

ELA: Grade 6, Lesson 4, The Middle Ages

Lesson Objective: Student will learn how towns developed during the Middle Ages.

Practice Focus: Today we will craft an explanatory piece using a graphic organizer to explain how towns developed in the Middle Ages.

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

Teacher Materials:

- Grade 6, Lesson 4 Teacher Packet

Student Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil or pen

Vocabulary: merchant, apprentice, journeyman, craftsman, and guild

Teacher Do	Student Do
<p><u>Opening</u></p> <p>Hello! Welcome to Tennessee's At Home Learning Series for literacy! Today's lesson is for all our 6th graders out there, though all children are welcome to tune in. This lesson is the fourth 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">• Something to write with• A piece of paper <p>If you didn't see our previous lesson, you can find it on The TN Department of Education's website at www.tn.gov/education. You can still tune in to today's lesson if you haven't see any of our others. But, it might be more fun if you first go back and watch our other lessons since we'll be talking about things we learned previously.</p> <p>We will continue creating the chart today using interesting facts and events that we learn about the Middle Ages. So grab your chart from yesterday and something to write with, and we will get started.</p>	

<p>Today, we will be reading something a bit different. We are going to read a narrative about living in a town in the Middle Ages. As we read, we will define what a town was during this time period. Let's begin.</p>	
<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Over the past few lessons, we have learned about the Middle Ages and how the Roman Empire changed into Europe under the feudal government. We have also studied lords, serfs, and knights.</p> <p>Today, we are going to focus on how towns evolved and started to bring a middle class between the serfs and the lords.</p>	<p>Student will review earlier lessons content in preparation for new learning.</p>
<p><u>Interactive Read Aloud</u></p> <p>It is raining again! You stand in a puddle on the edge of a narrow street. You have just entered town through one of two gates. The gates are the only ways in and out of this walled town. Inside the walls, tiny townhouses stand side-by-side. As you move through the crowd, you spot rats scurrying about, feeding on discarded trash.</p> <p>Nearby, you hear the varied cries of people selling fruits, vegetables, eggs, and pies. It is market day and people have set up their stalls in the town square. As you make your way through the muddy streets, you hear the sound of church bells. They ring out to sound the hour and to call people to church. You have just caught a glimpse of a town in Europe during the late Middle Ages.</p> <p>Hmm, I wonder... why would there have been walls around the town and gates through which everyone must pass?</p> <p>I am thinking about what I might have seen in a small medieval town. What do you think? [Pause] Hmm, maybe gates; walls; small houses; crowds of people; rats; discarded trash; people selling food; mud; church bells.</p> <p>Let's read on and learn more about the town.</p> <p>In the early part of the Middle Ages, most people lived in the countryside. Between the years 1000 and 1350 CE, fueled by trade, towns began to grow. New jobs</p>	<p>Student will notice attributes of a descriptive piece of text.</p> <p>[Note: From this style of writing, students should gain a visual image of what medieval towns might look like.]</p> <p>Student will learn about the transition from countryside manors to towns and why towns first appeared.</p> <p>Student will learn about craftsmen and how craftsmen joined to become guilds. Students will take notes on the steps to become a craftsman.</p> <p>Student will compare the lords' control over his manor to his control over towns.</p> <p>[Note: It is important for students to realize that started to end the feudal system.]</p> <p>Student will learn how schools and universities were established, and they will also learn how to become a craftsman in this section.</p>

emerged, and, as a result, more and more people left the countryside to live and work in towns. With this growth in trade, an increased number of people became involved in commerce, or business. As a result, a class of people, called the middle class, grew in importance. Merchants and craftsmen were part of the middle class. Towns grew as the middle class created successful businesses, and therefore jobs. Some merchants became rich and influential members of town communities. To protect their businesses, merchants established guilds in towns throughout Europe.

Hmm. I am wondering what guilds are. [Pause] Guilds were organizations made up of merchants. Guilds controlled wages as well as the price and quality of the goods the merchants sold.

What happened as a result of merchants creating jobs in towns? I am wondering if more people left the countryside to work in towns.

What was the link between trade and a middle class? [Pause] That's right. As trade grew, more people became involved in commerce. The merchants and craftsmen who were involved in trade prospered so they were no longer as poor as serfs or peasants. But, they were still not as wealthy or powerful as lords. Let's read on to find out more about the middle class.

Not only did merchants thrive, so too did skilled craftsmen, such as carpenters, papermakers, glassmakers, and blacksmiths. Skilled craftsmen were also important members of town communities. They made and sold their goods in the towns in which they lived and worked. Just like merchants, skilled craftsmen protected their businesses by forming guilds. Only highly skilled craftsmen were invited to join these guilds. Many years of training went into becoming a skilled craftsman. There was a certain pattern to daily life in towns in the Middle Ages. From Monday to Saturday, towns were busy with the hustle and bustle of street vendors, shopkeepers, craftsmen, and market sellers. Pickpockets and purse snatchers were afoot, too. Shops opened as early as 6:00 a.m. Most towns held markets two or three times a week. Local farmers sold produce and animals.

What types of craftsmen existed in the Middle Ages?

