

Y7 Term 2 Knowledge Organiser – Medieval Societies



How far did Medieval societies differ?

Enquiries

1. Village and Town Life: What was **everyday life** like in Medieval England?
2. The Islamic Golden Age: What were the achievements of the **Islamic Golden Age**?
3. Kingdoms of West Africa: Why were the kingdoms of **West Africa** so great?

Key Words

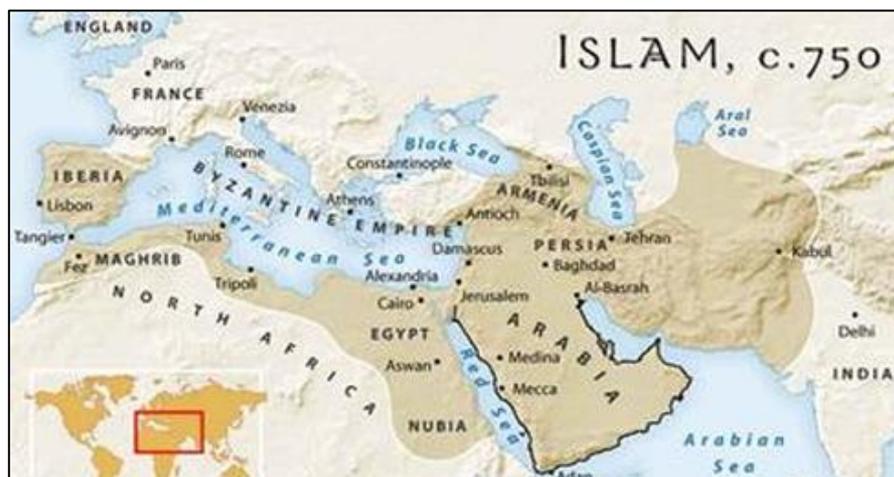
Enquiry 1: What was everyday life like in Medieval England?

Term	Definition
Apprentice [app-pren-tis]	A person who is learning a trade from a master craftsman, having agreed to work for a fixed period at low wages.
Bailiff [Bay-liff]	Someone who collected tax for a landlord.
Borough [Buh-ruh]	A medieval town; now an area of land that sends an MP to Parliament. e.g. 'Dacorum' is a borough which includes Hemel and Kings Langley.
Burgess [Burj-jess]	Someone who lived in a town or borough who has full rights.
Charter [Chart-er]	A written agreement; also a legal document giving a town the right to have its own government, laws and taxes.
Constable [Con-sta-bul]	A man in charge of a group of watchman, like a police constable.
Export [ex-port]	A product that is sold to another country; opposite of import.
Fair trial [try-al]	A trial observed by a judge or jury that tries to be fair.
Fealty [feel-ty]	A vassal's sworn loyalty to a lord (eg. a knight's loyalty to a baron).
Feudal System [few-dal]	The social system whereby land was exchanged for service and loyalty.
Guild [Gild]	An organisation of craftsmen set up to protect them and their work (like a Trade Union today).
Harvest [har-vest]	The process or period of gathering in crops.
Hue and cry [Hew]	An alert (a loud cry) raised when a crime was committed. Everybody who heard the 'hue and cry' was expected to help to catch the criminal.
Jury [Jure-ry]	Members of the public who hear legal cases.
Manor [Man-or]	The unit of farming, which consisted of a village, fields, woods, meadows and sometimes a manor house. The area was controlled by a lord / knight.
Mayor [May-or]	The leading citizen of a town or city. In charge.
Merchant [Mer-chant]	A person who buys and sells goods.
Middle Ages	The Medieval Era c.1066-1485.

Enquiry 1: What was everyday life like in Medieval England?

Term	Definition
Middle Ages	The Medieval Era c.1066-1485.
Peasant [Peh-sant]	A person of low status, usually a farmer labourer (worker).
Pillory [Pill-or-y]	A wooden frame with holes for the head and hands that was used as a punishment.
Sheriff [Sheh-riff]	A chief officer of a county or town responsible for law enforcement.
Stocks	A wooden frame with holes for feet that was used as a punishment.
Tax	Money that citizens pay to the government to be spent on the country.
Tithing [tie-thing]	A group of ten people who were responsible for each other's behaviour.
Trade	The act of buying or selling goods/services.
Trial by ordeal [ord-eel]	A trial where the accused would have to prove his innocence in the eyes of God. This was done by fire, water or combat.
Watchman	Men in who patrolled the streets at night and kept watch on the town walls.
Wattle-and-daub [wot-ul and dowb]	A system of building where branches and twigs were woven into the gaps of a wooden frame, then covered with plaster.

