

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

**-Week 1 (3/16/20 – 3/20/20):** Complete comprehension/writing assignments with dates of 3/16/20-3/20/20

**-Week 2 (3/30/20 – 4/3/30):** Complete IXL Reading online for 30 minutes daily. (Parents please initial daily log)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts (If no access to online)

**-Week 1 (3/16/20 – 3/20/20):** Complete comprehension/writing assignments with dates of 3/16/20-3/20/20

**-Week 2 (3/30/20 – 4/3/20):** Complete comprehension/writing assignment with dates of 3/30/20-4/3/20

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

**-Week 1 (3/16/20 – 3/20/20):** Complete assignments with dates of 3/16/20- 3/20/20

**-Week 2 (3/30/20 – 4/3/20):** Complete assignments with dates of 3/30/20- 4/3/20

**-There are no online assignments for social studies**

*Included in  
This  
packet*

3/16/20

mon

social studies

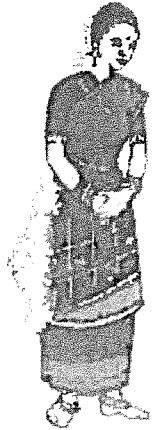


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## India - Traditions

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

- <sup>1</sup> Many Indian traditions are beautiful, many are unusual, and some are very strange. To many outsiders who have visited India over the years, the traditions and ceremonies of Indians are the most colorful parts of their trip.
- <sup>2</sup> India is a very religious country. Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and Sikhism are the most common religions in India. All of them have many traditions, ceremonies, and rituals that are important to Indian daily life. Many, if not most of India's celebrations and ceremonies, are based on one religion or another.
- <sup>3</sup> Most of India's population is Hindu. Hinduism is the main religion in India. It is also the oldest religion in the world. For India's Hindus, the happiest and most important festival of the year is Diwali--celebration of lights and fireworks. Diwali is celebrated to remember a number of Hindu gods. It is celebrated for five days in November. During this celebration candies and firecrackers are very common.
- <sup>4</sup> One festival, called Ganesh Chaturthi, is dedicated to the elephant-headed god Ganesh. It is held in August and September and celebrated all across India. Indians celebrate this holiday with firecrackers and religious worship. During the celebrations Indians also try very hard not to look at the moon!
- <sup>5</sup> There are many Muslims living in India. In fact, India's Muslim population is one of the largest Muslim populations in the world! Muslims in India celebrate the 10-day Muharram festival during April and May. They celebrate this festival with parades. Dedicated Muslims also whip themselves out of respect for the Muslim prophet Mohammed's grandson.
- <sup>6</sup> Varanasi is considered to be India's religious capital and is home to several important traditions. It is situated along the Ganges River. This river is sacred to many of India's Hindus. According to Hindu tradition, anyone who dies in Varanasi goes straight to heaven, regardless of his or her religious beliefs.
- <sup>7</sup> Varanasi is also home to many ghats--steps or paths that lead down to the Ganges River. Some ghats are used for ceremonial bathing. Others are used for cremation--the process of burning dead bodies. The most sacred "burning ghat" in all of India is located in Varanasi.
- <sup>8</sup> Movies also play an important role in Indian culture. Indians love watching movies and love making movies. Indian movies are very colorful, dramatic, and have a lot of music and dancing. Centered in Bombay, Indian cinema is known and respected throughout the world.



<sup>9</sup> India is home to more than one billion people, many of whom live in the cities. Because of the country's population, many parts of Indian cities are crowded. But because of India's rich culture, Indians make their cities--and the rest of their country--something very special and beautiful.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## India - Traditions

