrew the last emperor of Rome and brought an end to the Roman Empire

A Roman Emperor



2. The Ottoman Empire

Ottoman Empire, empire created by Turkish tribes in Anatolia (Turkey) that grew to be one of the most powerful states in the world during the 15th and 16th centuries. The Ottoman period spanned more than 600 years and came to an end only in 1923, when it was replaced by the Turkish Republic after World War 1. At its height the empire encompassed most of southeastern Europe to the gates of Vienna, including present-day Hungary, the Balkan region, Greece, and parts of Ukraine; portions of the Middle East now occupied by Iraq, Syria, Israel, and Egypt; North Africa as far west as Algeria; and large parts of the Arabian Peninsula. The term Ottoman is derived from the nomadic Turkmen chief, Osman 1, who founded both the empire about 1300.



Activities

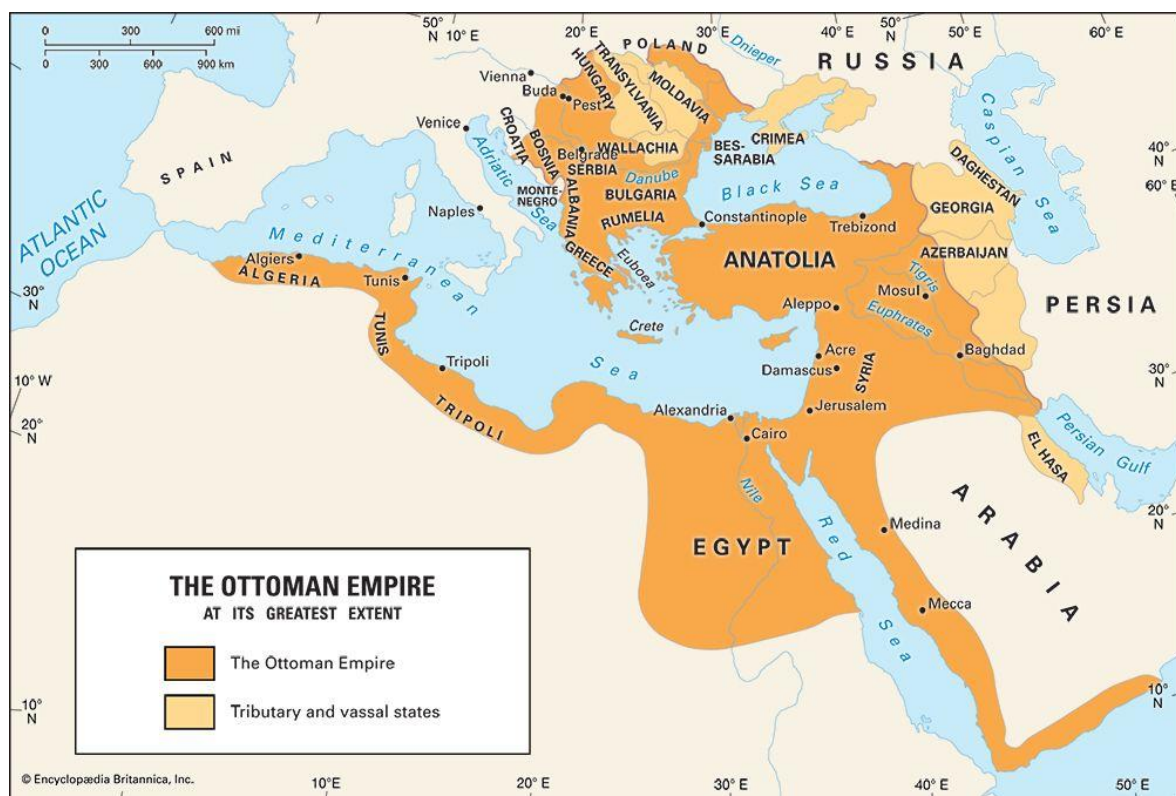
1. In which countries today would we find:

- a) Thrace
- b) Anatolia
- c) Armenia
- d) Kiev

Origins and expansion of the Ottoman state, c. 1300–1402

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Ottoman-Empire>

The Ottomans were leaders of the Turkish warriors for the faith of Islam, known by the Arabic title of “raider”. They fought against the shrinking Christian Byzantine state, (previously the Western half of the Roman Empire). The ancestors of Osman I, the founder of the dynasty, were members of a nomadic tribe from Central Asia. They established themselves in Iran and Iraq, (see map below), in the mid-11th century, fought to overthrow the Byzantium Empire, (the Western Roman Empire). They then occupied eastern and central Anatolia during the 12th century.



The Ottoman Empire ruled a large portion of the Middle East and Eastern Europe for over 600 years. It first formed in 1299 and finally dissolved in 1923, becoming the country of Turkey.

Rise of the Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire was founded by Osman I, a leader of the Turkish tribes in Anatolia in 1299. Osman I expanded his kingdom, uniting many of the independent states of Anatolia under one rule. Osman established a formal government and allowed for religious tolerance over the people he conquered.

Capturing Constantinople

Over the next 150 years the Ottoman Empire continued to expand. The most powerful empire in the land at the time was the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire). In 1453, Mehmet II the Conqueror led the Ottoman Empire in capturing Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantium Empire. He turned Constantinople into the capital of the Ottoman Empire and renamed it Istanbul. For the next several hundred years the Ottoman Empire would be one of the largest and most powerful empires in the world.

When Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire, a large number of scholars and artists fled to Italy. This helped to spark the European Renaissance. It also caused the European nations to begin to search for new trade routes to the Far East, beginning the Age of Exploration.

Suleiman the Magnificent

The Ottoman Empire reached its peak during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. He ruled from 1520 to 1566. During this time the empire expanded and included much of Eastern Europe including Greece and Hungary.

Decline

The Ottoman Empire began to decline in the late 1600s. It ceased to expand and began to face economic competition from India and Europe. Internal corruption and poor leadership led to a steady decline until the empire was abolished after World War 1 and the country of Turkey was declared a republic in 1923.

Questions

- 1) About how many years did the Ottoman Empire exist?
- 2) Who founded the Ottoman Empire?
- 3) What city did the Ottoman Empire conquer in 1453 putting an end to the Byzantium Empire?
- 4) Under what Ottoman ruler did the empire reach its peak?
- 5) What modern day country was created from the Ottoman Empire in 1922?

Answers

1. 600
2. Osman I
3. Constantinople
4. Suleiman the Magnificent
5. Turkey

How Islamic people were governed

The leader of the Ottoman Empire was called the Sultan. The title of Sultan was inherited by the eldest son. When a new Sultan took power, he would put all of his brothers into prison. Once he had a son of his own to inherit the throne, he would have his brothers executed.

Caliphs were the chief rulers and religious leaders. They divided their governments into departments, with each department being run by an official.

For the first 20 – 30 years, people were not forced to become Muslims, but if they did not convert, they had to pay high taxes, and had to abide by the Islamic laws. They were treated as the lowest social order, much like slaves.

Soldiers were well-trained and ready to fight to overthrow surrounding countries. The Muslims conquered cities and kingdoms in Africa, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Syria and India.

As time went on, life became very difficult for Christians and Jews. Different rulers created different rules for people who were not Muslims. While most Ottomans were Muslim, there were also many religious minorities in the empire. The most prominent minorities were Christians, who themselves were primarily divided between Greek Orthodox and Armenian Christians, and Jews, who settled in the Ottoman Empire after being expelled from Spain and Portugal in the 1490s.

Questions

1. What was the religion of the Ottoman Empire?
2. What were the two denominations of Christians living in the Ottoman Empire?
3. What were the difficulties faced by Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire?
4. What was the main goal of the Ottoman army?

Islamic Beliefs

Islam is a religion followed by millions of people all around the world. Muslims believe there is only one God, Allah. The word 'Islam' means 'submission'. Muslims submit to or obey Allah, and the teachings of Muhammad. Mahammad is said to be the messenger of a prophet of Allah.

In 610 AD, Muhammad is said to have had a visitation from the angel Gabriel who told Mahammad the story of Allah. Mahammad spent the next 23 years writing down the words of Allah in the sacred book, the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is Islam's holy book. Muslims believe that the words in the Qur'an are the exact words of Allah. Some Muslims learn the whole book off by heart. Muslims worship at a mosque. During worship the Qur'an is always read in Arabic, its original language.