Enquiry 2: What were the achievements of the Islamic Golden Age?



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Enquiry 2: What were the achievements of the Islamic Golden Age?	
Term	Definition
Advanced	Developed; far ahead of progress.
Arab	Someone who speaks Arabic and/or lives in Arabic regions, North Africa and the Middle East. Arabic is the language of Islam and spoken by 150m people in Arabic countries.
Baghdad [Bag-dad]	The capital city of the Muslim empire during the Islamic Golden Age; became one of the world's richest and biggest cities; a centre of culture and learning; in present day Iraq.
Caliph [Ca-liff]	A ruler of Muslim territory; successor of Muhammad.
Caravan	A group of people who travel together for safety; a convoy.
Civilisation [Civ-il-eye-sa-tion]	Used to describe advanced and developed societies.
Dynasty [Din-a-stee]	A series of rulers from the same family; hereditary.
Empire [Emp-eye-er]	A group of countries which are controlled by another country.
Expansion	When something gets bigger.
Golden Age	A time when a society is flourishing (doing extremely well). They are times of wealth, learning and cultural development (e.g. new inventions, art, medical advances).
Hijrah [Hij-ra]	The migration from Mecca to Medina made by Muhammad [PBUH] in 632 CE.
House of Wisdom	A library and centre for learning, from 8th century CE. Also called the 'Grand Library of Baghdad', it contained the largest collection of texts and manuscripts in the world.
Invade	To use force in an attempt to take control of an area or country.
Islam	The 2nd largest religion in the world with approx. 1.8 billion followers. It was Founded by Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] at the beginning of the 7 th Century CE [622 CE].
Mecca [Meh-ka]	The birthplace of Muhammad, in present day Saudi Arabia.
Muhammad [PBUH]	Founder of Islam and the final Prophet sent by Allah to give guidance to humans.
Muslim	A follower of Islam.
Nomad	Someone who moves from place to place; is <i>nomadic</i> .
Qur'an	The Islamic sacred book believed to be the word of God dictated to Muhammad.
Rightly Guided Caliphs [Ca-liffs]	The first four Caliphs (rulers) who were elected by the Muslim community to lead after the death of Prophet Muhammad: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali.
Silk Roads	A 4000-mile-long trade route network that stretched from East Asia to the Mediterranean, 138 BCE – 1453 CE.
Siege [Seege]	an operation where a town or area is surrounded, and its supplies are cut off (a blockade) to capture it.
Successor	Someone that comes after another person e.g. an heir to a throne.
University	A centre for learning, like a school; where academic research.

Enquiry 3: Why were the kingdoms of West Africa so great?	
Term	Definition
Beni	Culture of people living in and around Benin, in Nigeria.
Benin, The Kingdom of	A West African kingdom in modern day southern Nigeria and is famous for its Benin Bronzes.
Benin Bronze	A metal plaque or sculpture made of bronze or brass; several thousand Benin Bronzes decorated the royal palace of the Kingdom of Benin; elaborate.
Conquest	Taking control over a group of people by force.
Madrasas [Mad-ra-sas]	Arabic word for an educational building, like a school.
Mali Empire	An empire in West Africa c.1235 - 1670
Mansa Musa	The richest man in history; ruler of the Mali Empire 1311-1377.
Mosque	Muslim place of worship
Oba	A ruler of western Nigeria
Pilgrimage [pil-gram-idge]	A journey to a sacred place for religious reasons, at this time, usually to repent one's sins (show God you are sorry).
Plaque [plack]	A flat piece of metal, stone, wood with writing / images engraved on it; attached to a wall, door, or other object
Sculpture [sculpt-chur]	the art of making two- or three-dimensional representative or abstract forms, especially by carving stone or wood or by casting metal or plaster
Timbuktu	A city in Mali; the centre of the Mali Empire and trade.

