

THE MIDDLE AGES – WORD LIST

- **A.D = anno domini** = after the birth of Christ
- **ache** = hurt
- **achieve** = reach a goal
- **afford** = to have enough money to buy something
- **aisle** = a long passage between the rows of seats in a church
- **apse** = the curved end of a church
- **arch** = a building with a curved top
- **archer** = a person who shoots arrows
- **armour** = metal or leather clothes that protect your body; soldiers and knights wore them
- **arrow** = weapon made out of a thin piece of wood with a sharp point at one end ; you shoot it with a bow
- **attack** = to start using guns and bombs against an enemy
- **attack** = to use violence to get into a place
- **attend** = to go to
- **B.C.** before the birth of Christ
- **bailey** = an open area inside the outer wall of a castle
- **battle** = a fight between two armies—a part of a bigger war
- **battle axe** = a weapon with a heavy metal blade and a handle on it
- **beat** = to win against
- **beef** = meat of a cow
- **bishop** = the highest priest in the church of a country
- **blacksmith** = someone who makes or repairs things made out of iron
- **bow** = a weapon that is curved, used for shooting arrows
- **cannon** = a large heavy gun that was used in the past to fire heavy balls made of metal
- **cape** = a long coat without sleeves; it hangs from your shoulders
- **capture** = to take control of
- **catapult** = a large weapon used a long time ago to throw stones and balls over a wall
- **century** = a hundred years
- **ceremony** = a very important event
- **chamber** = word used in the past for a large room
- **chimney** = a pipe that comes out of the house; smoke from a fire passes through it
- **cloth** = material used for making clothes
- **common** = liked by a lot of people
- **conquer** = to invade with soldiers and take control of
- **convent** = place where nuns live
- **council** = a group of people who help the king
- **craftsman** = someone who can make things with his hands
- **crossbow** = a weapon like a bow that has a piece of wood or metal on it
- **crown** = to become king or queen
- **Crusades** = eight wars that European kings led in the 11th , 12th and 13th centuries to get control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land
- **cure** = to make healthy, treatment
- **dagger** = a short pointed knife used as a weapon
- **damp** = wet
- **defeat** = to win against
- **defend** = protect, guard
- **destroy** = to damage something so that you cannot use it anymore
- **dig** = to make a hole into the Earth
- **discover** = to find a place for the first time
- **disease** = illness
- **distance** = how far two objects are from each other
- **divide** = split, separate
- **draw bridge** = a bridge that you can pull up so that people cannot enter the castle; it is also used to let ships pass through
- **emperor** = a man who rules an empire or a group of countries
- **empire** = a group of countries ruled by a king
- **enemy** = someone you fight against in a war
- **entertain** = to make someone happy by showing them nice things
- **fancy** = expensive and fashionable
- **feast** = a large meal where a lot of people celebrate something special
- **fierce** = terrible, violent, brutal
- **flat** = even, level
- **flea** = a very small insect without wings that bites animals and people and sucks out their blood
- **foot soldier** = a soldier who helps a knight and usually travels on foot
- **forbid** – forbade = not allow
- **force** = to make someone do something
- **fork** = a tool you use for picking up and eating food ; on one end it has 3 or 4 points

