

Medieval Group Projects

Name _____

Group #1

Imagine that what is currently on the site of Ardey Kell is, in fact, a medieval castle that was converted into a high school. Using the current layout of the school, create a map that illustrates “the Castle’s” original structure.

Make sure to detail where the Lord would have eaten and slept. Where would the kitchen, gardens, bathroom, armory, stables, well, and other important structures have been located? Where would the market, moat, gates and walls have been?

Considering that about 800 – 900 years have passed since the castle’s heyday, some portions of castle and its outlying property may no longer exist at all. Use examples of castle blueprints, aerial photography and current photographs of medieval castles to design your project.

Presentation: *Make sure you explain what historians mean by the word “castle”. Explain the function of the major structures and the layout of a typical medieval castle.*

Group #2

Imagine that it is the 12th century, and you are on the Bishop of Ballantyne’s committee to design a cathedral in the city of Charlotte. The bishop wants his cathedral to rival those of Lincoln, Durham and Aachen. Research these cathedrals as a basis for your design. Provide us with a drawing of the exterior of this cathedral and an interior blue print.

Make sure that your design uses the terminology of the architectural elements of churches/cathedrals. Make sure to include the physical dimensions (height, length, etc.) and to design the windows of your cathedral.

Presentation: *Explain what a cathedral was and what purpose it served. Also, what made cathedrals different from churches?*

Group #3

The illuminated manuscripts created by Benedictine monks collected the knowledge of the ancients and celebrated the religious teachings of Christianity. Research how these manuscripts were created and how they were styled. Using your textbook or a modern novel of your choice, you and the other monastics in your group need illuminate the text, demonstrating the coloration, graphic style and imagery that was common to illuminations of the middle ages.

Presentation: *Explain what an illuminated manuscript was. Show us at least one example from the middle ages. Also, explain what purpose these manuscripts served and how they were a reflection of the Christian church’s values.*

Group #4

Tournaments were popular “war games” and training for knights and the lords whom they served. Tournaments of the early middle ages demonstrated the skills and strength of knights through a variety of activities. By the high middle ages, jousting became the highlight of any tournament, occasionally leading to serious injury. Research what a ‘typical’ tournament would have included.

Your project is to create a tournament with a description of events, drawings of the weapons, armor as well as the flags & coats of arms representing the various competitors and a diagram of where the events will take place at Kell Castle, home to Lord Peters.

Presentation: *Make sure to explain the origins of tournaments and the types of events that were part of one. Also, show us examples of the weapons and armor that would have been used.*

Group #5

Stained glass windows are one of the lasting pictorial art forms of the middle ages. They required a knowledge of glass making, engineering and artistic talent. Your group is to research the method by which these masterpieces were made, and then to design and create one of your own artistic representations to be fitted over the two transom windows of Mrs. Cerbone’s classroom. (For your group you will need to supply black poster board and colored tissue paper.)

Presentation: *Explain the purpose and the process by which stained glass windows were made. Additionally, show us some examples of stained glass windows from the middle ages and explain some of the common images or themes seen in these works of art.*

Guidelines

1. I have assigned each group a leader. They are responsible for keeping the artisans, journeymen, minor nobles, monastics, etc. organized. They should not have to deal with behavior befitting a serf!
2. Groups #1-5 need to supply their own poster board. Group #5 also needs to supply their own tissue paper. I have some crayons, colored pencils and markers, but I highly recommend bringing additional “tools” to complete your tasks.
3. All of these projects require some basic research and effective communication. Put forth your best effort and use your time wisely.
4. You will have two days in the Media Center to work. Your group’s presentation will be on _____ . Your groups should be of adequate size to assemble your group’s project and to develop a short 3 to 5 minute presentation discussing your project’s connection to the medieval period. Work quickly and efficiently. You are also welcome to work on projects in my classroom before school or at lunch as well.
5. This project is worth one test grade.

