

# I What is the Middle Ages?

## Middle Ages word wall

| facts/events |         |         |         |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Politics     | Economy | Society | Culture |
|              |         |         |         |



### 1. Reading

The Middle Ages describes the period in European history from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5<sup>th</sup> century to the fall of Constantinople (1453). It lasted for a thousand years. Historians usually divide this into three periods, the *early Middle Ages*, sometimes called The *Dark Ages*<sup>1</sup>, the *High Middle Ages*, and the *Late Middle Ages*.

The period is characterised by the emergence of separate kingdoms, the growth of trade and urban life and the growth in power of monarchies. The church became very powerful during the late Middle Ages, with the Pope operating like a secular ruler<sup>2</sup>.

The influence of the Church and religious life was also felt in more general terms such as the Crusades, the pilgrimages, the building of monasteries, and the growth of scholarship.

<sup>1</sup> This period is called is called "dark" because there was not very much new science or learning and there were not many new inventions.

<sup>2</sup> Not specifically relating to religion or to a religious body.

**2. True/false**

- The Middle Ages is a period in Europe's history.
- The end of the Middle Ages happened with the fall of Rome.
- During the Middle Ages trade and urban life developed.
- The Pope was the highest religious authority in European religious life.
- The Church didn't interfere outside religious life.

**3. Answer the questions**

1. When did the Middle Ages start? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When did the Middle Ages finish? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long did the Middle Ages last for? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In how many periods do historians divide the Middle Ages? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In what periods do historians divide it? \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Complete the chart**

| positive | comparative | superlative | Meaning |
|----------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| early    |             |             |         |
| late     |             |             |         |
| dark     |             |             |         |
| high     |             |             |         |
| much     |             |             |         |

**Timelines are used by historians to show the different parts of history.**

**5. Make a timeline.**

**a) Make your day timeline. Here you have an example.**

7.00 8.00 9.00 10.00 11.00 12.00 13.00 14.00 15.00 16.00 15.00 17.00 18.00 19.00 20.00 21.00 22.00

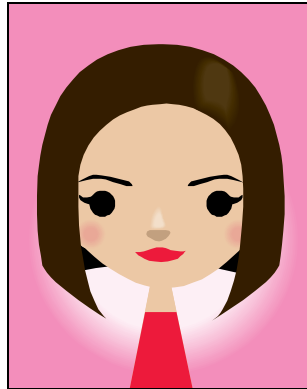
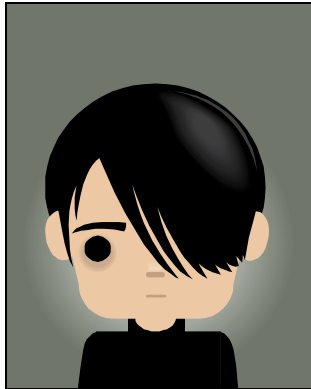
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|--------|-----------|--------|--|-------|--|-------|---------|------|--|--|--|--------|--|-----|--|--|--|
|        |           |        |  |       |  |       |         |      |  |  |  |        |  |     |  |  |  |
| Got up | Breakfast | School |  | Break |  | Lunch | Lessons | Home |  |  |  | Dinner |  | Bed |  |  |  |

**My day timeline**

**7.00** 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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b) Make your life **timeline**<sup>3</sup>:



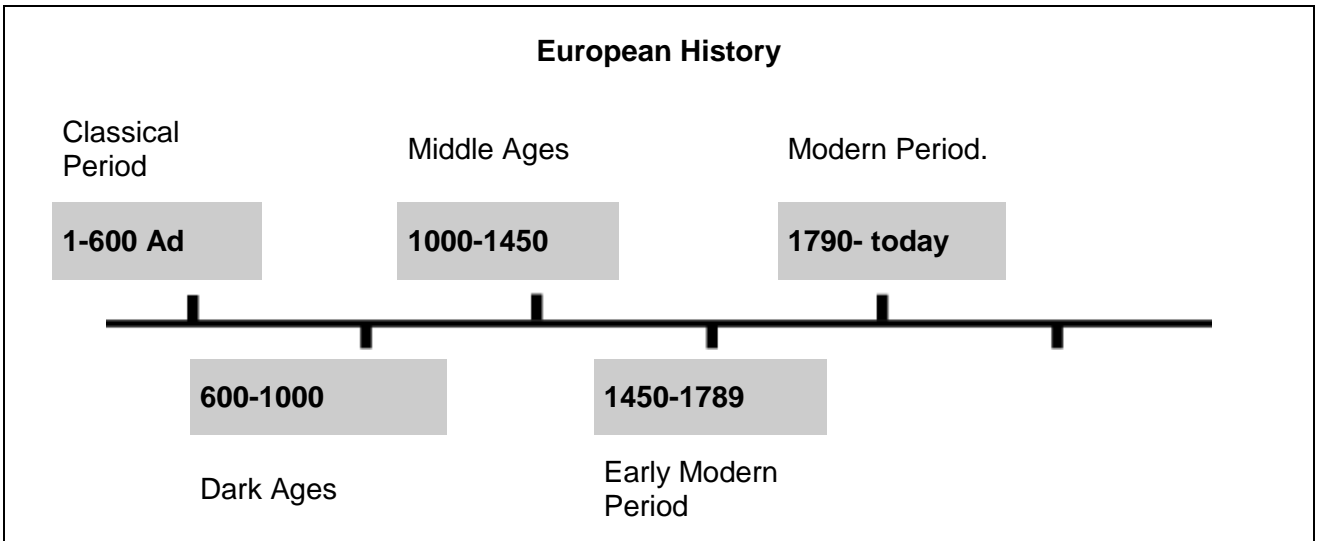
**Write down the following events.**

- a. Date of birth.
- b. The year I first walked.
- c. The year I went to the nursery.
- d. The year my brother/sister was born.
- e. The year I started primary school (include the name of it).
- f. The year you learned to ride a bike.
- g. A special year/event for me. Why?
- h. My first communion.

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<sup>3</sup> You can use this tool in Internet: [http://www.teach-nology.com/web\\_tools/materials/timelines/](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timelines/)

6. Look at the timeline and make the next exercise.



6.1. Write the information in the box above in this graphic organizer about the Middle Ages.

The graphic organizer consists of a vertical line with a downward-pointing arrow at the bottom. To the left of the line are three empty rounded rectangular boxes stacked vertically. To the right of the line are three empty rounded rectangular boxes stacked vertically.

7. Draw a line from each time period to the correct picture.

Early Modern



Dark Ages



Modern



Middle Ages



Classical Period



When you write about history always try to include **CAUSES** and **CONSEQUENCES**.  
Try also to use time and space: **WHEN** and **WHERE**.






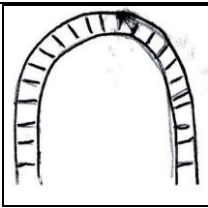



In history try to know which **period** topics and events belong to. It will help you to understand facts better.

An **historical source** is something that tells us about History.

A **Primary source** is something that originates from the past, for example a medieval coin.

A **Secondary source** is something that has been made recently but describes the past, for example a copy of a Medieval coin.

**8. Classify the pictures into Primary or Secondary source.**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>1. Fromista's church plan (Spain).</p> |  <p>2. Modern book.</p>           |  <p>3. Burgos cathedral.</p>                                     |
|  <p>4. Medieval Spanish coins.</p>        |  <p>5. Modern Spanish money.</p> |  <p>6. Recent drawing of a round arch</p>                       |
|  <p>7. Recent map of Burgos (Spain).</p> |  <p>8. Medieval books.</p>      |  <p>9. The Adoration of the kings. Gloucester's cathedral.</p> |

- a) Picture number 1 is a
- b) Picture
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_
- i) \_\_\_\_\_