

The Middle Ages

A dark blue diagonal shape that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, creating a triangular area at the bottom of the slide.

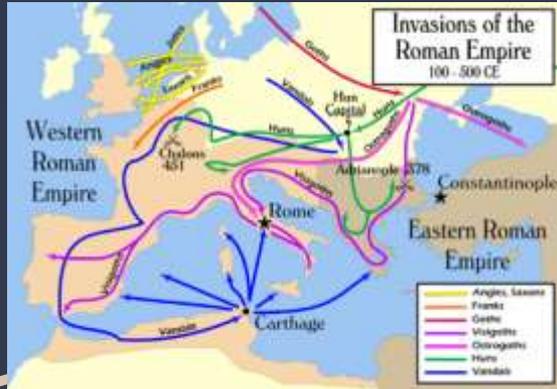
The Middle Ages



The **Middle Ages** refers to the historical period from about the 5th to the late 15th century. It began with the fall of the Western Roman Empire and ended with the dawn of the Renaissance.

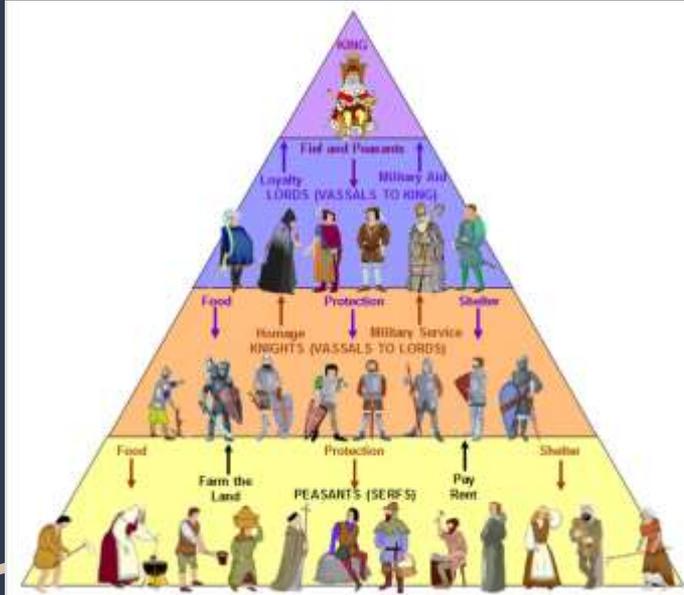
The Middle Ages saw large increases in the global population due to technological and agricultural advances. Some other key characteristics of the Middle Ages were feudalism, the Crusades, and the Black Death.

The Fall of the Western Roman Empire



Around the 5th century, The Roman Empire lost its political unity and military control over its expansive territory. A variety of factors led to the fall of the empire, such as increasing pressure from invading barbarians, changes in the climate, and the spread of diseases.

Feudalism



Feudalism was the dominant social system in medieval Europe. Under this system, the nobility held and cared for lands from the Crown in exchange for military service.

Vassals were in turn tenants of the nobles, while the peasants (serfs) were obliged to live on their lord's land and give him homage, labor, and a share of the produce, notionally in exchange for military protection.

The Social Hierarchy



Serfs: Workers who were tied to the land on which they lived (peasants).

Vassal: A knight who promised to support & to be loyal to a lord in exchange for land.

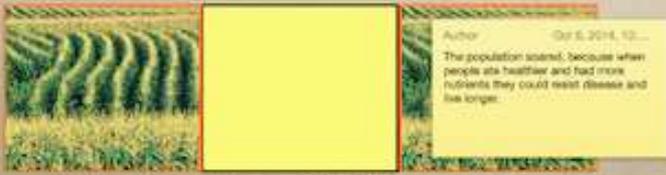
Lord: A person of high rank who owned land but owed loyalty to his king.

King: The male ruler of an independent state, especially one who inherits the position by right of birth.

Agricultural Advancements

The Three Field system

In Production *Fallow* *In Production*



The diagram illustrates the Three Field System. It shows a horizontal strip of land divided into three sections. The left and right sections are labeled 'In Production' and contain images of green crops in rows. The middle section is labeled 'Fallow' and is a solid yellow color, representing land left unplanted. Below the diagram is a text box with a yellow background and a red border, containing the text: 'Author: [unreadable] (Oct 6, 2014, 10:...) The population soared, because when people ate healthier and had more nutrients they could resist disease and live longer.'

- Around 800 AD, *Three Field System Used*, Plant two fields, let one rest
 - **67%** of land in production: More food
 - Population increase

The Three Field System: An agricultural practice that created increases in the production of food in Europe during the Middle Ages. The land was divided into three sections, and one-third was left unplanted so as not to overwork the soil.

The Franks

The Germanic people who lived and held power in Gaul, the region commonly known as France. The Franks successfully united the various kingdoms in the region. The Franks would also eventually bring Christianity to the region.



The Moors in the Iberian Peninsula and the Reconquista

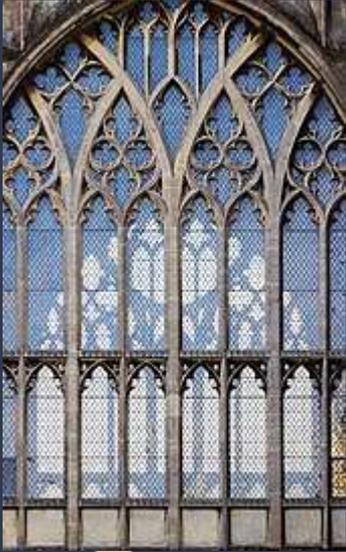


The Middle Ages in Spain was largely characterized by the Reconquista and Muslim rule in various parts of the Iberian Peninsula.

The **Reconquista** refers to the period of history in the **Iberian Peninsula** from about 711 until 1492.

The Reconquista ended with the **fall of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada** in 1492.

Gothic Architecture



Gothic Architecture is a pan-European style that lasted between the **mid-12th Century and the 16th Century**. It is usually characterized as a style of **masonry building** that makes heavy use of cavernous spaces with walls broken up by overlaid tracery.

Typical architectural features include:

- Rib vaults
- Flying buttresses
- Pointed Gothic arches
- Stained glass windows were also common

The Crusades



The **Crusades** were a series of religious wars initiated, supported, and sometimes directed by the Church in the medieval period to win back the Holy Land from Muslim control.

The best known of these Crusades are those to the Holy Land in the period between 1095 and 1291 that were intended to recover Jerusalem and its surrounding area from Islamic rule.

The Black Death



The Black Death was a **bubonic plague** pandemic occurring in **Afro-Eurasia** from 1346 to 1353. It is the **most fatal pandemic** recorded in human history, causing the death of 75–200 million people in **Eurasia** and **North Africa**, peaking in **Europe** from 1347 to 1351.

The plague created religious, social and economic upheavals, with profound effects on the course of European history.

It is estimated to have killed 30% to 60% of the total European population.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5AVPmAZ8o8>