Islam is said to be a 'religion of peace' but the meaning of this for a Muslim is that the world will be at peace when the whole world is under Islamic rule.

Differences between Islam and Christianity

While Allah and the Christian God share some attributes, they have substantial differences that go beyond just naming. Most theologians do not view them as the same deity.

Islam: In Islam, salvation is based on believing in Allah's oneness – in other words, being a Muslim. Muslims believe Allah forgives all sins except worshipping another god. They don't believe Jesus is God's Son and part of the Godhead (Quran 4: 48). Muslims believe in hell (Jahannam) as a place of fire and torment. Those who reject Islam go to hell (Jahannam) and Muslims who commit grave sins also go to hell, but not necessarily for eternity.

Christianity: The Bible teaches that all people have sinned and fallen short of God's standard (Romans 3:23). For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). The Bible teaches that Jesus was the only person to live a sinless life. He died as a substitute for all people in the world – He took our punishment. God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sins, so that we could be made right with God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Salvation

Islam: The Qur'an teaches that heaven is a place of sensual pleasures (for men) where there is no sadness or fear. The Islamic heaven has rivers of water, milk, wine, and honey (Qur'an, 47:15). The best Muslims will get a glimpse of Allah's face in heaven, although there is no suggestion of the intimate, personal friendship with God that Christians have even here on earth.

Christianity: The Bible says that if you declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9). When we belong to Jesus, the power of the life-giving Holy Spirit frees us from the power of sin that leads to death (Romans 8:2)

Heaven and Hell

Islam: Islam teaches that Allah will weigh a person's good deeds and sins from the Book of Life on the Day of Judgment. If a Muslim has more sins than good deeds, he will go to hell

for a while until he has been punished for his sins. To get into heaven, a Muslim must perform good deeds, like praying regularly, going to mosque, reading the Qur'an, being kind to orphans and one's parents, seeking knowledge, and having integrity and patience.

Christianity: The Bible says that when Christians die and leave their earthly bodies, they have an eternal body made for by God Himself. We will be at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:1-9)

We must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many rooms (dwelling-places, mansions) . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you, and . . . I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be" (John 14:2-3).

"After these things, I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9-10)

View of the Trinity

Islam: The most fundamental element of Islam is that Allah is one, indivisible god; this strict monotheism is called Tawhid. Muslims incorrectly believe that the Christian concept of the Trinity means three separate gods. "They do blaspheme who say: 'Allah is the third of three.' There is no god except one God." (Sura 5:73).

When Muhammad wrote the Qur'an, he confused the Trinity as meaning God, Jesus, and Mary. "And when God said, 'O Jesus son of Mary, didst thou say unto men, "Take me and my mother as gods, apart from God"?' (Qur'an 5:116)

Christianity: The Bible explicitly teaches, in both the Old and New Testaments, that God is one:

"The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4)

"Now one of the scribes had come up and heard their debate. Noticing how well Jesus had answered them, he asked Him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' Jesus replied, 'This is the most important: Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' . . . 'Right, Teacher,' the scribe replied. 'You have stated correctly that God is One and there is no other but Him.'" (Mark 12:28-32)

God called Jesus His Son (Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22, Luke 9:35, John 3:16)

“But Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that reason also, the holy Child will be called the Son of God.’” (Luke 1:34-35)

“After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, and behold, a voice from the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:16-17)

The Biblical Trinity is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (Jesus, John 14:26)

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.” (John 15:26)

Conclusion

A Muslim can call on Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and receive forgiveness for sin and the promise of eternal life, just as anyone else can. Many Muslims today are receiving dreams and vision from Jesus, and have been converted to Christianity through supernatural visitations from Jesus. For those who convert, their life is in danger.

Activities

1. Who founded Islam?
2. How did he get his beliefs for the foundational doctrine?
3. Where do we find the beliefs of Islam in written form?
4. What is meant by ‘a religion of peace’ in the case of Islam?
5. Draw up a table as follows. In each box write brief dot point summaries of major differences between Islam and Christianity.

	Islam	Christianity
Attributes of God		
Salvation		
Heaven & Hell		
The Trinity		

Mosques

A mosque is a place where Muslims gather to worship. Mosques have been a central part of Muslim communities since the early days of Islam.

What are the functions of a mosque?

The mosque serves a variety of roles in the lives of Muslims. Its most important role is as a house of prayer. Muslims often visit the mosque to participate in prayer with large groups. Mosques also provide religious education, and a meeting place for Muslims to have religious discussions.

Who leads the mosque?

Mosques are often led by an Islamic leader called an "imam". The imam sometimes leads the prayers, especially the Friday prayer, and is responsible for the religious guidance of those who attend the mosque.

Minaret

Minarets are towers that are often built as part of a mosque. They are used for calling Muslims to prayer. Five times each day, a man called a "muezzin" issues the call for prayer from the minaret. Minarets come in a variety of styles and shapes, but they are generally tall, narrow towers.

Prayer Room

Mosques have a room set aside specifically for prayer. This room has a wall that faces in the direction of Mecca. There is usually a niche in the wall called a "mihrab" to indicate the proper direction. The Muslim worshipers then face toward this wall when they pray. There generally isn't any furniture or chairs in the prayer room. Worshipers use prayer mats to kneel on while praying.



Decorations

Some mosques are elaborately decorated with tiles and carpets. There are no pictures of people or animals in the decorations, however, to make sure that idols are not worshiped in the mosque. Instead, the decorations use repeated geometric designs, scrolling leaves and flowers, or words from the Quran written in calligraphy.

Women's Area

Depending on the mosque, women and men may worship in different areas. Sometimes the mosque will have a separate prayer room or area where women can pray.

Questions

1. What is the function of a mosque?
2. What is the role of the 'imam'?
3. What are the two tall towers in this picture?
4. What is the posture that Muslims take on when they pray?
5. What kind of decoration would you see in a mosque?
6. Do women and men worship together?



Women in the Ottoman Empire

Women's social life was often one of relative seclusion. The extent of seclusion was dependent on class. Urban women lived in some amount of sex segregation during most of the empire's history, as many social gatherings were segregated, and many upper-class urban women veiled in public areas; rural women, on the other hand, often did not have the same restrictions placed on them. Veiling and sex segregation customs were therefore seen as a sign of status, privilege and class. Later it was seen as a sign of Ottoman and Islamic values.

Women were in large part absent from the political sphere. Men were thought of as more competent and valued in the spheres of military and politics.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_the_Ottoman_Empire

Islamic treatment of women

Islamic practices, still operating in many Islamic countries today:

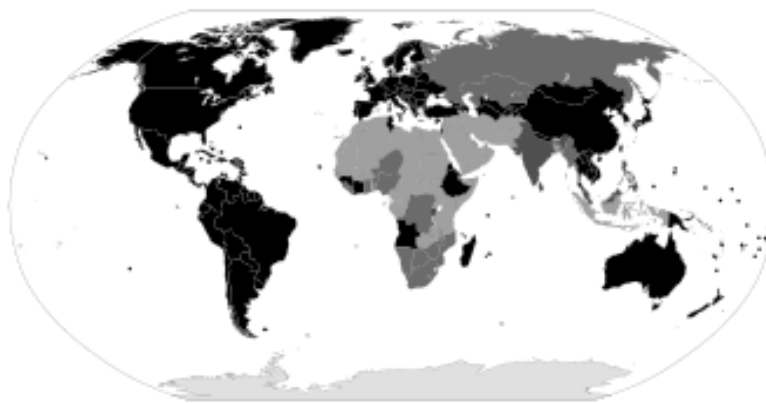
- Belief that education for women should be limited
- Restrictions on women's mobility, such as the prohibition on driving
- Strict rules on dress – complete body covering, often in all black, head coverings with no hair showing, and in some cases face coverings when in public.
- The Quran has been interpreted by some to permit domestic violence under certain circumstances.

Polygamy

Traditional Islamic law allows Muslim men to be married to multiple women (a practice known as polygyny) —up to four wives at a time — with the stipulation that if the man fears he is unable to treat more wives fairly he must marry only one. Marriage by a woman to multiple husbands (polyandry) is haram (forbidden).

