

**ELA: Grade 6, Lesson 1, Middle Ages**

**Lesson Objective:** Students will learn how the Roman Empire changed into Europe during the Middle Ages

**Practice Focus:** Today we will identify events and their effects.

**TN Standards:** 6.RI.KID.3, 6.RI.CS.4, 6.SL.CC.1, 6.W.TP.2

**Teacher Video Materials:**

- Map of Europe (page 4)
- Teacher Packet, Grade 6 Lesson 1

**Student Materials:**

- Three pieces of paper
- Something to write with

**Student Vocabulary:** Middle Ages, medieval, barbarians, papacy, feudalism

Teacher Do	Student Do
<p><b><u>Opening</u></b></p> <p>Hello! Welcome to Tennessee's At Home Learning Series for literacy! Today's lesson is for all our 6<sup>th</sup> graders out there, though all children are welcome to tune in. This lesson is the first in our series.</p> <p>My name is ____ and I'm a ____ grade teacher in Tennessee schools! I'm so excited to be your teacher for this lesson! Welcome to my virtual classroom!</p> <p>Today we will be learning about The Middle Ages! Before we get started, to participate fully in our lesson today you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Something to write with</li><li>• 3 pieces of paper</li></ul> <p>Ok, let's begin!</p>	
<p><b><u>Introduction</u></b></p> <p>We are beginning a unit called The Middle Ages. The Middle Ages was a time in history that occurred in Europe.</p> <p>Let's look at a map of Europe. Europe includes the following countries. You can see England. Point to France on the screen.</p> <p>Spain is located underneath France. Now, look at Germany. See it is next to England on your map. Finally, you see Italy. This country looks like a boot in the bottom right of your screen. All of these countries make up the Roman Empire.</p>	<p>Student will repeat the countries and point to countries on the Map of the Roman Empire: England, France, Spain, German, and Italy.</p>

<p><b>So which countries make up the Roman Empire?</b> [Pause] [Point to each on the screen as you say the country.] <b>England, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy.</b></p> <p><b>Our events about the Middle Ages take place in Europe and these countries make up the Roman Empire during the Middle Ages.</b></p> <p><b>Now wait a second. Are England, France, Spain, Italy and Germany the only countries that make up Europe today?</b> [Pause] <b>No, that's right.</b></p> <p><b>We are talking about a different time period called the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages occurred between ancient times and modern times. I know that we all know what ancient means. It is history that occurred a long time ago. The Middle Ages began in 476 AD year and lasted 1000 years to 1453.</b></p> <p><b>The Middle Ages are also called "medieval." We will be using this term during our next several lessons. This time period transformed Europe.</b></p> <p><b>Again, what countries make up Europe during the Middle Ages?</b> [Pause] <b>Yes, England, France, Spain, German, and Italy. Great!</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Read Aloud</u></b></p> <p><b>I am going to read a section about medieval Europe.</b></p> <p><b>We begin our journey into medieval Europe—another name for the Middle Ages—by examining some key events that happened long before this age began. The first major event that helped to transform western Europe occurred when the mighty Roman Empire, having grown too big for one emperor to rule, broke apart into the eastern and western parts of the empire. This division had a major impact on western Europe. With the Roman Empire split into two parts, different tribes took the opportunity to seize some of its lands. Interestingly, some of these people were given the name barbarian from the Latin word <i>barbarus</i>, meaning foreigner, or not Roman. The Romans may have considered these people to be uncivilized because they did not speak Latin, the language of the Roman Empire.</b></p>	<p>Student will explain that the Roman Empire grew too big for one emperor to rule and it broke into two parts and summarize the events that led to transforming Europe. Student will answer basic questions about feudalism.</p>

So we just read about what was happening in Europe.

What was the first major event that helped to transform western Europe leading to the Middle Ages? [Pause]

That's right. The Roman Empire grew too big for one emperor to rule, so it broke into two parts.

Now we are going to learn more about the barbarians.

Some of the most successful barbarian invaders were Germanic tribes, such as the Franks, the Visigoths, and the Vandals. These tribes lived on the edges of the empire. As the Romans became unable to defend their borders, these tribes pushed farther to the west. The Vandals looted towns and villages so badly that today we use the word vandalism to describe the destruction of property. The most infamous so-called barbarians were the Huns from central Asia. Attila the Hun led this nomadic tribe as they invaded parts of Europe in the 400s. As the Huns conquered, they drove the once dominant Germanic tribes even farther into the Western Roman Empire.

Hmm. There were a lot of groups of people. Let's make sure we have all of the groups that made up the barbarians. First there were Franks, Visigoths and Vandals. Repeat these three groups with me: Franks, Visigoths and Vandals. [Pause]

What are some events, described on this page, that helped transform Europe in the years leading up to the Middle Ages? [Pause] Nice job! Germanic tribes, such as the Franks, Visigoths, and Vandals, invaded parts of the Roman Empire, and the Huns, led by Attila, pushed the once dominant Germanic tribes farther into the Western Roman Empire.

I can understand why these tribes might be called barbarians, can't you?