[Pause] **That's right: carpenters, papermakers, glassmakers, blacksmiths, tailors, armorers, and tanners**

Let's think about the words pickpockets and purse snatchers. So the way the words describe the action, it is easy to understand that pickpockets are people who steal things—or pick them out of—people's pockets; and purse snatchers are people who snatch, or take, purses away from people.

Why do you think pickpockets and purse snatchers might they also be “afoot” in the town? [Pause] I am thinking that they are people who steal valuable things from someone else. They might be in the town because the people walking around the town might have valuable possessions with them. Wow, we are learning quite a bit about towns. I am wondering how towns adapted over time. Let's read and find out.

Towns were not outside the control of the local lord. Merchants and craftsmen usually paid lords in the form of money or goods. However, in exchange for money or goods, many lords granted towns special charters.

Hmm. What does the word charter mean in this sentence? [Pause] I think that it means charters gave people rights like to start a new town. Let me go back and read the sentence. “However, in exchange for money or goods, many lords granted towns special charters.” The charters allowed wealthy and influential townspeople the right to make their own laws. Over time, this new decision-making process changed the feudal system.

Why might this change in the decision-making process change the feudal system? [Longer Pause] Under the feudal system, kings and noblemen such as lords paid people who worked for them with land and protection. In turn, lower ranked people, such as serfs, promised loyalty to the lord. This system gave a lot of power to the lord over the lives of serfs, but, with people in towns making their own laws, the power of the lords began to weaken.

With a growing economy, a banking system began to develop. The increasingly wealthy churches in towns created schools called universities. Places such as Oxford and Cambridge in England, and Paris in France, became important centers of learning.

What role did churches play in setting up universities?

[Pause] Yes, wealthy churches helped establish universities. Now we are going to read a short informational section called "If You Were an Apprentice Craftsman."

Just like the boys who go off to train to be knights, you, too, are sent away at an early age. Your family arranges your training. You must live in the home of a master, or highly skilled craftsman. It is unlikely that you will return home again during your apprenticeship years. Your training will take many years to complete. You will not receive payment for any of the work you do. During this time, you are part of your master's household. You live in his home or shop. You usually eat with his family. Your new family provides the clothes you wear. Even if you are homesick, or sad, you have to obey your master. After a specified period of time, you advance from being an apprentice to becoming a journeyman. As a journeyman, you are paid by your master each day for your work. Usually, you continue to work for your master as an employee. After several years as an employee, you might take the next step in your career. You might be ready to submit a piece of your best work, called your masterpiece, to the guild for approval. If the guild accepts your work, you finally become a master craftsman. You might even be able to open your own shop with your name above the door.

Get out your piece of paper and let's review the steps to become a craftsman.

First, you left home. Let's jot that down. [Pause]

Okay, next you became an apprentice when you entered your master's home. [Pause]

Then, you become a journeyman, and you receive pay from your master. [Pause]

You also get to become an employee. Wow, I was just thinking how different this is from being a serf.

<p>Finally, you submit your best piece of work to the guild for approval. If they approve, you become a craftsman. [Pause]</p>	
<p><u>Guided Practice</u></p> <p>[Note: The guided practice focuses on showing a visual representation of how towns emerged. This graphic organizer will be used to develop an explanatory paragraph on towns during independent practice.]</p> <p>In this section, we learned about how towns came into existence. We are going to create a cause and effect chart that shows the factors that created towns. [See attached graphic of what this should look like]</p> <p>I am going to draw on the whiteboard and I will need you to add to your notes.</p> <p>First, I am going to draw a box for trade. Why should I do that? [Pause] Yes, that is right. Towns began as trading centers.</p> <p>Next, I am going to draw two boxes. One for merchants and one for guilds. [Pause] Yes, you are right we needed merchants, and merchants grew into groups called guilds.</p> <p>What should I draw next? Hmm. [Pause] Yes, highly skilled craftsman. Then, we need several boxes right: apprentice, journeyman, and craftsman again. [Pause]</p> <p>So where should I put pick pocket? [Pause] I think I will draw it here.</p> <p>Where should I put churches and schools? [Pause] I think I will put them on the other side of craftsman because it was another way of learning.</p> <p>There I think I have a good cause and effect of all of the components of a town that read about today.</p>	
<p><u>Independent Practice</u></p> <p>Today we are going to write about how towns emerged during the Middle Ages. Please review your cause and effect chart that we drew.</p>	<p>Student will craft an explanatory piece using his/her graphic organizer.</p> <p>[Note: This explanatory writing is complex because students have to</p>

<p>Then, write a paragraph explaining how towns occurred in the Middle Ages.</p> <p>I will repeat that for you. You are going to write about how towns emerged during the Middle Ages. Please review your cause and effect chart that we drew. Then, write a paragraph explaining how towns occurred in the Middle Ages.</p> <p>I cannot wait to see how you turn your graphic organizer into a full explanation of towns in the Middle Ages.</p>	<p>explain multiple causes and components of how towns evolved.]</p>
<p><u>Closing</u></p> <p>Wow, I learned so much with you today about the Middle Ages!</p> <p>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!</p>	