There are 28 countries that allow polygamy today, under Islam. Examples:

- Saudi Arabia: Polygamy is permitted with a maximum of four wives, but the husband must treat all wives equally.
- United Arab Emirates: Similar to Saudi Arabia, men can marry up to four wives under Islamic law.
- Iran: allows polygamy, including an unrestricted number of temporary marriages arranged for a fixed period.
- Indonesia: Polygamy is legal for men, but requires permission from the first wife and must adhere to religious regulations.
- Many African countries: Under customary law, polygamous marriages can occur, but they must be registered to be recognized.
- India: Polygamy is legal only for Muslims



Countries in shown in black indicate that polygamy is banned.

Contemporary Realities and Regional Variations

The modern Muslim world presents a stark gender gap. Out of the 195 countries in the world, *the 2023 Global Gender Gap Report* ranks Afghanistan (152nd), Yemen (149th), and Pakistan (142nd) among the lowest globally for women’s education, economic participation, and political empowerment. In Afghanistan, Taliban policies since 2021 bar girls from secondary school and mandate male chaperones. Yemen’s civil war has worsened child marriage rates, with 32% of girls wed before 18. (UNICEF, 2023).

In Iran, husbands may stop wives from taking jobs or travelling overseas. Husbands have an incontestable right to divorce but women may only divorce on limited grounds and usually have to forgo monetary claims to secure agreement. A mother may have physical custody of a child until age seven when custody is transferred to the father, though a court may override that. The father remains sole legal guardian. A man who sees his wife commit adultery may be exempted some punishment if he kills her. In Iran 2022 there were protests over a woman's death. She was killed for improper hijab (head covering).

Contrastingly, some Muslim-majority states show more flexibility. Tunisia's 1956 Personal Status Code banned polygamy and expanded women's rights. Turkey's secular reforms under Ataturk granted women the right to vote in 1934, though recent policies signal a conservative rollback. Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation, hosts progressive groups like Fatayat NU, which reinterpret Islamic texts to promote gender equity (Badran, 2009).

<https://revistaminerva.pt/the-disparity-between-islamic-ideals-and-the-treatment-of-women-in-the-modern-muslim-world-a-cultural-and-historical-analysis/>

Questions

1. Compare the practice of veiling in the Ottoman Empire and today. How was it different?
2. What restrictions were placed upon women in the Ottoman Empire?
3. Which countries today have the worst record for treatment of women?
4. Which Muslim countries have made some improvements?
5. Find on a map, all the countries mentioned in this article.



Child Marriage

In many Islamic countries and around the world, child marriages are common practice. Girls below the age of 18, and often far below the age of puberty are forcibly married to older persons (sometimes in their 50s and later), often for various personal gains by the girls' guardian or with the intention to preserve family honour by helping her avoid pre-marital sex.

Child marriage is identified as a marriage involving individuals under the age of 18. It is a prevalent practice in various regions globally, with an estimated 12 million young girls getting married before reaching 18 years every year. Factors such as poverty, gender inequality, and cultural and religious beliefs often drive child marriage.

Within the realm of Islam, some have justified child marriage based on specific interpretations of Islamic teachings. One example often cited is the marriage of Prophet Muhammad to Aisha, believed to be nine years old at the time of their marriage. Nonetheless, it is important to recognize that views on child marriage vary within Islamic communities, and interpretations of Islamic teachings pertaining to marriage age differ.

In Iran. more than 13,000 girls aged 13 were married from March 2018-March 2019, the U.N. report said, citing most recently-available government data.

<https://youthfoundation.org.uk/the-practice-of-child-marriage-in-islam-understanding-the-controversy.html>

World War 1 and the end of the Ottoman Empire

Although the early years of the Ottoman Empire permitted Christians to practice their religion, (because it had a financial and social benefit to the Islamic government), this leniency changed. New leaders decided to put into practice the teachings of the Qur'an such as:

(Numbers in brackets show chapter and verse of the Qur'an.)

"Slay the unbelievers wherever you find them" (3:28)

"Muslims must not take the infidels as friends." (3:85)

"Any religion other than Islam is not acceptable."

"Maim and crucify the infidels if they criticize Islam." (8:12)

"Terrorize and behead those who believe in scriptures other than the Qur'an" (8:60.)

"Muslims must muster all weapons to terrorize infidels." (8:65)

"When opportunity arises, kill the infidels wherever you find them." (9:30)

"The Jews and Christians are perverts. Fight them." (9:123)

"Fight until religion is for Allah alone." (8:39)

"Strike off their heads and fingertips." (8:12)

"Fight Jews and Christians until they pay their taxes and feel subdued." (9:29)

The Armenian Genocide – WW1

The Armenian genocide was the systematic destruction of the Armenian people and identity in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. It involved the mass murder of around one million Armenians during death marches to the Syrian desert and the forced Islamization of others, primarily women and children.

Before World War I, Armenians occupied a somewhat protected, but subordinate, place in Ottoman society. Armenians showed signs of wanting independence. Ottoman leaders took isolated instances of Armenian resistance as evidence of a widespread rebellion, and decided to permanently forestall the possibility of Armenian autonomy or independence.

On the eve of World War I in 1914, around two million Armenians lived in Ottoman territory, mostly in Anatolia, a region with a total population of 15–17.5 million. On 24 April 1915, Ottoman authorities arrested and deported hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and leaders from Constantinople. At the orders of Talaat Pasha, an estimated 800,000 to 1.2 million Armenians were sent on death marches to the Syrian desert in 1915 and 1916. Driven forward by paramilitary escorts, the deportees were deprived of food and water and subjected to robbery, rape, and massacres; survivors were dispersed into concentration camps. In 1916, another wave of massacres was ordered, leaving about 200,000 deportees alive by the end of the year. Around 100,000 to 200,000 Armenian women and children were forcibly converted to Islam and integrated into Muslim households. Massacres and ethnic cleansing of Armenian survivors continued through the Turkish War of Independence after World War I, carried out by Turkish nationalists.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_genocide

The Greek Genocide – WW1

The Greek was the systematic killing of the indigenous Christian Ottoman Greek population of Anatolia because of their religion and ethnicity, which was carried out between 1912 and 1923.

The genocide included massacres, forced deportations involving death marches through the Syrian Desert, expulsions, summary executions, and the destruction of Eastern Orthodox Church cultural, historical, and religious monuments. Several hundred thousand Ottoman Greeks died during this period. Most of the refugees and survivors fled to Greece (adding over a quarter to the prior population of Greece). Some, especially those in Eastern provinces, took refuge in the neighbouring Russian Empire. Some who remained organized the Greek resistance.

By late 1922, most of the Greeks of Asia Minor had either fled or had been killed. Those remaining were transferred to Greece under the terms of the later 1923 population exchange between Greece and Turkey, which formalized the exodus and barred the return of the refugees. Other ethnic groups were similarly attacked by the Ottoman Empire during this period, including Assyrians and Armenians, and some scholars and organizations have recognized these events as part of the same genocidal policy.

The Allies of World War I condemned the Ottoman government–sponsored massacres. In 2007, the International Association of Genocide Scholars passed a resolution recognising the Ottoman campaign against its Christian minorities, including the Greeks, as genocide.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_genocide

The Decline of the Ottoman Empire

In 1914 the Ottomans joined the side of the 'Central Powers' in World War I. These were those fighting on the German side, fighting against the British side. World War 1 ended at 11am on 11 November, 1918. This became known as Armistice Day - the day Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace) which caused the fighting to stop. The Ottoman Empire was abolished and the country of Turkey was declared a republic in 1923.