1. The Muharram festival is celebrated primarily by: <input type="radio"/> A Muslims <input type="radio"/> B Hindus <input type="radio"/> C Christians <input type="radio"/> D Sikhs	2. The most somber Hindu holiday is Diwali. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True
3. Ghats are: <input type="radio"/> A A kind of elephant <input type="radio"/> B Paths that lead down to a river used for ceremonies <input type="radio"/> C Indian trains <input type="radio"/> D Buildings used for worship	4. Indian cinema is centered in: <input type="radio"/> A Calcutta <input type="radio"/> B New Dehi <input type="radio"/> C Varanassi <input type="radio"/> D Bombay
5. During Ganesh Chaturthi, Indians try not to do what? <input type="radio"/> A Eat for one week <input type="radio"/> B Look at the moon <input type="radio"/> C Look at other people <input type="radio"/> D Sleep	6. The Ganges River is unimportant to Hindus. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True
7. "Burning ghats" are used for what purpose? <input type="radio"/> A Cremations <input type="radio"/> B Washing <input type="radio"/> C Cooking food <input type="radio"/> D Dancing	8. India is a very religious country. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True

3/17/20 TUES

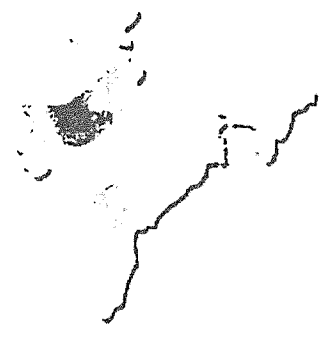
social studies

edHelper.

# India - Geography

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

India is a beautiful and interesting country in southern Asia. Throughout history, many people have traveled thousands of miles to visit India. Many people have also written books about the people, plants, and animals of India. One of the most famous of these writers was a man named Rudyard Kipling. He wrote a story about a little Indian boy named Mowgli.



You may have already heard Mowgli's story. The book is called "The Jungle Book." Mowgli was raised by wolves and was taught the ways of life by different jungle animals. Mowgli found friends in a bear named Baloo and a black panther named Bagheera.

The animals in "The Jungle Book" are very common in India. Lions, tigers, leopards, panthers, monkeys and elephants can be found in India's many jungles. Elephants have been especially important to Indians.

Elephants are giant grey animals with long noses. Their huge size and great strength makes them very useful for carrying things. For many years Indians have used elephants to carry heavy loads and to travel.

India also produces some of the greatest tea and spices in the world. Many years ago, explorers from all over the world traveled to India. Explorers like Vasco da Gama wanted to bring some of India's tea, spices, and gold home with them to sell. You probably know the story of Columbus and his trip to the Americas in 1492. But did you know that Columbus was really trying to sail to India?

Many people in India live in small towns. There are also many big cities in India. India's capital city, New Delhi, is in the northern part of the country. Did you know that more than one billion people live in India? That's more than all the people of the United States and Europe combined!

To the north, India is surrounded by the Himalayan Mountains. These mountains are some of the tallest in the world. To the southwest and southeast, India is surrounded by water. Because of the mountains and the seas, the weather in India can be very interesting. Changing winds--called monsoons--are common in India. These monsoons sometimes bring lots of storms and rain with them. In fact, one of the wettest cities in the world is in India!

Because of everything India has to offer, it is one of the most important and most exciting countries in all of Asia.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## India - Geography

1. Rudyard Kipling wrote The Jungle Book. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True	2. Monsoons are: <input type="radio"/> A A kind of fruit <input type="radio"/> B Boats used to sail to India <input type="radio"/> C A group of people in India <input type="radio"/> D Changing winds
3. Some of the greatest tea and spices in the world come from India. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True	4. Indians use what animals to help carry things? <input type="radio"/> A Elephants <input type="radio"/> B Lions <input type="radio"/> C Panthers <input type="radio"/> D Monkeys
5. What is India's capital? <input type="radio"/> A New Delhi <input type="radio"/> B Peshawar <input type="radio"/> C Bombay <input type="radio"/> D Calcutta	6. In The Jungle Book, Mowgli was raised by: <input type="radio"/> A His parents <input type="radio"/> B Strangers <input type="radio"/> C Wolves <input type="radio"/> D Crocodiles
7. The population of India is less than one billion. <input type="radio"/> A False <input type="radio"/> B True	8. To the southwest and southeast, India is surrounded by: <input type="radio"/> A Deserts <input type="radio"/> B Jungles <input type="radio"/> C Mountains <input type="radio"/> D Water

# The History of Hinduism

By Colleen Messina

5/12/2016 Wed  
3/18/20 Wed  
social studies

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Hinduism is so old that no one knows exactly how it began. Most scholars think that it began about 3,000 years ago near the Indus River of northwestern India. It spread across India and then to the rest of Asia. Even though some Asian countries later made Islam or Buddhism their state religion, Hinduism is still the major religion of the people of India. Colorful roadside shrines and the tinkling of temple bells in Asia are constant reminders of Hinduism.