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- **found – founded** = to start or make something new
- **funeral** = to bury someone who has died
- **fur** = thick, soft hair that covers the body of an animal
- **garlic** = a plant like an onion; used to give food a strong taste
- **glove** = a piece of leather or cloth that you wear around your hand when it is cold
- **goal** = aim, what you want to do
- **Gothic** = building style that was common between the 12th and 16th centuries—with pointed arches and tall windows
- **grape** = small round green and purple fruits that you use to make wine
- **harvest** = to bring in crops from the field
- **head** = boss
- **heal** = to make healthy
- **hearth** = fireplace, oven
- **heaven** = place where God lives and good people go to after death
- **herbs** = small plants that are used to make food taste better—people also use them to make medicine
- **highlight** = the most important and interesting part of an event
- **huge** = very big
- **illness** = disease
- **importance** = meaning
- **introduce** = to appear for the first time
- **invade** = to enter a country with an army and take control of it
- **jewellery** = small objects made out of gold or silver which you can wear around your neck or hands
- **journey** = trip
- **joust** = to fight with lances on horseback
- **kingdom** = a group of many countries ruled by a king or queen
- **kneel—knelt** = to go down on your knees
- **knight** = a man with a high rank who lived in the Middle Ages and fought on horseback
- **knock off** = to hit so that a person falls down
- **lance** = a long thin weapon that knights used when they rode horses
- **law** = rules
- **linen** = cloth made from the flax plant; you use it to make high quality clothes
- **lord** = a man in medieval Europe who had a lot of land and was very powerful
- **maid** = woman or girl who is not married
- **main** = most important
- **manner** = the way you behave
- **manor house** = a big old house with a lot of land around it—it mostly belonged to lords
- **mass** = a church ceremony, mostly on Sundays
- **master** = the person you serve and do things for
- **medieval** = everything that has to do with the Middle Ages
- **merchant** = a person who buys and sells things
- **merchant ship** = a ship that has goods and products on board and travels between continents
- **moat** = a deep hole usually filled with water; it was around the castle
- **monastery** = a place where monks live
- **monk** = a man who lives with others together in a monastery
- **Muslim** = a person whose religion is Islam
- **mutton** = the meat of a lamb
- **nave** = the long central part of a church
- **noble** = if you come from the family of a lord or king
- **nobleman** = a man who is a member of the highest social class
- **nun** = a religious woman who lives with others in a convent
- **on her own** = by herself
- **onion** = a round white vegetable with a brown, red or white skin; onions have a strong taste and make you cry when you cut them
- **order** = a religious group that lived according to certain rules
- **originally** = at first
- **overrun** = to take control of a place
- **ox- oxen** = a bull whose sex organs have been removed; often used for working on farms
- **page** = boy who serves a knight
- **pain** = the feeling you have when your body hurts
- **passageway** = small paths to walk
- **paved** = a hard surface
- **peasant** = a poor farmer who rents land from a lord
- **pilgrim** = a religious person who travels a long way to a holy place
- **pilgrimage** = a trip to a holy place
- **pillar** = a tall round post used to support a structure or building

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- **plague** = a disease that spreads very quickly and kills many people = the Black Death
- **plate** = a flat dish that you eat out of
- **plunder** = to steal things from a place
- **pope** = the leader of the Roman Catholic church
- **popular** = liked by many people
- **pray** = to say words to God
- **preserve** = to make something last for a longer time
- **priest** = a man who does religious work in church
- **professional** = to do something for money
- **promise** = to say that you want to do something
- **protection** = when something is guarded or defended
- **public** = here: a place for everyone
- **punish** = to make someone suffer because they have done something wrong
- **punishment** = penalty
- **roast** = to cook over a fire
- **Roman Empire** = the countries in Europe and northern Africa that were ruled by the Romans in the first century before until the 5th century after the birth of Christ
- **Romanesque** = popular building style of the 11th and 12th centuries
- **roof** = the cover of a building
- **rotten** = something that no longer can be eaten because it is old
- **rule** = govern
- **sailor** = a person who works on a ship
- **saint** = someone who gets a title from the church after they have died because they have done something very good
- **scarf** = a piece of cloth that you wear around your neck
- **science** = knowledge about the world and nature, based on facts that you prove
- **servant** = someone who does things for others
- **settle** = to live in a place for the first time
- **shear** = to cut wool off sheep
- **shield** = a large piece of metal that knights used to protect themselves
- **shore** = the land around a lake
- **sick** = ill
- **silence** = if it is very quiet
- **silk** = thread made by a silkworm
- **slap** = to hit someone with your hand
- **society** = people in general
- **soldier** = a person who fights for a country or a king
- **spin** = to make cotton or wool into thread by twisting it
- **spread** = to move from one place to another
- **squire** = a young man who learns how to be a knight
- **stage** = phase, part
- **stake** = a post used to tie people against
- **stand** = a small table where you sell things
- **stocking** = piece of clothing that covers a man's or a woman's leg
- **suck** = to take out with your mouth
- **supporter** = friend, helper
- **swollen** = very thick
- **sword** = a weapon with a long-pointed blade
- **take control** = to get power again
- **tapestry** = a large piece of heavy cloth that looks like a picture
- **tax** = money you collect from the people and use for many things in a country
- **thatched** = made of dry grass or leaves
- **transept** = one of the two parts of the church that are built to make a cross
- **treatment** = something that is done to help or cure someone
- **tribe** = a group of people of the same race who have the same traditions and customs
- **tunic** = a long piece of clothing usually without sleeves
- **usually** = normally, often
- **velvet** = expensive cloth that has a soft surface on one side
- **village** = a very small town
- **vision** = something that you see but other people cannot
- **vomit** = when food or drink comes back out of your stomach through your mouth
- **warrior** = a brave soldier of the past
- **wealthy** = rich
- **weapon** = something that you use to fight with or attack someone, like a gun or a knife
- **weave** = to make cloth, carpet or other things by crossing threads
- **well-educated** = a person who could read and write and knew a lot of things
- **witch** = a woman who has magic powers