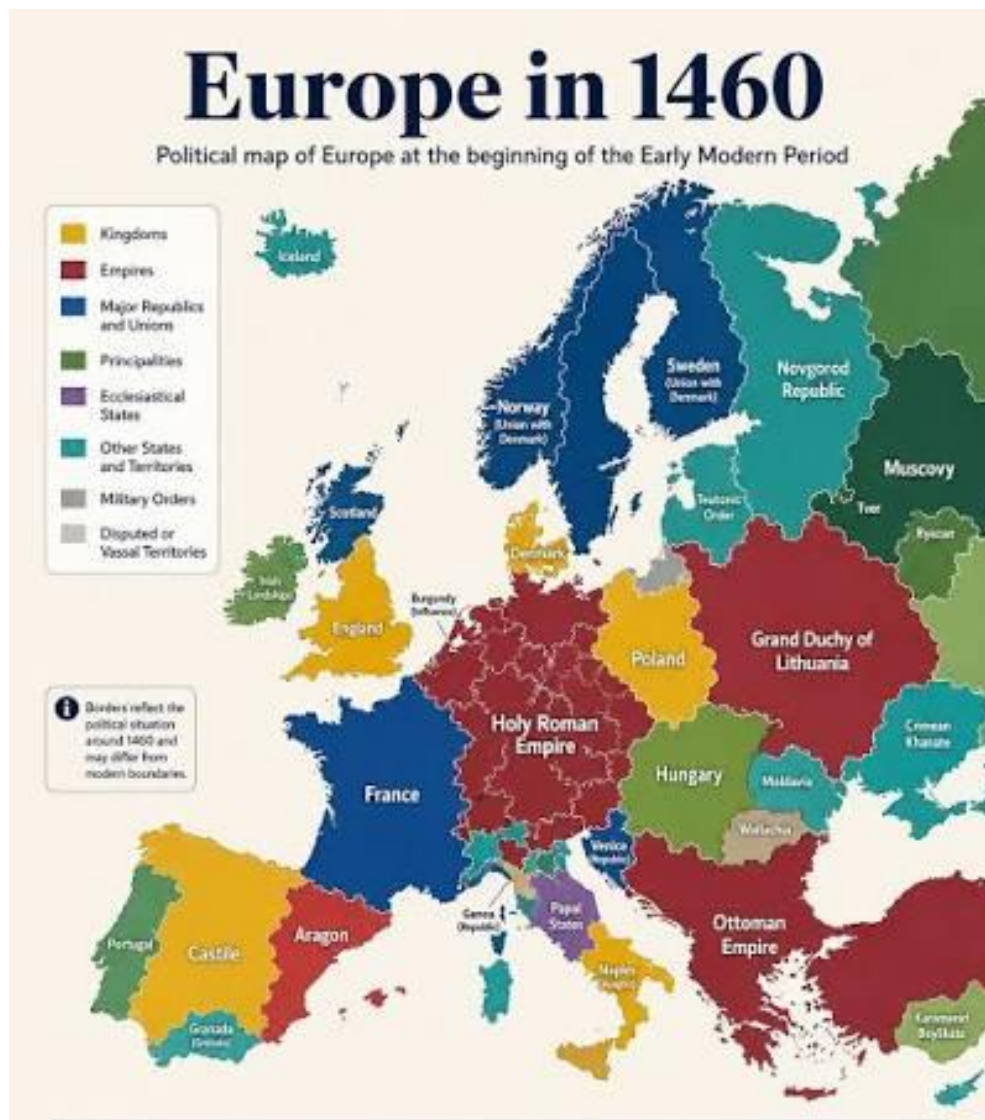
Questions

1. Where is Armenia?
2. Where is Asia Minor?
3. Who did the Ottomans fight with in WW1?
4. Who were the allies in WW1 fighting against the Ottomans? (research)

3. The Middle Ages

The Middle Ages, or Medieval Times, in Europe was a long period of history from 500 AD to 1500 AD. It covers the time from the fall of the Roman Empire (Western half), and coincides with the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

Now that Rome was gone, there was no long the peace and protection that Rome had given. Instead, people turned to powerful local lords for protection, and to the Christian church for guidance.



Activity

List as many countries as you can in the Western half of the Roman Empire. We will focus on these countries for our study on The Middle Ages. Use today's country names.

Middle Ages, Medieval Times, Dark Ages: What's the Difference?

When people use the terms Medieval Times, Middle Ages, and Dark Ages they are generally referring to the same period of time. The Dark Ages is usually referring to the first half of the Middle Ages from 500 to 1000 AD.

476 AD marked the fall of the Roman Empire, (the Western half). Rome had ruled much of Europe. Now much of the land would fall into confusion as local kings and rulers tried to grab power. This is the start of the Dark Ages or the Middle Ages.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, a lot of the Roman culture and knowledge was lost. This included art, technology, engineering, and history. Historians know a lot about Europe during the Roman Empire because the Romans kept excellent records of all that happened. However, the time after the Romans is "dark" to historians because there was no central government recording events. This is why historians call this time the Dark Ages.

Although the term Middle Ages covers the years between 500 and 1500 throughout the world, this timeline is based on events specifically in Europe during that time. Go [here](#) to learn about the Islamic Empire during the Middle Ages.

The Feudal System

The basic government and society in Europe during the Middle Ages was based around the feudal system. Small communities were formed around the local lord and the manor. The lord owned the land and everything in it. He would keep the peasants safe in return for their service. The lord, in return, would provide the king with soldiers or taxes.

Service for Land

Under the feudal system land was granted to people for service. It started at the top with the king granting his land to a baron for soldiers all the way down to a peasant getting land to grow crops.

The Manor

The centre of life in the Middle Ages was the manor. The manor was run by the local lord. He lived in a large house or castle where people would gather for celebrations or for protection if they were attacked. A small village would form around the castle which would include the local church. Farms would then spread out from there which would be worked by the peasants.

Hierarchy of Rulers

King - The top leader in the land was the king. The king could not control all of the land by himself, so he divided it up among the Barons. In return, the Barons pledged their loyalty

and soldiers to the king. When a king died, his firstborn son would inherit the throne. When one family stayed in power for a long time, this was called a dynasty.

Bishop - The Bishop was the top church leader in the kingdom and managed an area called a diocese. The Catholic Church was very powerful in most parts of Medieval Europe and this made the Bishop powerful as well. Not only that, but the church received a tithe of 10 percent from all the people. This made some Bishops very rich.

Barons and Nobles- The Barons and high-ranking nobles ruled large areas of land called fiefs. They reported directly to the king and were very powerful. They divided up their land among Lords who ran individual manors. Their job was to maintain an army that was at the king's service. If they did not have an army, sometimes they would pay the king a tax instead. This tax was called shield money.

Lords and Knights - The lords ran the local manors. They also were the king's knights and could be called into battle at any moment by their Baron. The lords owned everything on their land including the peasants, crops, and village.

Peasants or Serfs

Most of the people living in the Middle Ages were peasants. They had a hard rough life. Some peasants were considered free and could own their own businesses like carpenters, bakers, and blacksmiths. Others were more like slaves. They owned nothing and were pledged to their local lord. They worked long days, 6 days a week, and often barely had enough food to survive.

Interesting Facts about the Feudal System

- Around 90 percent of the people worked the land as peasants.
- Peasants worked hard and died young. Most were dead before they reached 30 years old.
- The kings believed they were given the right to rule by God. This was called "divine right".
- Lords and Barons swore oaths of homage and fealty to their kings.
- The Lord held absolute power over the fief or manor including holding court and deciding punishments for crimes.

