

Medieval History Basics

Medieval History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

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

- A) 500 CE to 1500 CE**
- B) 1000 CE to 2000 CE
- C) 0 CE to 500 CE
- D) 1500 CE to 1800 CE

2. What event is often considered the traditional start of the Middle Ages in Western Europe?

- A) The fall of the Western Roman Empire**
- B) The signing of the Magna Carta
- C) The coronation of Charlemagne
- D) The Battle of Hastings

3. What system of land ownership and social hierarchy was prominent during the Middle Ages?

- A) Feudalism**
- B) Capitalism
- C) Socialism
- D) Communism

4. Who was a famous king of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor crowned in 800 CE?

- A) Charlemagne**
- B) William the Conqueror
- C) Richard the Lionheart
- D) King Arthur

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

- A) The Crusades**
- B) The Hundred Years' War
- C) The Wars of the Roses
- D) The Viking Raids

6. What disease swept through Europe in the 14th century, killing millions?

- A) The Black Death**
- B) The Spanish Flu
- C) The Bubonic Plague
- D) The Great Plague of London

7. What was the primary role of castles during the Middle Ages?

A) Defense and administration

- B) Religious worship
- C) Trade and commerce
- D) Education

8. Which of these was a major religion that spread across Europe during the Middle Ages?

A) Christianity

- B) Buddhism
- C) Hinduism
- D) Judaism

9. What was the name of the large, fortified structures where monks lived and worked, often preserving ancient texts?

A) Monasteries

- B) Palaces
- C) Guildhalls
- D) Townhouses

10. Who was the Norman leader who conquered England in 1066?

A) William the Conqueror

- B) Harold Godwinson
- C) King Alfred
- D) Boudicca

11. What was a common occupation for most people living in medieval rural areas?

A) Farming

- B) Merchandising
- C) Artisanry
- D) Scholarship

12. What significant document, limiting the power of the English king, was signed in 1215?

A) Magna Carta

- B) Declaration of Independence
- C) Bill of Rights
- D) Constitution

13. What architectural style, characterized by pointed arches and ribbed vaults, became prominent in the later Middle Ages?

- A) Gothic**
- B) Romanesque
- C) Baroque
- D) Classical

14. What was the main language spoken by educated people and clergy in medieval Europe?

- A) Latin**
- B) Greek
- C) Sanskrit
- D) Aramaic

15. Which group of people were known for their seafaring raids and trade throughout Europe during the early Middle Ages?

- A) Vikings**
- B) Huns
- C) Mongols
- D) Goths

16. What was the term for a skilled craftsman or artisan in a medieval town?

- A) Guildsman**
- B) Serf
- C) Knight
- D) Merchant

17. What was the primary reason for the construction of many cathedrals during the Middle Ages?

- A) To serve as centers of worship and demonstrate religious devotion**
- B) To host royal ceremonies
- C) As defensive structures
- D) To house libraries

18. What was the name of the powerful empire that controlled much of southeastern Europe and parts of Asia from the 4th to the 15th centuries, continuing into the medieval period?

- A) Byzantine Empire**
- B) Ottoman Empire
- C) Persian Empire
- D) Egyptian Empire

19. What innovation significantly improved agricultural productivity in many parts of medieval Europe?

- A) The heavy plow**
- B) The cotton gin
- C) The steam engine
- D) The printing press

20. Which influential Islamic scholar made significant contributions to medicine, astronomy, and philosophy during the Islamic Golden Age, which overlapped with the European Middle Ages?

- A) Ibn Sina (Avicenna)**
- B) Aristotle
- C) Socrates
- D) Plato

21. What was the term for the social and economic relationship between a lord and his peasant laborers who were bound to the land?

- A) Manorialism**
- B) Democracy
- C) Monarchy
- D) Anarchy

22. Which French heroine led French forces during the Hundred Years' War and is a national symbol of France?

- A) Joan of Arc**
- B) Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine
- C) Marie Antoinette
- D) Catherine de' Medici

23. What was the primary function of a knight in medieval society?

- A) To be a mounted warrior**
- B) To be a scribe
- C) To be a merchant
- D) To be a farmer

24. What event marked the end of the Hundred Years' War?

- A) The expulsion of the English from France**
- B) The signing of the Treaty of Versailles
- C) The unification of England and France
- D) The rise of the Ottoman Empire

25. What technological advancement, widely adopted in the later Middle Ages, greatly increased the speed and efficiency of book production?

A) The printing press

B) The astrolabe

C) The compass

D) The water wheel