As warlike tribes swept across western Europe, and powerful kings emerged, another transforming force appeared—the Christian Church. Throughout these years of change, many people turned to the Church because it offered them a sense of stability and hope. The heart, or center, of the Church was in Rome, the seat of the papacy.

Wait. What was that word? [Pause] Papacy... hmm. That word actually talks about the church. The papacy is the office or position of the pope, which was the only church in the Roman Empire.

Slowly, more and more groups of people became Christians, including the Germanic tribes. Over time, the Church became even richer and more powerful than many kings and queens. It is this time—when the Roman Empire was no longer the only powerful force in Europe—that many historians consider to be the start of the Middle Ages. Roman, Germanic, and Christian ideas, as well as powerful kings, began to shape western Europe. In one of the Germanic regions, a great ruler emerged. His name was Charles, and he took control of much of the land that later became France. Charles ruled for more than 45 years. He increased the size of his empire by gaining land in areas that are now part of Germany, Austria, Italy, and Spain. As king, Charles defended the authority of the Church. He promoted the spread of Christianity. On Christmas Day, in 800 CE, he was crowned Roman emperor by the pope in Rome. His reputation was so great that, later, writers called him Charlemagne, which means “Charles the Great.

So, I think I am hearing about how much the Roman Empire was changing What did the author tell us was no longer a powerful force? [Pause] Right the Roman Empire.

What took the place of the Roman Empire? [Pause] You are correct if you said powerful kings.

Who was the most powerful? [Pause] Exactly. King Charles, good. He was crowned the Roman Emperor and was eventually called “Charles the Great.”

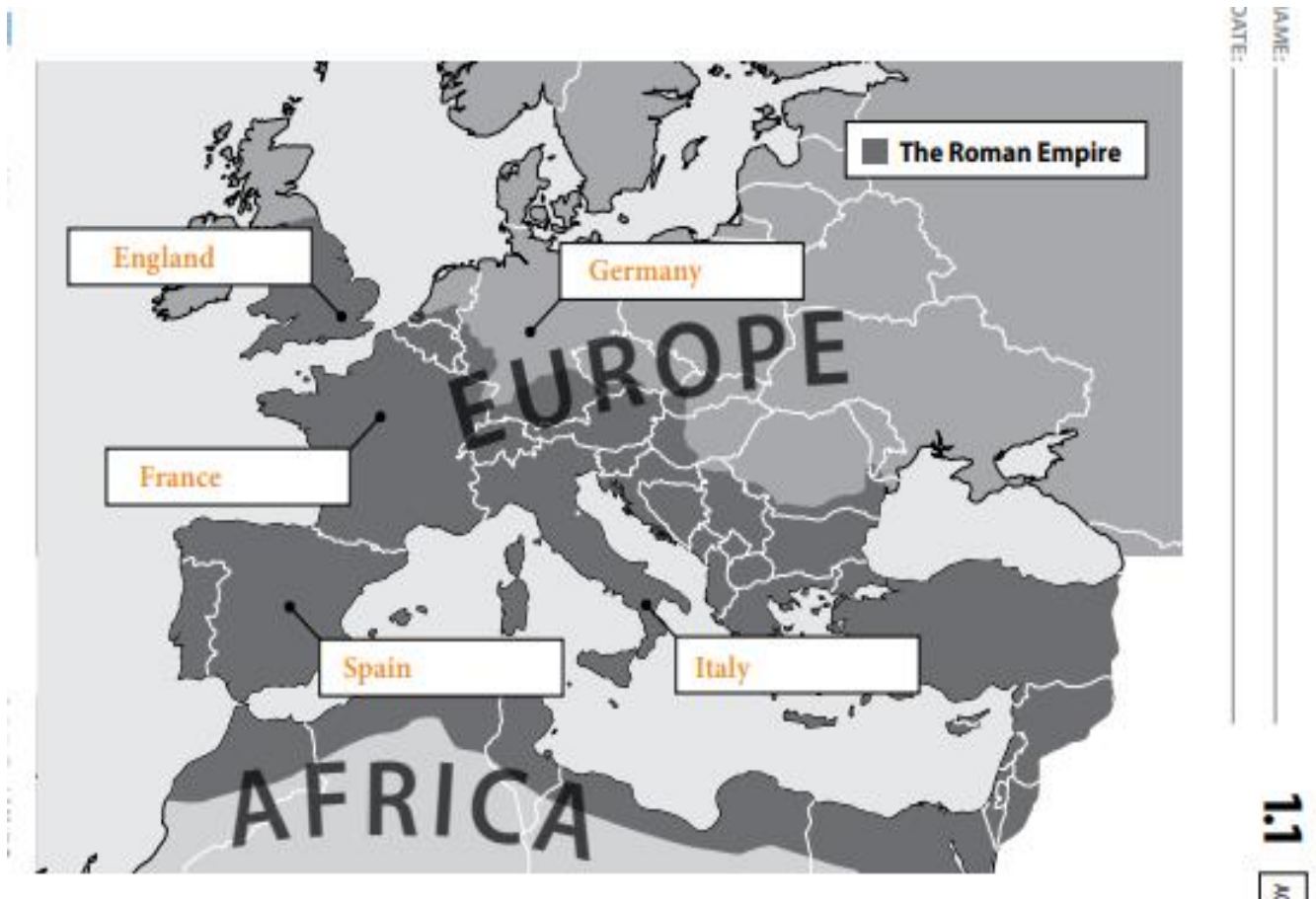
Let’s continue to learn about Charles.