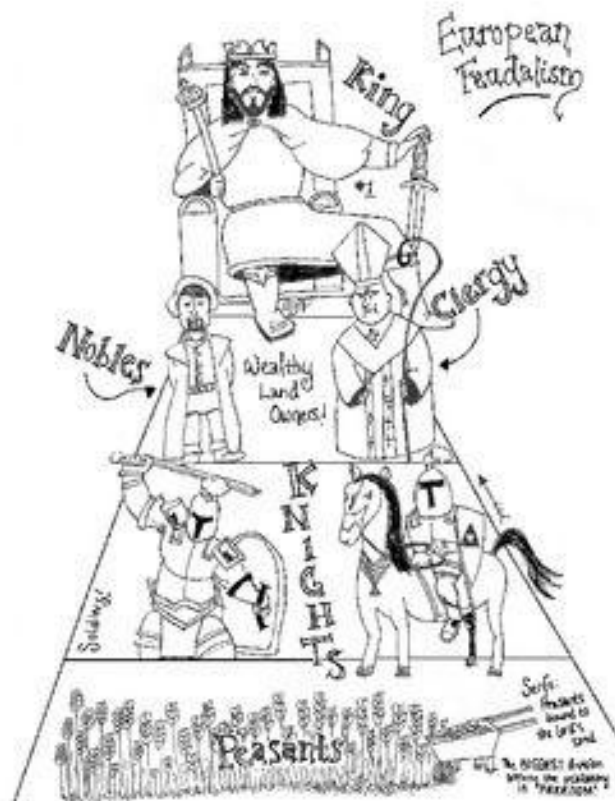
Drawings showing various forms of dress worn by different classes of people in society – king, nobles, peasants



Questions

1. Who was the top leader in the land with the feudal system?
2. What was life like for the majority of the people that lived in the Middle Ages under the feudal system?
3. What building, owned by the local lord, was the centre of daily life in the feudal system?
4. Who was the leader of the Catholic Church in a kingdom?
5. True or False: The Bishops of the Catholic Church were typically poor and had little power in the kingdom.
6. Who owned everything in a village, including the crops, town, and peasants?
7. Who reported directly to the king and ruled large areas of land called fiefs?
8. What was the responsibility of the Baron?
9. When a king died, who would typically take over the throne?
10. What did the peasants get in return for serving and working for their local lord?
11. List the hierarchy of the Feudal society from the highest to the lowest.

Check your answers on the next page. Give yourself a score.



1. The king
2. They worked hard as peasant farmers
3. The manor
4. The bishop
5. FALSE
6. The lord
7. The baron
8. He reported directly to the king and maintained an army.
9. His firstborn son
10. Protection from invaders
11. King, nobles and clergy, knights, peasants

Castles

Why did they build Castles?

During the Middle Ages much of Europe was divided up between lords and princes. They would rule the local land and all the people who lived there. In order to defend themselves, they built their homes as large castles in the centre of the land they ruled. They could defend from attacks as well as prepare to launch attacks of their own from their castles.

Originally castles were made of wood and timber. Later they were replaced with stone to make them stronger. Castles were often built at the top of hills or where they could use some natural features of the land to help with their defence. After the Middle Ages castles weren't built as much, especially as larger artillery and cannon were designed that could easily knock down their walls.

Castle Features

Although castle design varied widely throughout Europe, there were some similar features that many castles incorporated:

Moat - A moat was a defensive ditch dug around the castle. It could be filled with water and there was typically a drawbridge across it to get to the castle gate.

Keep - The keep was a large tower and the last place of defence in a castle.

Curtain Wall - The wall around the castle which had a walkway on it from which defenders could fire arrows down onto attackers.

Arrow Slits - These were slits cut into the walls that allowed archers to shoot arrows at attackers, but remain safe from return fire.

Gatehouse - The gatehouse was built at the gate to help reinforce the castle defences at its weakest point.

Battlements - Battlements were at the tops of castle walls. Generally, they were cut out from walls allowing defenders to attack while still being protected by the wall.

Famous Castles

Windsor Castle - William the Conqueror built this castle after he became ruler of England. Today it is still the primary residence of English royalty.

Tower of London - Was built in 1066. The large White Tower was started in 1078 by William the Conqueror. Over time the tower has served as a prison, treasury, armoury, and royal palace.

Interesting Facts about Castles

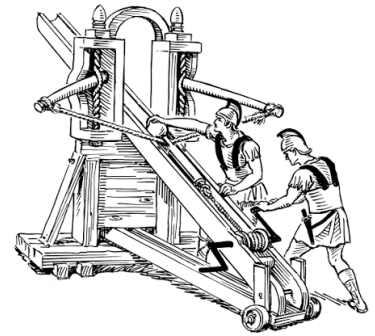
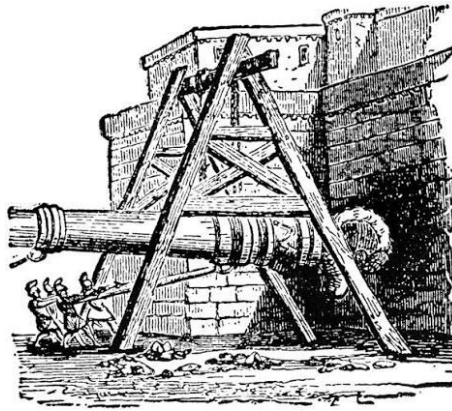
- Originally towers were built with square tops, but later were replaced by round towers that offered better defence and visibility.
- Many castles kept their ale in a room called the buttery.
- Siege engines were used to attack castles. They included the battering ram, catapult, siege towers, and the ballista.
- Often times attacking armies would wait outside and try to starve out the castle dwellers rather than attack them. This is called a siege. Many castles were built on a spring so they would have water during a siege.
- The steward managed all the affairs of the castle.
- Cats and dogs were kept in castles to help kill rats and keep them from eating the grain stores.

Questions

1. Why did Kings and Lords build castles to live in during the Middle Ages?
2. What were the first castles made out of?
3. Why did people stop building castles after the Middle Ages?
4. What defensive feature was a ditch or lake filled with water around the castle?
5. What was the castle keep and what was its purpose?
6. What leader built the Windsor Castle and the Tower of London?
7. What was the title of the person in charge of the affairs of the castle?
8. True or False: Often times attackers would wait outside the castle hoping to force the people inside eventually to come out when they ran out of food.
9. Which of the following was a siege engine that armies would use to attack a castle?

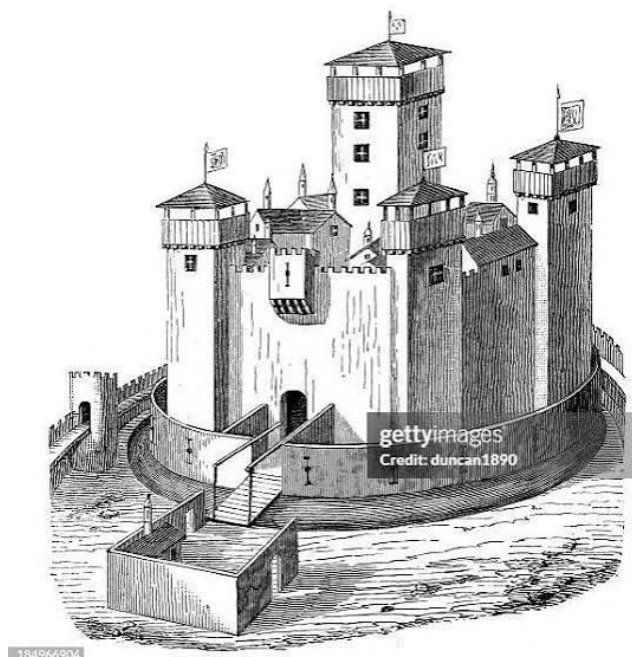
Drawings on the next page: 1. Catapult 2. Battering ram 3. ballista

When finished the questions, check your answers on the next page and give yourself a score.



Answers

1. To protect themselves and their people when attacked
2. Wood
3. Because new weapons such as cannons could easily knock down the walls
4. The moat
5. It was a tower where the people would retreat to as a last defence
6. William the Conqueror
7. Steward
8. TRUE
9. battering ram, catapult, siege towers, and the ballista.



Knights

What was a knight?

Knights were the professional cavalry, who protected the land from enemies. There were three main types of soldiers during the Middle Ages: foot soldiers, archers, and knights. The knights were heavily armoured soldiers who rode on horseback. Only the wealthiest nobles could afford to be a knight. They needed very expensive armour, weapons, and a powerful war horse.

There were two ways that a man could become a knight during the Middle Ages. The first was earning the right on the battlefield. If a soldier fought particularly bravely during a battle or war, he may be awarded knighthood by the king, a lord, or even another knight. The second way was to become an apprentice to a knight and earn the title through hard work and training.

Some knights decided to pledge themselves to defending the Christian faith. They formed orders that fought in the Crusades. The Crusades were a series of wars during the Middle Ages where the Christians of Europe tried to retake control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Muslims, (the Ottoman Empire).

The most valuable items to a knight were his armour, weapons, and his war horse. These three items were very expensive, meaning that only the wealthy could afford to be knights. Many knights hoped to regain some of the cost through plunder when they conquered enemy towns and cities.

The following European countries had knights: England, Scotland, France, Hungary, Germany, Italy.

