KNIGHTS and CHIVALRY



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This illumination, from the last quarter of the 15th century, appears in the *Chronicles of Jean Froissart*. It depicts jousting in <u>Vannes</u> (a town in French Brittany) before Thomas of Woodstock (the Earl of Buckingham) and John V the Conqueror (also known as the Duke of Bretagne [Brittany]). The original work is maintained by the British Library. Click on the image for a full-page view.

Knights were part of the fabric of Middle-Ages life. Chaucer's famous story, <u>The Knight's Tale</u>, gives us romantic <u>account</u> of a knight's <u>existence</u>. (Follow the link to a summary of the tale at Harvard University's web site.)

Realistically, though, the life of a knight was not always glamorous or romantic. Loaded down with heavy <u>armor</u>, they rode horses capable of carrying at least 400 pounds.

Astride their protected mounts, knights would hone their <u>battle</u> skills by <u>hunting</u> and <u>jousting</u>. <u>Doing battle</u> in the "lists" (the place of <u>jousting</u>) was sometimes as <u>ferocious</u> as fighting the king's enemies.

One knight - known during his day as the greatest of all - was not someone else's vassal. He was Edward of Woodstock, the Prince of Wales, son of King Edward III.

Later he was known as "The Black Prince."

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

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/KNIGHTS-and-CHIVALRY-Knight-s-Tale-A

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/KNIGHTS-and-CHIVALRY-Knight-s-Tale-A

Media Stream



Knights Jousting in Brittany, France

Illumination appearing in the Chronicles of Jean Froissart, maintained at the British Library. Online via Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.

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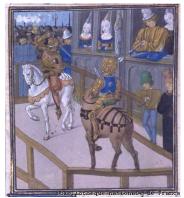


Chaucer - The Knight's Tale

Image online, courtesy the British Library.

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Middle Ages - Knight's Armor

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

Jousts of Betanzos (BNF, FR 2645) Jean Froissart, *Chronicles* fol. 187

From Bruges, 15th Century

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Medieval Knights - Honing Battle Skills

Image online, courtesy the Bibliotheque Nationale de France.

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Medieval Sports - Knights Jousting

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Middle Ages - A Jousting Tournament

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Book of the Hunt - Deer Hunting in the 15th Century

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Deer hunt.

(BNF, FR 616) fol. 85v Gaston Phoebus, *Book of the Hunt* Paris, 15th Century PD

Middle Ages - Death of a Knight

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(BNF, FR 2646) Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*fol. 21

From Bruges, 15th Century

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Edward III - King of England

Quoted passage from the Royal Monarchy web site's biography of $\underline{\text{King Edward III}}$. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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