

Medieval Innovations: Firsts and Discoveries

Medieval History · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which invention, often credited to Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century, revolutionized the spread of information by allowing for mass production of books?

- A) The telescope
- B) The printing press**
- C) The steam engine
- D) The compass

2. What optical device, designed to aid vision, was first developed in Italy during the late 13th century?

- A) The microscope
- B) Binoculars
- C) Eyeglasses**
- D) The periscope

3. This explosive substance, first discovered in China, became an important element in medieval warfare in Europe during the Late Middle Ages. What is it?

- A) Dynamite
- B) Gunpowder**
- C) Plastic explosives
- D) Napalm

4. What device for precise timekeeping, replacing water clocks and sundials, was first developed in medieval Europe in the 13th century?

- A) An atomic clock
- B) A digital watch
- C) A mechanical clock**
- D) A pendulum clock

5. What new institution for higher learning, emerging in cities like Bologna and Paris, became central to European intellectual life during the Middle Ages?

- A) Gymnasiums
- B) Trade schools
- C) Universities**
- D) Monasteries

6. Which system of numbers, originating in India and introduced to Europe by Arab scholars, gradually replaced Roman numerals in daily use?

- A) Egyptian hieroglyphs
- B) Greek letters
- C) Arabic numerals**
- D) Mayan symbols

7. What equestrian invention, originating in Asia and adopted in Europe during the Middle Ages, greatly improved a knight's stability and effectiveness in cavalry charges?

- A) The horseshoe
- B) The saddle
- C) The bridle
- D) The stirrup**

8. What power-generating technology, using wind to mill grain or pump water, became widespread across medieval Europe from the 12th century onwards?

- A) The water wheel
- B) The steam turbine
- C) The windmill**
- D) The solar panel