Hinduism has no original founder and no single holy text. The first Hindu teachers were called Brahmins. They passed down the teachings of Hinduism through oral stories at first. Later, the stories became the Rig-Veda, which was written down in 1,500 B.C. These teachings may have come from a people called the Aryans whose language may have been the predecessor of Sanskrit.

The Aryans were nomadic warriors who dominated northern India between 3,000 and 1,500 B.C. Later, they moved down into southern India where they met powerful local tribes. We don't know a lot about the Aryans because they left no cities behind for archaeologists to study. These nomads finally settled near the Ganges River around 400 B.C.

In the centuries before the birth of Christ, a mysterious author/authors (or authoress/authoresses) wrote two important Hindu scriptures, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Both of these epic poems tell stories involving kings and conflicts. They convey many truths in an entrancing, poetic form. During these centuries, India was divided into kingdoms that were ruled by rich princes.

A certain order of society in India was firmly established. This became known as the caste system, and it was based on another ancient Hindu text called the Bhagavad-Gita. The legend said that out of the mouth of a god came the scholars and priests. Rulers and warriors came from the god's arms. From the god's thighs came the merchants and farmers. The servants and laborers came from the god's feet. A last group, called the "untouchables," performed some of the most menial labor in society, such as cleaning bathrooms and sweeping the streets.

The caste system dominated Indian society for centuries. Hindus thought that if they earned good karma, they would be born into a higher caste in their next life. Some Hindus believed that this system helped their society run well for hundreds of years. They believed that it made things easier because everyone had certain duties to perform. If you were born into the laborer caste, you were

Page 1 of 1

expected to work with your hands. Those who opposed this system said that it was wrong because people's abilities were not always inherited. The caste system still influences Indian society today.

In addition to the caste system, Hindus lived by a code of ethics written down by an Indian sage named Patanjali. He lived in about 200 B.C., and he wrote a list of five things that people should do and five ways in which people should exercise restraint. The things people should do are called *niyamas*, and include being pure in body, mind, and speech. The *yamas* are what people should not do, and include lying and stealing. His ideas became important elements of daily life, but no one forced Hindus to follow these rules.

<sup>8</sup> Hinduism is not a religion of force. It was not spread through conquest or aggression. By its very nature, Hinduism is fluid and tolerant of many types of spiritual paths. Hinduism advocates achieving one's spiritual potential, but recognizes that there is more than one way to accomplish this goal. Instead, it focuses on the spirit rather than rigid rules or ceremonies. Its history does not have dramatic battle scenes or massive conversions, and Hinduism reached its height around 350 A.D. in what was called its Golden Age.

<sup>9</sup> Hinduism's recognition of the spirit behind all things is evident in the wistful words of the Bhagavad-Gita:

*"Never the spirit was born,  
The spirit shall cease to be never.  
Changeless the spirit remains,  
Birthless and deathless forever."*

<sup>10</sup> Hindus have faced domination by other peoples during their long history. Two excellent examples of this were the Muslim invasion of India in the 8th century, and the control of India by the British until the early 20th century. During the 8th century, Hinduism faced severe challenges. Islamic invaders destroyed many temples and villages in northern India and tried to introduce Islam. In spite of these invasions, most Hindus still clung to their religion rather than convert. Unfortunately, many Hindus suffered under the Muslim conquerors through excessive taxation and persecution.

<sup>11</sup> Hinduism survived because it was not just a belief system. It was a way of life for the Indians. Hinduism survived under different Mogul emperors partly of the idea of *bhakti*, or devotion and surrender to a particular god. This attitude enabled the Hindus to endure their persecution. In spite of many hardships, some elements of Islam and Hinduism intertwined in a positive way. Islamic art and architecture became common in India, and many Muslims also adopted Hindu art



and culture.