Armour

During the Middle Ages knights wore heavy armour made of metal. There were two main kinds of armour: chain mail and plate armour.

Chain mail was made from thousands of metal rings. The typical chain mail armour was a long cloak called a hauberk. Knights wore a padded cloak underneath the armour to help cushion the weight of the armour. A chain mail hauberk could weigh as much as 13 kg.

Although chain mail was flexible and offered good protection, it could be pierced by an arrow or thin sword. Some knights began to put plates of metal over vital parts of their bodies for added protection. Soon they were completely covered in plate armour and they stopped wearing chain mail.

Knights and nobles in the Middle Ages often had a coat of arms. This was a special symbol that represented their family. Having a special symbol or coat of arms is often called "heraldry".

When not fighting wars, knights needed to hone their skills. One way to do this was through tournaments and jousting. These events were a great way to keep in shape during times of peace.

Tournaments

Tournaments were pretend battles between groups of knights. When a town or area would have a tournament they would invite knights from other areas. Typically the local knights fought against the knights from outside the area.

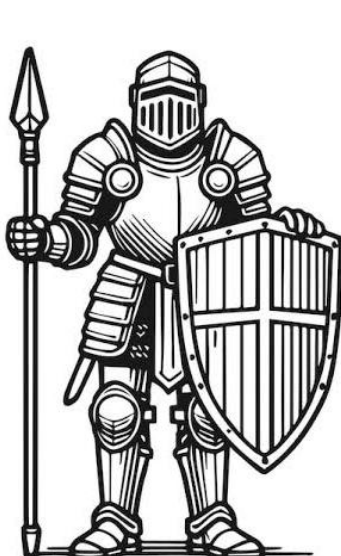
The battle took place on a large field. On the day of the tournament a large crowd would gather to watch. There would even be stands built where the local nobles could sit to watch. Both sides would parade past the spectators shouting war cries and showing off their armour and coat of arms.

The tournament would begin with each side lining up and preparing for the charge. At the sound of a bugle each side would lower their lances and charge. The knights that were still on their horses after the first charge would turn and charge again. This "turning" is where the name "tournament" or "tourney" comes from. This would continue until one side won.

As you can imagine, tournaments were dangerous. The lances used were blunted so that knights would not be killed, but many were still injured. The best knight from each side was often awarded a prize.

Jousts

Jousting was another very popular competition among knights during the Middle Ages. A joust was where two knights would charge each other and try to knock the other off their horse with a lance. Jousting was the highlight of many games and events. The winners were heroes and often won prize money.



Questions

1. What is the difference between a knight and a foot soldier?
2. What did an archer do?
3. How did a man become a knight?
4. What were the Crusades?
5. What did a knight need to do his job?
6. What was chain mail?
7. What was plate armour?
8. What did a knight's coat of arms represent?
9. What did a knight do when he was not fighting?
10. What was the difference between jousting and a tournament?
11. Which European countries had knights?

Check your answers below and give yourself a score.



Answers

1. Foot soldiers did not have a horse.
2. An archer would fire arrows from a bow.
3. He became a knight by showing bravery on the battlefield or being an apprentice.
4. The Crusades were the journeys to the Holy Land to fight the Muslims who had taken over Jerusalem during the Ottoman Empire.
5. He needed a war horse, armour, a shield and weapons.
6. Chain mail was made from thousands of metal rings.
7. Plate armour consisted of oval plates that were placed over vital body parts.
8. His family unit.
9. When not fighting, he was involved in tournaments or jousting for recreation and practice.
10. Tournaments involved two teams of knights. Jousting was between two knights.
11. England, Scotland, France, Hungary, Germany, Italy.

Daily Life in the Middle Ages

Life in the Country

The majority of people living during the Middle Ages lived in the country and worked as farmers. Usually there was a local lord who lived in a large house called a manor or a castle. Local peasants would work the land for the lord. The peasants were called the lord's "villeins", which was like a servant.

The peasants worked hard all year long. They grew crops such as barley, wheat, and oats. They also had gardens where they grew vegetables and fruits. They also sometimes had a few animals such as chickens for eggs and cows for milk.

Life in the City

City life was very different from country life, but it wasn't much easier. The cities were crowded and dirty. A lot of people worked as craftsmen and were members of a guild. Young boys would serve as apprentices for seven years learning a craft. Other jobs in the city included servants, merchants, bakers, doctors, and lawyers.

What were their homes like?

Although we often think of pictures of large castles when we think of the Middle Ages, most people lived in small one or two room homes. These homes were very crowded and usually everyone slept in the same room. In the country, the family animals, such as a cow, may also live inside the home. The home was usually dark, smoky from the fire, and uncomfortable.

What did they wear?

Most peasants wore plain clothing made from heavy wool to keep them warm during the winter. The wealthy, however, wore much nicer clothes made from fine wool, velvet, and even silk. Men generally wore a tunic, woollen stockings, breeches, and a cloak. Women wore a long skirt called a kirtle, an apron, woollen stockings, and a cloak.

In order to separate the nobles from the peasants, laws were passed called "sumptuary" laws. These laws stated who could wear what types of clothes and what materials they could use.

What did they eat?

Peasants during the Middle Ages did not have a lot of variety in their food. They mostly ate bread and stew. The stew would have beans, dried peas, cabbage, and other vegetables sometimes flavoured with a bit of meat or bones. Other foods like meat, cheese, and eggs were usually saved for special occasions. Since they didn't have a way to keep their meat cold, they would eat it fresh. Leftover meat was smoked or salted to preserve it. The nobles ate a wider variety of food including meats and sweet puddings.

Did they go to school?

Very few people attended school in the Middle Ages. Most peasants learned their job and how to survive from their parents. Some children learned a craft through apprenticeship and the guild system. Wealthy children often learned through tutors. They would go to live in the castle of another lord where they would work for the lord, learning about how a large manor was run.

There were some schools run by the church. Here students would learn to read and write Latin. The first universities also began during the Middle Ages. University students would study a wide range of subjects including reading, writing, logic, math, music, astronomy, and public speaking.

Interesting Facts about Daily Life in the Middle Ages

- The bread eaten by people of the Middle Ages was gritty from the millstones used to grind the grain. This caused the people's teeth to wear down quickly.
- Peasants were not allowed to hunt on the lord's land. Punishment for killing a deer was sometimes death.
- Medicine was very primitive at the time. Sometimes doctors would "bleed" people by putting leeches on their skin.
- People mostly drank ale or wine. The water was bad and would make them sick.
- Marriages were often arranged, especially for nobles. Noble girls often married at 12 years old and boys at 14.

Questions

(Check your answers on the next page and give yourself a score.)

1. What was the most common job for people living in the Middle Ages?
2. Who did most of the peasants work for during the Middle Ages?
3. What word below best describes life in the cities?
4. True or False: Most people during the Middle Ages lived in nice comfortable castles with many rooms.
5. What were sumptuary laws?
6. True or False: People during the Middle Ages ate meat for nearly every meal.
7. What did most people drink during the Middle Ages?
8. What would happen to a peasant who killed a deer on the land of a noble?
9. True or False: Most children, rich or poor, attended school at the monasteries and learned to read and write.
10. What was the main food that peasants ate on a daily basis?

Answers

1. Farmer
2. The local lord
3. Crowded
4. FALSE
5. Laws that said what class of people could wear what types of clothing
6. FALSE
7. Ale or wine
8. He would be punished or even killed
9. FALSE
10. Bread and stew

The Black Death

The Black Death is the name for a terrible disease that spread throughout Europe from 1347 to 1350. There was no cure for the disease and it was highly contagious.

How did it start?

The plague likely started in Asia and travelled westward along the Silk Road. The disease was carried by fleas that lived on rats. Historians think that black rats living on European merchant ships caught the disease, eventually bringing it to Europe.

How bad was it?

It's hard to imagine how scary life was in the Middle Ages during the Black Death. By the time the disease ran its course, it had killed at least one third of the people in Europe and probably more. In Paris, France it's estimated that around 800 people died a day. There were so many dead that they couldn't bury them. They had to carry them to massive pits.

Unfortunately, the people in the Middle Ages didn't know that the disease was carried by rats. This made larger cities and towns, which were very dirty during the Middle Ages, especially dangerous as there were lots of rats there. Sometimes entire towns or villages were wiped out by the plague.

