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# **Middle Ages**

*Fun Projects for World History*

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# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES

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# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

*This collection of nine enrichment activities was designed to complement existing curricula and expand one's understanding of those living during the Middle Ages. Studies have confirmed that using our hands helps us retain information. So, if you are looking for creative and simple, yet stimulating and exciting projects to spark learning, take the next step toward a highly engaging encounter.*

*There is truly nothing more stimulating than combining a hands-on activity with a subject being studied. Regardless of a learner's age, learning by doing will help maintain their interest, improve retention of information, and foster a desire to learn now and in the future.*

*In this collection, there are a total of nine hands-on projects and writing activities. To enhance the complete learning experience using this collection, character and setting development statements as well as extensive vocabulary lists are provided. A general materials list, detailed instructions, and extensive activity suggestions are provided for the nine projects that focus on the collection theme.*

*As an educator with 18 plus years of teaching and product development experience, it is my personal goal to encourage young people to be creative. Each of the activities included in this collection are based on actual artifacts representative of the Middle Ages. A conscious effort was made to develop activities that are constructed from readily available materials, yet result in stunning end products. Although having a wonderful end product is desirable, an essential part of learning is the process of creating something. A young person will gain a greater appreciation for the skills required by the people living during the Middle Ages when they accomplish an activity.*

*It is my heartfelt desire that both teacher and student will find the nine activities in this book a wonderful journey of creativity. Jean Henrich*



# MEDIEVAL KINGS & QUEENS IN FOCUS



## *History* Medieval Kings & Queens

# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES

## MEDIEVAL KINGS & QUEENS

The Middle Ages was defined by the chasm between the rich and poor. Those in positions of power and wealth controlled the land and the political framework of medieval society. There were basically three classes in the middle ages: the religious group, the fighters, and the workers. Each group knew without a doubt their responsibilities and limits.



The Middle Ages began when the Holy Roman Empire was broken by fierce fighting between warring kingdoms. As certain kingdoms became more powerful, they assumed control over weaker ones. It was from these kingdoms that many of today's countries were established.

The most powerful person in the kingdom was the king or queen. They had numerous nobles that were given land on the condition they would fight for the king or queen during times of war. This was called feudalism. The king or queen had absolute power. Refusal to carry out the orders of a king or queen was considered rebellion, an act punishable by death.



# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES

## MEDIEVAL KINGS & QUEENS



There is a false impression that medieval nobility lived in luxury. Regardless of anyone's position in society, life during the Middle Ages was rough. Knights or seigneurs of manors received their income from the serfs that worked their lands. There were numerous expenses including upkeep of the land, horse and animal care, payment for squires and pages, purchase and maintenance of weapons, and funding for foot soldiers. Taxes also had to be paid to the reigning king or queen. Only the very greatest of kings or queens lived in any condition close to "luxury."

### CHARLEMAGNE

Recognized as the most outstanding Frankish ruler of his time, Charlemagne created the image in medieval society of the ideal king. The kingdom of the Franks was established after the fall of the Roman Empire. It was made up of modern-day Germany, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium. It was considered the most powerful of the medieval kingdoms.

Charlemagne was the son of Pepin the Short. Prior to his death in 768 AD, Pepin divided his kingdom between his two sons, Carloman and Charles. Carloman died within three years leaving Charles the sole ruler. Soon he became known as Charles the Great, or Carolus Magnus, or as we know him today, Charlemagne.



# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES

## MEDIEVAL KINGS & QUEENS



Charlemagne conducted extensive military campaigns that expanded the Frankish kingdom to include Saxony, Lombardy, Corsica, and Bavaria. Although he was an accomplished warrior, Charlemagne appreciated and valued art and learning. He also was an effective diplomat and was able to foster a positive relationship with Pope Hadrian I through several pilgrimages to Rome. These efforts paid off when Hadrian crowned him emperor of what would eventually be called the Holy Roman Empire on Christmas day in 800 AD.

Charlemagne's lasting legacy to European society was the concept that a king could effectively rule both the church and state. This legacy also set the stage for a future of continued conflict between the church and state during the Middle Ages.

At his death, his empire was divided among the heirs of his son Louis the Pious at the Treaty of Verdun in 843 AD and again in 855 AD.



**NOTE IN HISTORY:** Kings have played quite a role throughout history. For centuries, kingdoms have been inherited. The Israelites considered God as the one true king of Israel. His covenant with the people of Israel symbolized a treaty between the Lord and his subjects. It was during the time when Israel felt threatened by enemies that it sought a king. The first king of Israel was Saul.

“God is King over the Nations: God sits on his holy throne.”  
-Psalm 47:8

# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES

## MEDIEVAL KINGS & QUEENS

### WILLIAM THE CONQUERER

William was born to Robert, Duke of Normandy, and Herleva in 1028. His parents were not married and William became known to his contemporaries as William “the Bastard.”

In 1035, his father was killed on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. William was only seven years of age when he assumed the position of Duke of Normandy, so he was carefully guarded by his father’s supporters.



During the mid-1030s, William began a campaign of rebellion against the Normans and other enemies. In 1049, against the desires of the Pope, William married Matilda the daughter of Count Baldwin of Flanders. This alliance provided added security.

On Christmas Day in 1066, William was crowned William I. His crowning created a great deal of anger among different groups in England and there were numerous minor uprisings. Each was individually and completely crushed by the Normans. Eventually the whole of England was conquered and united in the year 1072.

One of the most notable accomplishments of William’s rule was the commissioning of the “Domesday Book.” Commissioned in 1085, the book was a survey of land ownership. Property was assessed and a tax base established.

William died of complications from wounds sustained during a siege on September 9, 1087.



# History, Language Arts, Art - THE MIDDLE AGES



## MEDIEVAL KINGS & QUEENS WRITING RECIPE

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the steps listed at the bottom of this page in order. Use the words provided under the different categories to help you write your paragraph. If you would like, add your own words to the categories. If appropriate, you may use more than one word from each column. Additional character development statements and details for characterization can be found on pages 131 - 137.

### EXPRESSIONS

Agreeable  
Likeable  
Honest  
Wild  
Defeated  
Confused

### LOCATION

England  
Ireland  
Normandy  
Spain  
Flanders

### HAIR

Ragged  
Long  
Braided  
Silky  
Golden

### JEWELRY

Anklet  
Clasp  
Earrings  
Pendant  
Crown  
Bracelet

### PERSONALITY

Proud  
Rash  
Aloof  
Solitary  
Forceful  
Rude

### VOICE

Rough  
Clear  
Soft  
Soothing  
Lilting

### EYES

Bright  
Dull  
Blue-green  
Brown  
Slant upward  
Protruding

### TEETH

Yellow  
Rotten  
Clean  
Missing

### CLOTHING

Crown  
Scepter  
Fur lined robe  
Velvet clothing  
Richly embroidered

### AGE

Teen  
20s  
30s  
40s  
50s

## STEPS

1. Indent and write one sentence introducing your character by name and age. (Use your own words for this step.)
2. Write one or more sentences describing the location of your king or queen.
3. Write one or more sentences describing his/her eyes.
4. Write one or more sentences describing his/her voice.
5. Write one or more sentences describing his/her teeth.
6. Write one sentence describing his/her hair.
7. Write one sentence describing his/her personality.
8. Write one or more sentences describing his/her clothing.
9. Write one or more sentences describing the type of jewelry he/she wears.