

Europe in The Middle Ages

A period that spanned from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD to the beginning of the Renaissance in the 14th century. It was characterized by significant social, political, and cultural changes. The period is often divided into three main stages: The Early Middle Ages, the High Middle Ages, and the Late Middle Ages.

In the Early Middle Ages, Europe was fragmented into various kingdoms and regions following the collapse of the Roman Empire. The Catholic Church became a powerful institution, influencing many aspects of life. Feudalism emerged as a social and economic system, with landowners granting land to vassals in exchange for military service. This system shaped European society for centuries.

During the High Middle Ages, Europe saw the rise of powerful kingdoms and the establishment of universities and Gothic cathedrals. The Crusades, a series of religious wars aimed at reclaiming Jerusalem, took place during this period, leading to increased cultural exchange between Europe and the Middle East.

The Late Middle Ages, however, were marked by challenges such as the Black Death, which decimated the population, and the Hundred Years' War, which led to political instability. Despite these hardships, the period also witnessed the growth of cities, the rise of merchant classes, and the gradual decline of feudalism, setting the stage for the Renaissance and the modern era.

Dictionary:

- **Collapse;** انهيار
- **Church;** كنيسة
- **Crusades;** حروب الصليبية
- **The merchant classes;** طبقات التجارية

Task: Match the definitions given below to the following terms: ***The Black Death,***

Feudalism, Renaissance.

- A cultural, intellectual, and artistic movement that began in Italy in the 14th century and spread across Europe, lasting into the 17th century. It marked a revival of interest in classical Greek and Roman art, literature, and philosophy. The period is known for significant achievements in art, science, and literature, with figures such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Shakespeare, and for the development of humanism, which emphasized the potential and achievements of individuals.
- A devastating global epidemic of bubonic plague that struck Europe, Asia, and North Africa between 1347 and 1351. It is estimated to have killed 25-30 million people in Europe alone, wiping out about one-third of the population. The disease was caused by

the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, transmitted through fleas that lived on rats. It spread rapidly, causing widespread panic, social upheaval, and significant demographic and economic impacts.

- Social, economic, and political system that dominated medieval Europe, particularly between the 9th and 15th centuries. It was based on the exchange of land for military service and loyalty. In this system, kings granted large estates to nobles (lords) in exchange for their support and service, while peasants (serfs) worked the land for the lords in return for protection. This hierarchical structure was characterized by a rigid class system and limited social mobility.