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*The Millennials
meet
the Middle Ages*



The Middle Ages



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Castels

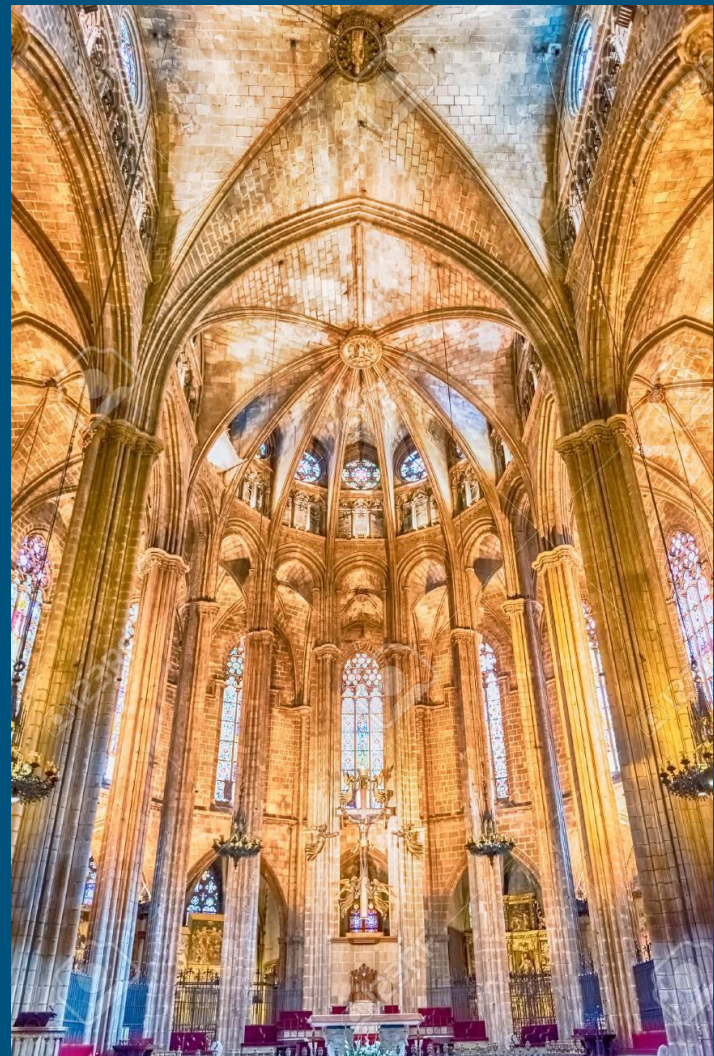
The Clifford's tower made by Normans in York, that was built in 1068, is one of the earliest buildings of the High Middle Ages still standing today.

It was later rebuilt in stone in the 13th century.



Gothic Architecture

The Gothic architecture flourished in the high and late medieval periods. The distinctive elements of the gothic style are pointed arches and 'flying buttresses', which made interiors higher, lighter and more airy. A good example is the Barcelona cathedral in Spain.



Herbalism

In the Middle Ages Herbalism was an important form of medicine, its curative powers are still evaluated today.



The Lord of the Manor

The medieval village layout can still be seen in many rural English villages.

Medieval manor houses were owned by the wealthy: the ones who were at the top of feudal system.

Fiddleford Manor in Dorset was built in about 1370.



Medieval legend

Robin Hood is a legendary figure that is said to have lived in Sherwood Forest in the 13th century at the time of Richard the Lionheart and Crusades. This oak tree in Sherwood Forest, that is about 800-1000 years old, is known to be the one where Robin Hood and his merry men slept.



Cloth and Wool Trade

The Cloth Hall (Lakenhalle in Flemish, from a type of woollen woven cloth) is in the centre of Ypres. During medieval times was the commercial heart of the city, where wool and cloth were traded. Wool was an important product so raw wool was sold for top prices in these halls. In the rich cloth-making towns like Bruges, Ghent and Ypres lived the best weavers.