What did the people do?

As you might expect, there was panic. Many people were sure it was the end of the world. People locked their doors and tried to hide in their houses. However, this did little good in cities where rats, and therefore fleas, were everywhere. They also burned down houses and even entire villages to try and stop the disease.

The Bubonic Plague

Today we call this disease the bubonic plague. Very few people get the disease today and most of those that do recover fine. When people got the disease in the Middle Ages, they almost always died. People would get really sick including black and blue blotches all over their body.

Rebuilding After the Black Death

Much of the infrastructure of Europe was gone when the Black Death finally subsided. It's estimated that it took around 150 years for Europe to rebuild.

Facts about the Black Death

- Many people thought that the Black Death was punishment from God.
- It is estimated that somewhere between 75 million and 200 million people died of the plague.
- Some scientists think it was a bacteria called *Yersinia pestis* that caused the disease.
- The plague was not called the Black Death until many years later. Some think it was called this because of how the skin turned dark at the late stages of the disease, but it was more likely called "Black" to reflect the dark and horrible time in history.
- Some people thought that pockets of bad air released by earthquakes caused the plague. Others went so far as to blame Jewish people for bringing the plague to kill Christians.
- The epidemic returned to Europe several times, but wasn't as bad as the Black Death period.

Questions

(Check your answers on the next page and give yourself a score.)

1. What was the Black Death?
2. What animal carried the Black Death and transferred it to humans?
3. Where do historians think that the Black Death started?
4. What did people do when the disease started killing people?
5. What is the Black Death called today?
6. True or false: If you caught the Black Death today you would likely die from it.
7. Around what percentage of people in Europe during the Middle Ages died from the Black Plague?
8. When did the Black Death take place?
9. What did some people at the time think caused the disease?
10. What happened to most of the people who contracted the Black Death in the Middle Ages?

Answers

1. A disease that killed many people in Europe
2. Fleas
3. In Asia
4. They locked their doors and tried to hide in their houses.
5. Bubonic Plague
6. FALSE
7. 33
8. 1347 to 1350
9. Pockets of bad air caused by earthquakes, or Jews bringing it upon Christians.
10. Their skin turned black and then they died

The King's Court

The king's court is a term that describes the king's council and household. The court travelled with the king wherever he went. The king would seek advice from the wise (hopefully) men of his court which would include relatives, barons, lords, and members of the church such as bishops.

The name "court" comes from the fact that most kings held court and made judgments. They would hear certain complaints and issues, especially issues between the most powerful barons and lords. Then they would make decisions with the help of their council.

Visiting His Subjects

The king's court often travelled around the kingdom so the king could see first-hand what was going on in his realm. When the king showed up, the local subjects were expected to provide food, entertainment, and accommodations. This could be very expensive and not all kings were welcome.

How was a king chosen?

Kings came into power a number of different ways. In many cultures, the right to rule was considered part of the king's blood. When a king died, his eldest son would become king. This is called hereditary succession. If the king didn't have an eldest son, then his brother or another male relative may be appointed king. Sometimes kings came into power through assassination or by conquering lands in war.

Of course, no king could rule without the support of his nobles and lords. In many ways, the king was elected by these powerful men. In some countries there was a council that chose the king such as the Witan council in Anglo-Saxon England.

Coronation

New kings were crowned in a special ceremony called a coronation. During the Middle Ages the coronation was a religious ceremony where a leader from the church, such as the pope or a bishop, crowned the king. Kings were often anointed with holy oil to demonstrate their divine right to rule.

Queens

During the Middle Ages, queens were generally not allowed to be the sole monarch. There were a few exceptions including Empress Matilda of England and Isabella I of Spain. However, many queens held power and influence over the land such as Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine and Margaret of Anjou.

How did kings make money?

Some kings were wealthier than others, but all kings needed money to rule. They had to pay for their daily living needs as well as for armies and wars. Kings collected money in a number of ways. One way was to go to war and pillage other lands. Other ways included fees charged to their lords and taxes levied on the people. Some lords paid the king "shield money" instead of going to war. This way the king could hire his own soldiers for war. Kings had to be careful not to overtax the people or the peasants would revolt.

Keeping Power

Once a person was crowned king, they spent a lot of their time trying to stay king. It wasn't that easy. Often times there were close relatives and powerful nobles who felt that they should be king. It was especially difficult to manage large empires because it took so long for messages to travel throughout the kingdom. Kings spent a lot of time making sure that their lords remained loyal and didn't become too powerful.

Interesting Facts about Kings and Court in the Middle Ages

- Taxes were often levied only when the king ran out of money or needed to raise an army for war.
- Many kings during the first part of the Middle Ages couldn't read or write.
- The kings had a special seal they would use to stamp official documents. The seal proved that the document was genuine and acted like the king's signature.
- During the Middle Ages kings were expected to lead their men into battle. In order to maintain control, kings often claimed they were given the right to rule by God. This made the approval of the church and the pope very important. (Medieval Europe was under the Catholic Church.)

Questions

1. Which of the following is NOT true about the court of a medieval king?
2. When a king died, who was usually crowned as the new king?
3. What was the ceremony called where a new king was crowned?
4. True or False: The people always loved it when the king came to visit because he brought presents and fed them.
5. How did the king make money?
6. What was shield money?
7. True or False: Once a person was crowned king, his subjects and nobles always remained loyal.
8. What did kings use to mark their documents and make them official?
9. Why was the backing of the church important to kings?
10. What was the Witan council in Anglo-Saxon England?

Check your answers below and give yourself a score.

Answers

1. The court stayed at the palace, even when the king travelled
2. The eldest son
3. Coronation
4. FALSE
5. Pillaging goods from the lands they were at war with, and collecting taxes from the people.
6. Money the lords paid to kings so they would not have to fight
7. FALSE
8. Seal
9. It said they were given the right to rule by God
10. A council of lords who chose the king

The Catholic Church

Christianity and the Catholic Church played a major role in Europe during the Middle Ages. The local church was the centre of town life. People attended weekly ceremonies. They were married, confirmed, and buried at the church. The church even confirmed kings on their throne giving them the divine right to rule.

Rich and Powerful

The Catholic Church became very rich and powerful during the Middle Ages. People gave the church 1/10th of their earnings in tithes. They also paid the church for various sacraments

such as baptism, marriage, and communion. People also paid penances to the church. The wealthy often gave the church land.

Eventually, the church owned about one third of the land in Western Europe. Because the church was considered independent, they did not have to pay the king any tax for their land. Leaders of the church became rich and powerful. Many nobles became leaders such as abbots or bishops in the church.

Structure of the Church

The leader of the Catholic Church was the pope. Right below the pope were powerful men called cardinals. Next were bishops and abbots. Even bishops held a lot of power on the local level and often served on the council of the king.

Cathedrals

Many churches were built during the Middle Ages. The biggest of these churches were called cathedrals. Cathedrals were where bishops had their headquarters.

Cathedrals were built to inspire awe. They were the most expensive and beautiful buildings built. Sometimes construction on a cathedral could take two hundred years to finish.

Most cathedrals were built in a similar fashion. They generally were laid out in the shape of a cross. They had very tall walls and high ceilings. The style of architecture is called Gothic.

The Reformation

The Middle Ages ended around 1520. Around this time, Martin Luther and John Calvin instigated the Reformation which became the basis for the founding of Protestantism. They spoke out against abuses by the Catholic Church, such as the sale of indulgences (or spiritual privileges) by the clergy and other charges of corruption.

The English Reformation began in England under King Henry VIII when the Church of England broke away first from the authority of the pope and bishops over the King and then from some doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church. These events were part of the wider European Reformation.

Questions

1. How did the Catholic church become so rich?
2. What is evidence of the church's wealth?
3. What did Martin Luter and John Calvin speak out against?
4. What came about as a result?



4. The Renaissance

The Renaissance was a “rebirth” of learning, art, and science in Europe that started around 1400 and helped people think in new ways.

What Was the Renaissance?

