LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES



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Richard Lea produced this reconstruction drawing depicting peasant longhouses as they likely appeared in the English village of <u>Wharram Percy</u> around 1300. A cutaway, in the foreground, helps us to understand how the interior of such homes appeared. Copyright, <u>Historic England</u>, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

When Geoffrey <u>Chaucer</u> wrote about his "nine and twenty <u>pilgrims</u>" on their way to <u>Canterbury</u>, Europe was still in the midst of the Hundred Years' War. It was the same war that cost <u>Joan of Arc</u> her life in 1431.

As England battled France over what part of France England should <u>own</u>, people went about their daily business. <u>Lawyers</u> practiced law, merchants <u>traded</u> wares, and the Catholic <u>Church</u> endured a schism that saw the Pope move from Rome to Avignon, France.

Troubadour music was <u>popular</u>. (Follow this link to hear a sample.) Lutes and other <u>instruments</u> not well known today were fashionable. (Follow this link to <u>hear</u> them.)

Nobles lived in <u>castles</u>. (They were not always the fantastic, romantic places we imagine.) People in medieval villages lived in small houses with thatched roofs. Their homes were cold, damp and easily destroyed. The Feudal System was in place, predetermining the "order" of life in a structured society.

<u>Science</u>, medicine and the study of subjects like <u>meteorology</u> and <u>mineralogy</u> were, of course, not what they are today. When the Black Death killed entire villages, physicians were powerless to understand, diagnose, treat or prevent "the pestilence."

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LIFE-IN-THE-MIDDLE-AGES-Knight-s-Tale-A

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Media Stream

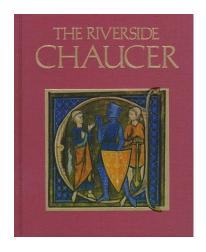


Peasant Homes in the Middle Ages

Reconstruction drawing by Richard Lea, depicting medieval-era peasant longhouses in Wharram Percy, Yorkshire, England. Copyright, <u>Historic England</u>, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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The Riverside Chaucer

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<u>Lawyers - From the Canterbury Tales</u>

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Medieval Life - Merchant Ships

Image online, courtesy Bibliotheque Nationale de France, from Bartholomaeus Anglicus (Bartholomew the Englishman), *On the Properties of Things* (BNF, FR 136)

fol. 26

Le Mans (France), 15th Century

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Papal Domination in the 12th and 13th Centuries

Image online, courtesy Penn State University.

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<u>Science in the Middle Ages - On Form and Matter</u>

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On form and matter.

(BNF, FR 136)

fol. 1

Bartholomaeus Anglicus (Bartholomew the Englishman), *On the Properties of Things* Le Mans, France - 15th Century

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Meteorology in the Middle Ages

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Meteorological phenomena.

(BNF, FR 136)

fol. 4v

Bartholomaeus Anglicus (Bartholomew the Englishman), *On the Properties of Things* Le Mans, France - 15th Century

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Mineralogy in the Middle Ages

Image online, courtesy Bibliotheque Nationale de France, identified as:

Mineralogy: precious stones

Bartholomaeus Anglicus (Bartholomew the Englishman), *On the Properties of Things* (BNF, FR 136)

fol. 73

Le Mans, France - 15th Century

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