Now the seat of the Lord High Chancellor is a square of wool called 'woolsack' to remind the Middle ages.



Medieval Gardens

The garden of a castle, manor or monastery used to be divided in rectangular plots with paths between them and sections like the kitchen garden, infirmary garden, orchards, vineyards, herb and vegetable gardens that provided food and medicines. The beds were surrounded with fences to stop animals. Other parts of the garden were dedicated to relaxation and were full of flowers and grass mounds were used as seats.



Stonehenge

From about 3,800 to 2,500 BC early inhabitants built causeways, earthworks and megalithic monuments like Stonehenge and village of Skara Brae in Scotland.



Hadrian's Wall

The first Roman invasion of Britain took place in 55 BC, then in 43 AD under the Emperor Claudius it was conquered. The Hadrian's Wall was built in 122 AD by Romans to mark the boundary of the Roman Empire.



Sutton Hoo

The archeological site at Sutton Hoo gives us information about life in England (449-1006), this area was reserved for the aristocracy in the 7th century. In 1939 was unearthed a ship burial with weapons, gold jewellery, utensils and coins,, probably of the king Raedwald, who died in 625 AD.



The Bayeux Tapestry

The Bayeux Tapestry is an embroidered cloth made in the 11th century that measures almost 70 meters by 50 centimetres. It represents the Norman conquest of England in 1066. King Harold was killed at the Battle of Hasting by an arrow in his eye. The Norman conquest brought many changes in Anglo-Saxon rules.

The Magna Carta

The Magna Carta, which was signed in 1215, is one of the most important documents of Medieval England.

The Magna Carta says that the king will govern according to feudal law.

It can be divided in two parts: the first define the position of Catholic Church, the second defines the king's behaviour to barons.



The Domesday Book

The Domesday Book is made by a nation-wide survey to find out who owned what land, what the land contained and produced and it's written in Lstin in 1086.

It gives us a record of medieval life, however the extend and detail of the survey weren't matched until the population censuses of the 19th century.

The Cultural Context

- 476: The fall of Western Roman Empire is considered the beginning of Middle Ages
- 590: Anglo-Saxon England began to take shape, before it was divided in many kingdoms
- 1066: Battle of Hasting ended the Anglo-Saxon rule, the land was divided into manors
- 1170: Murder of Thomas Becket, who opposed Henry's reform and was a martyr
- 1295: The Model Parliament was inaugurated by Edward I
- 1315-1317: The Great Famine caused the death from hunger and disease of the population
- 1348-1350: The Black Death was the most deadly epidemic of Middle Ages
- 1455-1485: The War of the Roses was a civil war between the Houses of Lancaster and York



Women in Middle Ages



The life of women during medieval times



Inferiority of females

In medieval times women were considered inferior to men by nature and by law, their lives were hard and full of pain and suffering even though ones born into noble families were more free than poor ones. Women were submitted to the wishes of males, firstly to their father and after to their husbands.



Women, children and jobs

They had to have and raise children. Girls often got married by the age of 14 and had children by 15, medical knowledge wasn't advanced so it was quite common dying by giving birth. Peasant women used to work the wool while the ones who lived in towns were banned from professional unions but some of them were merchants, druggists, barbers, brewers and clothmakers like *The Wife of Bath*.



Differences between upper and lower classes

Women couldn't own property except if they inherited from their fathers or death husbands, and lost them if they marry.

An exception was made for women from upper classes that could manage the castle and property of their husbands if they were away for wars or business, women could also manage serfs who lived in the fiefdom. Noble woman had also more access to education and become artists, musicians and writers.



Religious influence

The Catholic Church had a massive influence on society in medieval times, in fact it was headed by males that set laws and traditions that restricted women. Women had the possibility to become nuns so they could live as work prayers and the opportunity of studying and the chance to become abbesses of monasteries.

