

History Vocabulary Review

Middle Ages	Period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, lasting from about A.D. 500 to 1450
Charlemagne	King of the Franks who conquered much of Europe and spread Christianity
Feudalism	Political and social system of the Middle Ages in Europe, in which lords gave land to vassals in exchange for service and loyalty
Lord	Powerful landowner
Serfs	People who lived and worked on the manor of a lord or vassal
Manor	Noble's house and the villages on his land where the peasants lived
Chivalry	Code of conduct of knights, focusing on bravery, honor, and respect toward women and the weak
Guilds	Associations of people sharing a trade or craft, intended to control the quality and quantity of their production and to protect their interests
Vassals	People in feudal society who received land and protection from lords in return for loyalty
Clergy	People with priestly authority in a religion
Thomas Aquinas	Italian philosopher who said classical philosophy and Christian theology could exist in harmony

Religious order	Group of people who live according to a set of religious rules
Crusades	Series of military expeditions from Christian Europe to Palestine between the 1000s and 2000s
Saladin	Military leader who united Muslims to fight the Christians in Palestine in the 1100s
Reconquista	Series of campaigns, ending in 1492, by which Christian armies drove Muslim rulers out of Spain
Inquisition	Roman Catholic court established to find and punish those who had strayed from the Roman Catholic faith
Bubonic plague	Disease that struck western Eurasia in the mid-1300s, in an outbreak known as the Black Death
Hundred Years' War	Series of wars between England and France that took place between 1337 and 1453
Joan of Arc	French peasant girl who led the French to victory over the English at Orléans in 1429
Longbow	Weapon that could shoot arrows with enough power to penetrate a knight's armor
Absolute monarchs	Kings or queens who had unlimited power and controlled all aspects of society
Migrate	To relocate to a new region
English Channel	Arm of the Atlantic Ocean that runs between England and France and connects the Atlantic Ocean with the North Sea

Common law	System of law based on court decisions and local customs
King John	King of England who signed the Magna Carta in 1215
Magna Carta	List of rights written by England's nobility and signed by King John in 1215
Parliament	Group of representatives with some powers of government
Habeas Corpus	Right of people not to be imprisoned unlawfully
Judiciary	System of judges and courts of law
Suffrage	The right to vote
Humanism	Way of thought that focuses on human beings and their potential for achievement
Renaissance	Rebirth of creativity, literature, and learning in Europe from about 1300 to 1600
Patrons	Wealthy or powerful people who provide money, support, and encouragement to an artist or a cause
Perspective	Technique used by artists to give the appearance of depth and distance
Leonardo da Vinci	Italian Renaissance painter and scientist
Michelangelo	Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, and architect
Duomo	Domed Cathedral in Florence

Setbacks	Changes from better to worse
Instability	Not constant or dependable
Masterpieces	Outstanding works of art, especially an artists's greatest works
Woodcut	Image produced from a wood carving
William Shakespeare	English playwright and poet of the late 1500s and early 1600s
Elizabethan Age	Period of English history named after Queen Elizabeth I, who ruled from 1558 to 1603
Johann Gutenberg	German inventor of the printing press
Printing Press	Device that mechanically printed pages by pressing inked forms onto paper; invented about 1455
Vernacular	A person's native language
Minute	Extremely small; tiny
Dissect	To open and expose parts of an animal or human being for scientific examination