<sup>12</sup> Another example of external domination of the Hindus occurred during the British control of India from the 17th to the early 20th century. The word "Hinduism" was first used in the early 1800s. Christian missionaries came to India to convert the Hindus to Christianity. While the missionaries were sincere in their efforts, they were not sensitive to the ancient Indian culture, and their message was not received well. During this time, other reformers advocated positive change and growth in some elements of Hinduism. Two important reformers were Ramakrishna, a 19th century teacher, and Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the independence movement of India in the early 20th century. Gandhi used many ideas from the Bhagavad-Gita in his life's work.

<sup>13</sup> India became independent in 1947 and became a secular country. Hinduism is still practiced by 80% of the Indian population and has about 800 million followers worldwide. Nepal is the only official Hindu state, but the influence of Hinduism is seen everywhere in Southeast Asia. Some ideas from Hinduism, such as karma and reincarnation, show up in movies and late-night television. As one comedian says, "Don't worry! If you don't believe in reincarnation this time around, you'll get another chance!"

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The History of Hinduism

<p>1. Which ancient people were the possible originators of Hinduism?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The Shivans</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The Sumerians</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The Asians</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D The Aryans</p>	<p>2. What is the name of the social structure of India in the past?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The pecking order</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B The hierarchy</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C The caste system</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D The social ladder</p>
<p>3. Which of the following are true statements about Hinduism? Check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A We know exactly when Hinduism began.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B Hinduism has more than one sacred text.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C Hinduism is an aggressive religion.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D The Rig-Veda was an ancient Hindu prophet.</p>	<p>4. Who wrote down the Hindu code of ethics?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Gandhi</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Patanjali</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Buddha</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D King Indra</p>
<p>5. Which country controlled India in the 19th century?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The United States</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B China</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Britain</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Russia</p>	<p>6. What is the antonym of the word, "secular?"</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Worldly</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Cultural</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Religious</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Political</p>
<p>7. What is the official religion of the country of India today?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Hinduism</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Buddhism</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Islam</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D It is a secular state.</p>	<p>8. Who was the leader of the independence movement in India?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Ramakrishna</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Gandhi</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Paul Revere</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Patanjali</p>

## Japan

### Section 3



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. Samurai and shoguns took over Japan as emperors lost influence.
2. Samurai warriors lived honorably.
3. Order broke down when the power of the shoguns was challenged by invaders and rebellions.
4. Strong leaders took over and reunified Japan.

## Key Terms and People

**daimyo** large landowner

**samurai** trained professional warriors

**figurehead** a person who appears to rule though real power rests with someone else

**shogun** a general who ruled Japan in the emperor's name

**Bushido** the strict samurai code of rules

## Section Summary

### SAMURAI AND SHOGUNS TAKE OVER JAPAN

While the Heian court flourished, order was breaking down in Japanese society. By the late 1100s, powerful nobles were openly at war. Rebels fought against imperial officials. Japan's rulers did not notice the problems growing in their country.

Japan's large landowners, or **daimyo** (DY-mee-oh), decided they could not rely on the emperor to protect them. They hired **samurai** (SA-muh-ry), trained professional warriors, to defend their property. Several noble clans decided to seize power themselves.

Two of these clans fought each other fiercely for 30 years. Finally, the head of the Minamoto clan declared himself Japan's new ruler. The Minamoto leader kept the emperor on as a **figurehead**. The Minamoto leader took the title **shogun**. He ruled in

**Underline the phrase that explains why the daimyo went out and hired their own protection in the late 1100s.**

**To what clan did Japan's first shogun belong?**

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### Section 3, *continued*

the emperor's name. When he died, he passed his title and power on to one of his children. For about the next 700 years, Japan was ruled by shoguns.

**Circle how many years the shoguns would rule Japan.**

### **SAMURAI LIVE HONORABLY**

The samurai enjoyed many privileges, but also had to follow a strict code of rules called **Bushido** (booh-shi-doh). Loyalty and honor were central to this code. Both men and women of samurai families learned to fight.

