

Medieval History Basics

Medieval History · Answer Key · 23 Questions

1. What is the approximate time period of the Middle Ages?

A) 500 AD to 1500 AD

B) 1000 BC to 500 BC

C) 1500 AD to 1800 AD

D) 500 BC to 1000 BC

2. Which of the following was a powerful religious and political force in Medieval Europe?

A) The Roman Catholic Church

B) The Viking Confederacy

C) The Byzantine Empire

D) The Han Dynasty

3. What was the system of land ownership and obligations in Medieval Europe called?

A) Feudalism

B) Capitalism

C) Socialism

D) Communism

4. Who was a famous Frankish king who united much of Western Europe and was crowned Emperor by the Pope in 800 AD?

A) Charlemagne

B) King Arthur

C) Genghis Khan

D) William the Conqueror

5. What were large, fortified castles primarily built for in Medieval times?

A) Defense and protection

B) Religious worship

C) Trade and commerce

D) Public housing

6. What was the name of the series of religious wars between Christians and Muslims for control of the Holy Land?

A) The Crusades

B) The Hundred Years' War

C) The Punic Wars

D) The Peloponnesian War

7. Which city was the capital of the Byzantine Empire and a major center of trade and culture?

A) Constantinople

B) Rome

C) Athens

D) Alexandria

8. What significant event in 1066 greatly influenced the history and language of England?

A) The Norman Conquest

B) The Battle of Hastings

C) The signing of the Magna Carta

D) The Black Death

9. What were the elected representatives of towns and cities called in some medieval parliaments?

A) Burgesses

B) Knights

C) Barons

D) Serfs

10. What was the primary occupation for most people in Medieval Europe?

A) Farming

B) Blacksmithing

C) Weaving

D) Sailing

11. What disease swept through Europe in the mid-14th century, killing a large portion of its population?

A) The Black Death

B) The Spanish Flu

C) The Bubonic Plague

D) The Great Plague

12. What type of architecture, characterized by pointed arches, ribbed vaults, and flying buttresses, became prominent in the High Middle Ages?

A) Gothic

B) Romanesque

C) Baroque

D) Classical

13. What was the name given to the code of conduct expected of knights?

- A) Chivalry**
- B) Bushido
- C) Samurai Code
- D) Knightly Order

14. In the feudal system, who was at the bottom of the social hierarchy, bound to the land?

- A) Serfs**
- B) Lords
- C) Knights
- D) Bishops

15. What was the name of the document signed in 1215 that limited the power of the English king?

- A) Magna Carta**
- B) Declaration of Independence
- C) Bill of Rights
- D) Constitution

16. What was the primary purpose of medieval monasteries?

- A) To preserve knowledge and provide a center for prayer and work**
- B) To train soldiers for battle
- C) To host royal courts
- D) To operate markets and trade

17. Which group of warriors from Scandinavia raided and traded across Europe in the early Middle Ages?

- A) Vikings**
- B) Saxons
- C) Celts
- D) Normans

18. What important invention, originating in China and spreading to Europe, greatly improved the efficiency of writing and record-keeping?

- A) Papermaking**
- B) The printing press
- C) The compass
- D) Gunpowder

19. Who were the warrior-monks who fought in the Crusades?

A) Knights Templar

B) Benedictines

C) Franciscans

D) Cistercians

20. What were the large agricultural estates worked by peasants called in the early Middle Ages?

A) Manors

B) Guilds

C) Villages

D) Cities

21. What was the name of the powerful empire in the East that continued Roman traditions after the fall of the Western Roman Empire?

A) Byzantine Empire

B) Ottoman Empire

C) Persian Empire

D) Holy Roman Empire

22. What was the main form of currency used for trade in much of Medieval Europe?

A) Gold and silver coins

B) Barter and trade goods

C) Paper money

D) Shells

23. What were associations of merchants or craftsmen who regulated trade and quality in towns called?

A) Guilds

B) Syndicates

C) Cooperatives

D) Cartels