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Study Guide

Middle Ages

**Lesson One: Castles**

Why did castles become the center of medieval life?

What were the defensive and offensive purposes of a castle?

Why were castles designed around the concept of layers?

How did the design of a castle provide protection?

Why weren’t castles built much after the Middle Ages?

How could natural features be used to your advantage if you were designing a castle?

**Words to Know:**

Castle

Keep

Arrow Slits

Curtain Wall

Gatehouse

Portcullis

Breach

Murder Holes

**Lesson Two: Feudalism in Europe**

\*\*Use pyramid diagram on last page and the one from the power point

Know the difference between the Noble classes and the peasants and serfs.

How did a lack of central government lead to the development of the feudal system?

What jobs and responsibilities did each feudal role have?

**Words to Know:**

Feudalism

Land based economy

Vassal

Fief/ Fiefdom

Knights

Chivalry

Serfs

Peasants

Kings

Nobles

Homage

Scutage

**Lesson Three: Magna Carta**

Use page 271-273 in your book

Know the story behind the Magna Carta.

What is the Magna Carta?

What was the purpose of the Magna Carta?

Who wrote the Magna Carta?

Why is the Magna Carta important to the history of the United States?

**Words to Know:**

Magna Carta

Parliament

Constitution

Constitutional monarchy

Absolute monarchy

King John

Queen Elizabeth II

**Lesson Four: The Black Death**

What were the symptoms of the most common form of the plague and how did it spread?

What were some ways people tried to protect themselves from the disease?

How did the plague impact the social order?

How were people with the plague treated?

What were the effects of the Black Death? (medicine, faith, society, environment, economy)

**Words to Know:**

Bubonic Plague

Epidemic

Pandemic

Quarantine

Scapegoat

Middle Ages

Bloodletting

Ring around the Rosie