### **ORDER BREAKS DOWN**

The shoguns, with the help of the samurai, kept order in Japan for nearly a century. Slowly that order broke down. Two foreign invasions by the Mongols were stopped, but the authority of the shoguns weakened. Increasingly, nobles began to resent the shoguns' power over them. The daimyo and the emperor worked together to limit the power of the shogun.

**Why do you think the emperor might resent the power of the shoguns?**

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### **STRONG LEADERS TAKE OVER**

Eventually, new leaders rose to power. Each fought to unify all of Japan under his control. The first to restore the power of the shogun was Oda Nobunaga (ohd-ah noh-booh-nah-gah), who ruled half of Japan by 1582. Other shoguns who followed stabilized Japanese rule. The shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu (toh-koohg-ah-wuh ee-e-yahs-oo) sent emissaries out to the world. Others, however, feared the intrusion of foreigners. In 1630, the reigning shogun closed off Japan completely. This extended the samurai period until the 1800s.

**Which shogun opened Japan up the world?**

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### **CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** You are an ordinary Japanese citizen living in the Middle Ages. To whom do you pledge the highest allegiance—the gods, the emperor, the shogun, or the samurai who work for them? Explain your reasoning in a one-page essay.

## Japan

### Section 1



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. Geography shaped life in Japan.
2. Early Japanese society was organized in clans, which came to be ruled by an emperor.
3. Japan learned about language, society, and government from China and Korea.

## Key Terms and People

**clans** extended families

**Shinto** the traditional religion of Japan, based on the belief that everything in nature has a spirit

**Prince Shotoku** popular Japanese ruler who brought many Chinese ideas to Japan

**regent** someone who rules for someone who is unable rule alone

## Section Summary

### GEOGRAPHY SHAPES LIFE IN JAPAN

The islands of Japan are the tops of undersea mountains and volcanoes. Because it is difficult to live and farm on mountain slopes, most Japanese people have always lived in the few flat areas along the coastal plains.

The nearness of the sea means that seafood has been a key part of the Japanese diet for thousands of years. Isolation has contributed to a distinctive Japanese culture, although the Japanese have been influenced by nearby Korea and China.

### EARLY JAPANESE SOCIETY

Early Japan was home to two different cultures, neither of which had much—if any—contact with the rest of Asia. The Ainu (EYE-noo), with a look and language distinct from the rest of Asia, were driven by conflict to the northern island of Hokkaido. Over time, the Ainu culture almost disappeared.

Why is most of Japan's land hilly, and not flat?

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What geographic feature is probably the main reason why Japan's early culture was so distinct from that of other parts of Asia?

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**Section 1, continued**

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The people living to the south of the Ainu eventually became the Japanese. They lived mostly in small farm villages. **Clans**, or extended families, ruled these villages. They practiced religious rituals that became **Shinto**, the traditional religion of Japan. According to this tradition, everything in nature has a spirit, or *kami* (KAH-mee).

Some clans became so powerful that they took over much of Japan. The Yamato rulers were the first clan to call themselves emperors of Japan.

**JAPAN LEARNS FROM CHINA AND KOREA**

By the mid-500s, Japanese rulers yearned to learn new things. They sent emissaries to Korea and China to learn about those cultures. Chinese culture was very influential in Japan. With no written language of their own, the Japanese used Chinese characters to spell out Japanese sounds and words. Chinese was actually Japan's official language from about 500 to about 1100.

**Prince Shotoku** (shoh-toh-koo), who served as **regent** for his aunt the empress, was a major proponent of Chinese culture. Shotoku had advisors introduce the Chinese philosophy of Confucianism to Japan. He also encouraged the spread of Buddhism. Shotoku's attempt to bring a more absolute, Chinese-style of rule to Japan did not fare as well. Clan leaders opposed it. They were afraid to give up their power. Prince Shotoku died without achieving his goals. Later rulers put many of his ideas in practice, though.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** Why do you think the Japanese were so interested in learning from the Chinese and the Koreans? Write a one-page essay describing specific examples of what China and other cultures offered that Japan did not have at the time.

