

# Unit 5: Middle Ages

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies 6**  
Time Period: **April**  
Length: **3 Months**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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The Middle Ages unit focuses on the impact that the geography of Europe has the society. Various influences such as the power of the Roman Church, feudalism, Charlemagne, and the Crusades are analyzed. Historical elements, events, and moments are reviewed like the Magna Carta, Plague, Renaissance, and Reformation.

## Standards

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LA.RH.6-8.1	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
LA.RH.6-8.2	Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
LA.RH.6-8.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
LA.RH.6-8.10	By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
SOC.6.2.8.A.4.a	Analyze the role of religion and other means rulers used to unify and centrally govern expanding territories with diverse populations.
SOC.6.2.8.A.4.b	Compare and contrast the Japanese and European systems of feudalism and the effectiveness of each in promoting social, economic, and political order.
SOC.6.2.8.A.4.c	Determine the influence of medieval English legal and constitutional practices (i.e., the Magna Carta, parliament, the development of habeas corpus, and an independent judiciary) on modern democratic thought and institutions.
SOC.6.2.8.B.4.a	Explain how geography influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural centers of each empire as well as the empires' relationships with other parts of the world.
SOC.6.2.8.B.4.d	Explain why the Arabian Peninsula's physical features and location made it the epicenter of Afro-Eurasian trade and fostered the spread of Islam into Africa, Europe, and Asia.
SOC.6.2.8.B.4.f	Explain how the geographies and climates of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas influenced their economic development and interaction or isolation with other societies.
SOC.6.2.8.C.4.a	Explain how and why the interrelationships among improved agricultural production, population growth, urbanization, and commercialization led to the rise of powerful states and kingdoms (i.e., Europe, Asia, Americas).
SOC.6.2.8.C.4.b	Determine the extent to which interaction between the Islamic world and medieval Europe increased trade, enhanced technology innovation, and impacted scientific thought and the arts.
SOC.6.2.8.D.4.a	Analyze the role of religion and economics in shaping each empire's social hierarchy, and evaluate the impact these hierarchical structures had on the lives of various groups of people.
SOC.6.2.8.D.4.b	Analyze the causes and outcomes of the Crusades from different perspectives, including the perspectives of European political and religious leaders, the crusaders, Jews, Muslims,

	and traders.
SOC.6.2.8.D.4.c	Assess the demographic, economic, and religious impact of the plague on Europe.
SOC.6.2.8.D.4.d	Determine which events led to the rise and eventual decline of European feudalism.
SOC.6.2.8.D.4.g	Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the people living Asia, Africa (Islam), Europe and the Americas over time.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.3	Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.8.C.CS2	Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

## Student Learning Objectives

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- Students will learn the varied geography of Europe.
- Students will learn Germanic tribes formed kingdoms.
- Students will learn Charlemagne briefly united much of Europe.
- Students will learn how monasteries and religious orders helped spread Christianity.
- Students will learn that the Church became a center of authority in medieval Europe.
- Students will learn how invasions created disorder in Europe.
- Students will learn that feudalism and manorialism brought social and economic order to Europe.

## Essential Questions

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- What is power? Who should have it?
- How did the Magna Carta and other European governmental practices, as well as the Renaissance and Reformation, influence medieval Europe, as well as modern thought and practices?
- How did geography influence the development of the various regions of Europe?
- How did the interaction between the Islamic world and medieval Europe effect Europe, and eventually the western world? How did religion both unify and divide people?
- What were the causes of the Crusades and the plague and how did they effect medieval Europe?
- How did European feudalism start and eventually decline?

## Enduring Understandings

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- Students will understand that the emergence of empires in Europe resulted from the promotion of inter-regional trade, cultural exchanges, new technologies, urbanization, and centralized political organization.
- Students will understand that the rise and spread of new belief systems unified societies, but they also became a major source of tension and conflict.
- Students will understand that while commercial and agricultural improvements created new wealth and opportunities for the empires, most people's daily lives remained unchanged.
- Students will understand that knowledge from the Classical civilizations, lost with the fall of Rome, resurface and are enhanced during the Renaissance. The influences of the Renaissance and the Reformation continue to be felt in our daily lives.

## Application

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- Students will independently use their learning to understand that religious beliefs and customs can greatly affect daily life.
- Students will independently use their learning to see how civilizations grow and thrive when there is social, political, and economic stability.

## Skills

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Students will be skilled at:

- Analyzing the role of religion and other means rulers used to unify and centrally govern expanding territories with diverse populations.
- Determining the influence of medieval English legal and constitutional practices (i.e., the Magna Carta, parliament, and the development of habeas corpus and an independent judiciary) on modern democratic thought and institutions.
- Explaining how geography influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural centers of each empire and well as the empires' relationships with other parts of the world.
- Determining the extent to which interaction between the Islamic world and medieval Europe increased trade, enhanced technology innovation, and impacted scientific thought and the arts.
- Analyzing how religion both unified and divided people.
- Analyzing the role of religion and economics in shaping each empire's social hierarchy, and evaluate the impact these hierarchical structures had on the lives of various groups of people.
- Analyzing the causes and outcomes of the Crusades from different perspectives, including the perspectives of European political and religious leaders, the crusaders, Jews, Muslims, and traders.
- Assessing the demographic, economic, and religious impact of the plague on Europe.
- Determining which events led to the rise and eventual decline of European feudalism.
- Researching a person from the Renaissance and share ideas with classmates.