Charles encouraged new ideas and promoted an interest in education and art. To help him rule his empire, Charlemagne also encouraged a system of government that we now call feudalism. (Wait what was that word-feudalism. Hmm . . . What is that?) He gave land, instead of money, to those who worked for him in the military or government. The practice of paying men with land spread throughout other countries in western Europe. Life in the Middle Ages was not the same as it is now.

<p><b>What type of government did Charles create? [Pause] Yes, feudalism.</b></p> <p><b>What was feudalism? [Pause] That is correct! This government seems to focus on land and giving land as payment.</b></p> <p><b>For one thing, people who lived back then probably thought about time differently. Many people measured time by the rising and setting of the sun and the passing of the seasons. For this reason, life likely had a slower, steadier pace. In addition, there was a strong desire to honor God that appeared to transcend time. As a result, people undertook impressive, long term projects such as building magnificent cathedrals that took centuries to complete. Language and location helped shape people's lives, too. Because travel was so difficult, many people didn't do it. Generally, only rich, educated people in Europe traveled. Almost everyone else stayed close to home. Although Latin was the language of both the Church and government, only select members of society could understand that language.</b></p> <p><b>It seems that rich people had a very different life that allowed them to travel.</b></p> <p><b>But many people in the Middle Ages did not have the opportunity to travel or to learn.</b></p> <p><b>Most people lived an isolated existence. They did not travel far from home. As a result, most people communicated using the language, or dialect, spoken in the place of their birth. As strange as it may seem to us, in certain parts of Europe villagers from places just 30 miles apart could not easily understand each other. For this reason, most people during the Middle Ages were concerned with the affairs of their village, what they owed the local lord in the way of payment, and how to ensure their place in heaven.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Guided Practice</u></b></p> <p><b>I learned a lot today about the Middle Ages. We are going to need two pieces of paper for this section.</b></p> <p><b>On your first piece of paper, let's review the important information today.</b></p>	<p><b>Student writes notes in response to the teacher's question set.</b></p>

<p>[Write the questions on a whiteboard or computer screen and pause after each so the student can take notes]</p> <p><b>Can you remind me another word for Middle Ages?</b> [Pause] <b>That's right medieval.</b></p> <p><b>Where did we focus our study today?</b> [Pause] <b>Yes, that's right, Europe.</b></p> <p><b>What were the five countries in Europe during the Middle Ages?</b> [Pause] <b>Correct. England, France, Spain, German, and Italy.</b></p> <p><b>And the people in Europe were in many tribes? What were they called?</b> [Pause] <b>Yes that's right- barbarians.</b></p> <p><b>Over time, who ruled in Europe during the Middle Ages?</b> [Pause] <b>Yes! Charles the Great. Oh yes, he was also called Charlemagne the Great.</b></p> <p><b>What type of government did he create?</b> [Pause] <b>Feudalism, nice job!</b></p> <p><b>And since the feudalism was based in how much land a person owned, it created rich and poor groups.</b></p> <p><b>Now, grab a second piece of paper! Let's create a two-column chart and list some of the things that the rich had and the things the poor people did not. On your chart, label one side rich and one side poor.</b></p> <p><b>On the rich side, I might write "land." What else could I write?</b> [Pause and model]</p> <p><b>Now it's your turn to quickly write the same to your paper.</b> [Pause] <b>Good. Travel, Languages, etc.</b></p> <p><b>On the poor side?</b> [Pause] <b>Exactly, no land, no ability to travel, no opportunity to learn other languages.</b></p> <p><b>Great, now you have two note pages you will be using in your independent practice.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Independent Practice</u></b></p> <p><b>In the independent practice, you will need a third piece of paper. On this paper you are going to summarize what you learned about the Middle Ages today.</b></p>	<p>Student will solidify his/her understanding of the rise of the middle ages and how the Roman Empire transformed into Europe. Student will compose a summary of the Middle Ages</p>

<p><b>What is a summary?</b> [Pause] <b>Remember the summary provides the key points from our reading today.</b></p> <p><b>During guided practice, we took notes to create a summary. Please include the key facts from your notes and create a summary of the Middle Ages.</b></p> <p><b>This summary will be important for our next lesson.</b></p>	<p>and how the Roman Empire transformed into Europe.</p>
<p><b><u>Closing</u></b>  <b>I enjoyed learning about how the Roman Empire changed into Europe through the Middle Ages with you today!</b>  <b>Thank you for inviting me into your home. I look forward to seeing you in our next lesson in Tennessee's At Home Learning Series! Bye!</b></p>	



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