**What was the unit of political life in early Japan?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**For about how many centuries was Chinese the official language of Japan?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Underline the sentence that explains why the clan leaders did not want a Chinese-style rule.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Christianity

By Sharon Fabian

When you look at a picture of a medieval town, what do you see at the town's center? Often, you will see a Christian cathedral. With its tall spires reaching toward heaven, the cathedral dominated the landscape in many small towns of the Middle Ages. This is not a surprise, since Christianity was the dominant religion in Europe during that time.

Christianity was not the only religion in Europe in the Middle Ages. There were Jews, Muslims, and pagans in Europe too, but as the Middle Ages progressed, Christianity established itself as the religion of Europe's Middle Ages.

How did that happen? Christianity had already been growing for hundreds of years in the Roman Empire, and when the Roman Empire collapsed, Christianity continued. Then, during the Middle Ages, Christian leaders began to gain power again. As new countries were formed, Christian leaders were often in charge. In the Middle Ages, "Church" and "State" were not kept separate as they are in many places now.

The Pope, the leader of the Catholic Church, became the most powerful leader in Europe. Popes sometimes even crowned kings and queens. The great leader, Charlemagne, was crowned emperor by the Pope.

As the Catholic Church was gaining in size and power, it was also continuing to develop its religious beliefs. In some cases, groups of Christians in different places developed different beliefs. That is why, in 1054, the Catholic Church split into two parts -- the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. Both of these branches have continued to have their own beliefs and their own leaders to the present day. The Eastern Orthodox Church was dominant only in far eastern Europe.

Roman Catholics of the Middle Ages shared the belief that there was one God, and that he created the universe. They believed that God sent his son, Jesus, to Earth to save mankind. They believed that God wanted his people to meet for worship. They believed that it was their religious duty to convert others to Christianity.

Roman Catholics believed in the Bible - both the Old Testament, which dated back to the time before Jesus was born, and the New Testament, which contained Jesus' teachings as told by his apostles.

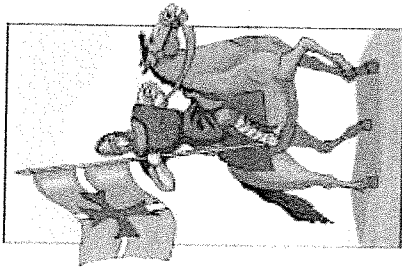
Their beliefs led to several developments, which have become part of the history of the Middle Ages. One was the building of magnificent cathedrals for worship. Another was the Crusades, military campaigns to take back Palestine, the Christian "Holy Land," from the Muslims. A third development was the creation of religious orders of monks and nuns who made it their career to do the work of the Church.

The Roman Catholic Church continued to dominate religious life in Europe throughout the Middle Ages, but as the Middle Ages declined, so did the power of the Church. Some people felt that it was time for a change and began to call for reform. In the years to come, the Christian Church would be divided yet again.

### Christianity

## Questions

1. The main religion in Europe during the Middle Ages was the \_\_\_\_\_ religion.  
A. Muslim  
B. pagan  
C. Christian or Catholic  
D. Jewish
2. During the Middle Ages, a church leader would never have been chosen as the leader of a country.  
A. false  
B. true





Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Write what you know about one of the following: medieval Crusades, medieval cathedrals, medieval monks and nuns.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. There were no Jews, Muslims, or pagans in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- A. false  
B. true
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Monks and nuns made a career of doing the work of the Church.
- A. true  
B. false
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church separated during the Middle Ages.
- A. true  
B. false
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Christians believe in only the Old Testament of the Bible.
- A. true  
B. false
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Christians believe that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the son of God  
B. a prophet  
C. a medieval priest  
D. an apostle
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. All of the following, except for \_\_\_\_\_, were directly related to Christianity in medieval Europe.
- A. the Crusades  
B. monks and nuns  
C. cathedrals  
D. castles

[illegible]





**Christianity was an important element of the Middle Ages. Write about one event or practice in the Middle Ages that demonstrates that Christianity was important in the lives of medieval people.**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Lords and Ladies

By Sharon Fabian

3/31/20  
Social Studies

At the beginning of the Middle Ages, Europe wasn't divided into countries as it is today. Smaller areas were each controlled by the leader of the tribe that had conquered the area. Eventually, some tribal leaders became more powerful than others, and the land that they controlled became larger and larger. When their land became very large, it became known as a kingdom, and the tribal leader became known as the king.

