The Middle Ages

Medieval Bingo Board Vocabulary

Allah — Arabic word meaning God. Part of the faith of Islam.

Ancient history — Time in history up to the fall of the Roman Empire in 476.

Apprentice — A boy who is learning a trade (job skill) from a master craftsman.

Barbarians — Generally thought to mean anyone who lived beyond the borders of the Roman Empire. Romans called the Scottish people “barbarians.”

Bubonic plague, or black death — Plague caused by a bacterium and characterized especially by the formation of buboe.

Chivalry — The set of rules followed by the knights for honorable behavior.

Christianity — A religion founded on the life and teachings of Jesus. Christianity was an important influence of the Middle Ages.

Clergy — Religious workers including bishops, priests, nuns and monks.

Crusades or “War of the Cross” — A series of military conflicts waged by Christians against the Muslim countries of the Middle East from 1095-1291. The conflicts usually were sanctioned by the pope in the name of Christendom. The goal was to recapture Jerusalem from Muslim rule. Opened eyes to a different culture and was a factor in the Renaissance.

Dowry — A present of money, goods or land given by the bride’s father to her husband. A large dowry allows a girl to attract rich landholders.

Feudalism — The system that grants land to nobles in exchange for their loyalty to the king.

Gothic architecture — Features sharp lines and precise angles. Gothic churches have tall spires. These were not built by Goths but were built during the Middle Ages.

Knight — Generally, sons of lords who train to defend the manor and the kingdom.

Manor — The land owned by a noble, often consisting of a castle, a small village and farmland.

Muhammad — An Arab religious, political and military leader who founded Islam. According to Islamic traditions, Muhammad began receiving revelations from Allah at age 40. The revelations were delivered through the angel Gabriel over the last 23 years of his life and recorded in the Koran.

Monasteries — Small communities of religious workers who lived and worked together.

Peasants — The working people of the Middle Ages. They sometimes remained free, but often became serfs who were bound to the lord of the manor. It was akin to slavery, but serfs could not be sold.

Renaissance — Means “rebirth” and is the beginning of modern history. It is a period that spanned the 14th to 16th centuries and marks an era of revived learning.

Roman Empire — The name given to Rome and also the corresponding phase of that civilization, characterized by an autocratic form of government. Historians believe it started with the rule of Julius Caesar (44 B.C.) and lasted until A.D. 476, when Rome was defeated.

Romanesque architecture — Developed in Italy and western Europe after the year 1000; has round arches, vaults and a lot of ornamentation.

Saxons — Germanic tribe that conquered the southern part of England.

Superstition — A belief or notion, not based on reason or knowledge.

Trade — A job skill.

Vikings — Fierce warriors from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Skilled sailors. By the 10th century, they controlled parts of Britain, France and Russia.

Resources for this glossary:
The Electronic Passport to the Middle Ages http://www.mrdowling.com/703print.htm
Dictionary.com http://dictionary.com
Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org