The Renaissance was a special time in European history that began after the Middle Ages, around the year 1400, and lasted until about 1600. The word Renaissance means “rebirth” in French because people rediscovered ideas, books, and knowledge from Ancient Greece and Rome. During this time, people became very interested in learning, art, science, and exploring the world.

Why Did It Happen?

Before the Renaissance, Europe had gone through hard times like the Black Death and famines, which caused many people to die and society to struggle.

Cities in Italy, like Florence, Venice, and Milan, became wealthy, and rich families supported artists, writers, and thinkers. This helped new ideas spread quickly.

Humanism

A big idea of the Renaissance was humanism, which taught that people should study and enjoy life, learn about the world, and develop their talents.

Humanists believed that people could achieve great things and that education was very important. However, with the advent of Humanism came the belief that human beings could do great things without God. The Humanist Society was formed, whose motto is still today “Good without God”.

Famous People

Some famous Renaissance figures include:

Leonardo da Vinci – painter, scientist, inventor, and musician, often called a “Renaissance man” because he was talented in many areas

Francesco Petrarch – a poet who loved reading ancient texts and inspired others to learn

Johannes Gutenberg – invented the printing press, which helped books and ideas spread faster, and coincided with the Reformation, making the Bible accessible to ordinary people. (Previously it was only the church leaders who had access to it.)

Art, Science, and Discovery

During the Renaissance, artists painted more realistically and showed human emotions in their work. (See Leonardo da Vinci’s paintings of *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper* below.)

Architecture flourished. Scientists studied nature, the human body, and the stars. Explorers discovered new lands, which led to the Age of Discovery.

People also started writing in their own languages instead of just Latin, making learning more accessible.

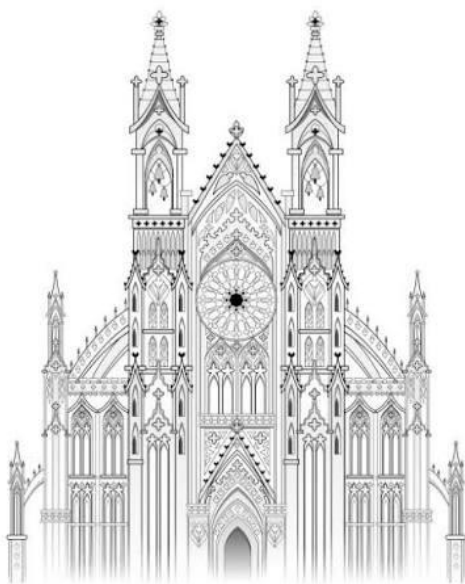
Why the Renaissance Important

The Renaissance helped Europe move from the Middle Ages to the modern world. It encouraged creativity, learning, and curiosity, and it showed that people could think for themselves and explore new ideas.

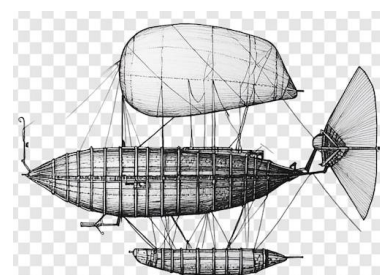
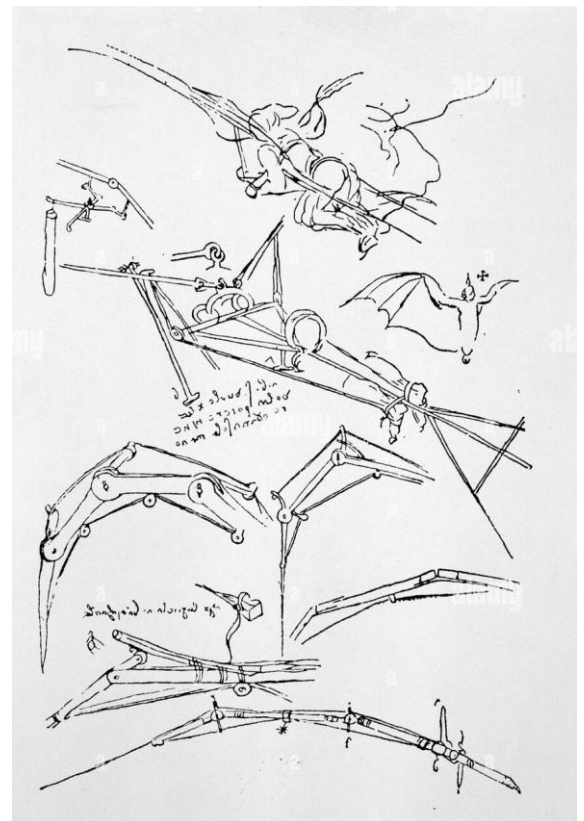
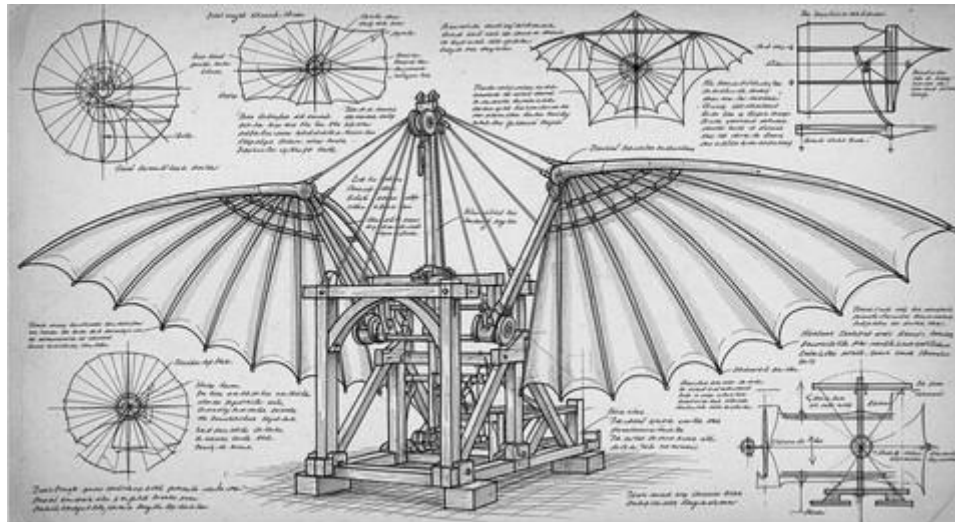
For you to research:

Find more examples of famous paintings and buildings from the Renaissance. Name the artist or designer.

Find out more about Leonardo da Vinci. See pages 48 – 49.



Leonardo da Vinci's drawings: ideas for inventions



Leonardo da Vinci - biography

Leonardo da Vinci was a genius in many fields. He excelled at painting, drawing, sculpture, architecture, and engineering. He was a leading figure of the Italian Renaissance, a period of great achievement in the arts and sciences. Leonardo's paintings Mona Lisa and Last Supper won him great fame. But he is also well known for his scientific studies.

Early Life

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452, near Vinci, in Italy. When he was about 15, he began studying with the artist Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence. Verrocchio taught him about painting, sculpture, and the design of mechanical devices.

Paintings and notebooks

Leonardo worked in Milan as a painter and engineer for a duke from 1482 to 1499. He completed only six works in 17 years, but these finished works include The Last Supper and The Virgin of the Rocks. The Last Supper is an immense wall painting in the dining hall of the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Both paintings are widely acknowledged to be artistic masterpieces.

While in Milan, Leonardo also became interested in observing nature. He thought that by carefully observing objects and accurately drawing them, an artist could obtain scientific knowledge. Leonardo recorded his observations in a series of notebooks. The notebooks cover a variety of subjects, including painting, architecture, machinery, the structure of the human body, and the science of flight. For example, more than 300 years before flying machines were perfected, Leonardo developed plans for an airplane and a helicopter.

Later Life

In 1503 Leonardo returned to Florence. There he continued his scientific studies and worked on four great paintings, including the Mona Lisa. He spent some of his later years in Milan and Rome. In 1516 he moved to France, to work for the French king. He spent most of his time there editing his writings. Leonardo died in France on May 2, 1519.

Questions

1. From the drawings on page 48, which of his invention ideas later developed into actual engineering masterpieces that are in use today.
2. In which country was Leonardo born?
3. Name three places in that country where he lived and/or worked. Find these places on a map.
4. Where did he die? Why did he move there from Italy?