It was too difficult for the king to oversee everything that went on in his kingdom. He needed help. So he subdivided his land into smaller parcels and named a ruler for each part. These rulers, who were next in charge after the king, were known as lords, and their wives were known as ladies.

This system of sharing the power worked out well for the lords and also for the king. The lords gained a large piece of land, known as a fief, and the power to rule it. The king, in return, received a pledge of loyalty from his lords. This method of ruling the land and its people became known as the feudal system.

Under the feudal system, every lord pledged loyalty, or homage, to the king. He agreed to always support the king; he agreed to provide troops of knights ready to fight when needed; and he promised to do a good job of governing his part of the kingdom.

These pledges put a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of the lords.

Having a large group of knights ready to fight at all times was a big job. The knights had to be trained, and they had to stay in practice. Their horses and equipment had to be kept ready. The lord was in charge of overseeing all of these activities.

Governing his estate was also a big job. Many peasants worked on the land. Many more worked in the shops and in the lord's castle. The lord was the manager of it all. He had to make sure that everything got done and that all of the people were taken care of.

Sometimes problems arose on the estate. Then, the lord acted as a judge, holding court to settle the disputes.

When the king called, the lord had to drop everything else and go to serve his king. When this happened, his wife, the lady of the castle, stepped in to manage the estate. She governed while the lord was away.

The lady of the castle had other duties too. She cared for her children and taught them while they were very young. Sometimes she oversaw the care and education of children from other noble families who were sent to stay on her estate. She entertained guests when they came to stay at the castle. She also was in charge of the household at all times, managing the kitchen, the meals, and the family accounts. Some ladies were even called on to lead their subjects in defending the castle if it was attacked while the lord was away.

The children of the lord and the lady had a much different life than children today. Often, they were sent away to another castle to be educated. Children were not expected to stay at home and be spoiled after the first few years of their life. They had to be educated and learn to deal with the world early on, because childhood lasted only a short time in medieval society. Many children were already engaged to be married before their teenage years. Most were married by the age of twelve to fourteen. Once they were married, it was time to take on adult responsibilities. Since the fiefs were passed down from fathers to sons, the boys would one day soon be rulers of their own land. The girls would marry the sons of other nobles and become the ladies of their own castles.

The feudal system lasted throughout the Middle Ages. Under this system, the peasants could feel a little bit safer within the walls of their lord's castle, and the king could feel a little bit safer too with his lords and knights always at the ready. In an uncertain time like the Middle Ages, the feudal system provided some welcome security.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lords and Ladies

## Questions

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The ruler of a feudal estate was known as a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. king
- B. knight
- C. lord
- D. none of the above

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The wife of a lord was known as a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. princess
- B. lady
- C. queen
- D. duchess

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Lords had to pledge loyalty to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the king
- B. their wife
- C. their children
- D. their knights

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Lords would leave their estate whenever \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. they went to school
- B. they needed to buy supplies
- C. the king called for them
- D. invaders attacked their castle

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Children of lords and ladies were often educated \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. at another castle
- B. at home
- C. at local schools
- D. with the peasant children

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Kings appointed lords because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. lords could rule better than the king could
- B. they needed help when they were away
- C. they needed help ruling a large kingdom
- D. they wanted to share their land

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ was/were in charge of managing the household of the castle.

- A. the lady
- B. the daughters
- C. the lord
- D. the sons

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. According to the information in this article, you can infer that feudalism continued after the Middle Ages.

- A. false
- B. true

**Explain what the term "feudal system" means.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Suppose that you were the lord or lady of a feudal estate. Make up a calendar showing what you would do in one week. Think about all of the responsibilities of a lord or a lady mentioned in this article, and then add in details about specific things that you would need to do.**

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social studies

4/1/20 wed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Barbarians Invade Rome!

By Sharon Fabian

The Roman Empire, at its height, extended across much of Europe, but even then there were other groups of people who were not part of the Roman Empire living in Europe too. Many of these groups, called tribes, lived in the far north. Others lived in various parts of Europe not occupied by the Roman Empire.

