

Medieval Times Project Kit #1

Congratulations! You're going to Medieval Times! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. You can find lots of great information at <http://educators.medievaltimes.com/>. You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Explore acting as a language! Pick one actor or actress to watch carefully. Write down how their actions, words, dance, and other body language helps tell their story. Explain how your own actions, words, and body language communicate to others how you are feeling. Can you affect others without using words? Can the way you act change the way others see you?

- a. Draw a picture or write a paragraph. Talk about it.
- b. Write a short essay. Talk about it.
- c. Write a short essay, talk about it, and write a quick letter of appreciation to give to an usher for the actor/actress you studied.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, paper for letter

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

How much money does Medieval Times make during their show? They average \$60 per ticket sold. How many people are at the show? There are several ways to estimate this: ask someone who works there, find out the area of the building and divide it into representative areas that you can count and multiply, or find the information on the internet. How much does they make in a day? In a month? In a year? Do they make extra money by selling products or food?

- a. Talk about the math and make verbal estimates with your teacher. Write down your math.
- b. Do the calculations on your own and write everything down. Talk about expenses and how those affect the show's profit.
- c. Do the calculations, write it down, and ask more questions to determine Medieval Times' estimated costs (don't forget staff, the building lease, utilities, etc.). Estimate gross and net incomes per day, month, and year. Run a hypothetical model to see how the numbers change if attendance or costs decline or increase.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

Jousting is all about understanding force vectors, with a little bit of horsemanship, toughness, and luck thrown in. Examine the physics of jousting. What forces are involved in keeping the lance up and aimed? What makes it hit hard or glance off? What forces would be necessary to knock a rider to the ground? How do those forces affect the rider giving the blow? How do those forces affect the horse?

- a. Discuss some of the simpler concepts and draw a picture or write a short paragraph about the forces you've seen.
- b. Discuss the concepts and identify as many forces as you can. Draw a picture that includes force vectors (arrows showing the direction and magnitude of the force).
- c. Discuss the concepts, identify forces, and diagram them including force vectors. Describe the net force for the interaction you diagrammed. Include hypothetical situations and how they affect the vectors and the net force.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, maps, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

Medieval Times takes you back into the medieval world! Take time to look around at your surroundings. What things are from the medieval time period? What things are modern things used to make the experience more enjoyable? What would it be like to live back then? What would be the difficulties and joys of that kind of life? What would you miss most about your life if you were transported back to medieval times?

- a. Pick a few things you see that are definitely not modern. Discuss what they are and what they were used for. Draw a picture or write a paragraph describing what you saw.
- b. Research a few items you might see during the show and then look for them. How were they used? How many did you see? What is our modern-day equivalent? Write a short essay describing these things and the similarities and differences they have with equivalent modern-day items.
- c. Take a deeper look into medieval times. Using your own research and things you saw and learned at Medieval Times, write an essay detailing what a normal day would look like for someone who lived back then. You can pick anyone from any class (royalty, nobles, vassals/knights, or serfs/peasants). If your person were living today, what would their day look like?

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- Summer was a particularly difficult time for villagers as they were running out of grain but the new crop wasn't ready to be harvested, so they'd often have to use old rye to make bread. Unfortunately, stored rye was frequently infected with ergot, a fungus that caused hallucinations, gangrene and - in extreme cases- death.
- Medieval farm animals were small! A full-grown bull was only slightly larger than a modern calf, and sheep were about a third of the size they are today. Depending on the breed of sheep, fleece yield was sometimes less than one pound per animal. In contrast, modern sheep yield around 7.3 pounds (3.32 kg) of wool thanks to advances in farming techniques and scientific breeding methods.
- There are records of animals being taken to court for killing people, or occasionally for smaller crimes. Some mice were publicly tried for stealing part of the harvest and in another case a swarm of locusts was convicted of eating crops. They didn't even bother to show up in court to defend themselves!
- King Edward III decreed the Archery Law of 1363, where he commanded all male subjects to practice archery for two hours every Sunday. They were supervised by the local clergy. Other sports, like football, were all banned!
- To brush one's teeth, burnt rosemary was placed on a cloth and then one would scrub their teeth with it. People desperately tried to keep their teeth since tooth extraction was extremely painful with no anesthetic!
- Before becoming a knight, one had to serve at least 7 years as a page and an additional 7 as a squire.
- Scientific achievements in Medieval times may seem laughable at times, but the fact is that many commonly used appliances and tools today came from this time period: the pump, the hydrostatic balance, the pendulum, the sector, the thermometer, the telescope, and the lodestone.
- It was high fashion to shave off one's eyebrows in Florence during the Renaissance. This is the reason why the Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.
- Some scientific observations and discoveries in the Middle Ages include: observance of sunspots, satellites of Jupiter, Saturn, tides, comets, longitude of the sea, and the phases of Venus to name but a few.
- The most deadly disease of Medieval times was the Black Death. It killed an estimated 25-50 million in European countries alone (which was approximately 30-60% of their population).

Medieval Times

1. Draw a picture of your favorite knight and his horse.



2. Describe your favorite part of the show.

3. What is one new thing you learned about knights or jousting?

4. Draw or describe one example of medieval life you saw.



5. Describe or draw some of the food eaten during medieval times.



6. Which was your favorite event and who won?

BONUS:

The Medieval time period was filled with mystery and intrigue, but also a lot of struggle and hard living. Describe one positive aspect of the Medieval time period, and one negative aspect. Would you like to live back then? Why or why not?