The barbarian tribes, as many of them were known, didn't like the idea of settling down and farming. They preferred a roaming, warlike lifestyle. Due to climate changes and other factors, many of the tribes began to migrate closer to the Roman Empire and sometimes even settle within the borders of the empire. This eventually led to conflicts between the tribes and the Romans.

The Romans were used to being victorious in their clashes with various tribes, but this didn't happen every time. In the late 300s AD, one tribe, the Visigoths, was being threatened by another tribe, the Huns. The Huns pushed the Visigoths further into Roman territory. This brought the Visigoths into more conflicts with the Romans. Eventually, it led to a big battle at Adrianople. This battle, in 376 AD, showed that the invaders had the strength to defeat Roman soldiers.

In 395 AD, Visigoth troops, led by Alaric I, invaded Italy and Greece. By the year 410, they attacked the city of Rome itself. There they killed Roman citizens, laid waste to buildings, and robbed the city. By 412, they had attacked Spain and parts of present day France, too.

Meanwhile, the Huns had defeated another tribe, the Ostrogoths, and were threatening Rome. The Huns were especially feared. They were masters at fighting on horseback. They could shoot down enemies with their bows and arrows while riding at top speed. Rumor had it that they sacrificed their captives to their own gods of war. The Huns crossed the Danube River and attacked Greece and the Roman Empire. The Romans fought back and forced the Huns to retreat.

But the power of Rome was weakening. By the late 400s, Rome was no longer the mighty power that it had once been. In 476, the Hun leader, Odoacer, seized power in the western half of the Roman Empire and declared himself king of Italy.

The eastern half of the Roman Empire tried to take power back in the west by sending troops, under the leadership of King Theodoric of the Ostrogoths, to fight Odoacer. The Ostrogoths killed Odoacer, and Theodoric became the new leader of Italy.

The Roman Empire in the east continued, but Roman rule in the west had come to an end. Europe entered into an era of uncertainty. Rulers changed frequently, as one leader attacked and defeated another. Invasions, attacks, and feuds were commonplace. It was the beginning of the Middle Ages.

Today, when we hear of Huns, we picture wild-eyed, long-haired, screaming invaders.

The Goths also achieved a bad reputation. Maybe it was their scary look, too. Maybe it was that the Roman Empire was the good guy, and someone had to be the bad guy. However it happened, the word *gothic* developed bad connotations. That's why, later on, some of the scarier elements of the Middle Ages became known as gothic. Dark, spooky castles were called gothic. Stories set in dark, spooky castles, like *Dracula*, were called gothic, too.

The early part of the Middle Ages is often portrayed as the time when the Roman Empire collapsed and barbarian attacks were an everyday event. It has been called the Dark Ages.

Barbarians Invade Rome!

## Questions

1. Barbarian tribes included all of the following **except** \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Visigoths
  - B. Ostrogoths
  - C. Romans
  - D. Huns



Name \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Middle Ages began as the \_\_\_\_\_ ended.

- A. Ostrogoth Empire
- B. Eastern Empire
- C. Roman Empire
- D. Dark Ages

3. Alaric I was a \_\_\_\_\_ leader.

- A. Roman  
B. Ostrogoth  
C. Visigoth  
D. Hun

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. King Theodoric was a \_\_\_\_\_ leader.

- A. Roman  
B. Hun  
C. Visigoth  
D. Ostrogoth

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ were known for the skills at fighting on horseback.

- A. Romans
- B. Huns
- C. Ostrogoths
- D. Visigoths

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ half of the Roman Empire ended first.

- A. western  
B. northern  
C. southern  
D. eastern

7. Feuds and fights were \_\_\_\_\_ in the Middle Ages

- A. frequent  
B. rare  
C. uncommon  
D. unknown

8. The word *gothic* comes from the name of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. barbarian tribe
  - B. Roman city
  - C. Roman leader
  - D. Middle Ages' castle

**What do you already know about the Middle Ages? Write whatever comes to mind when you hear "Middle Ages."**

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CNN 10 Student  
News 4/2/20 & 4/3/20

Write a summary  
for each day 3-21  
sentences.

- 4/2/20 Thursday

- 4/3/20 Friday