

Grade 4, Unit 2 Knights and Castles: Europe's Middle Ages

In this unit, students will learn about the Middle Ages in Europe.

What's the story?

Students will explore Europe's medieval history and will analyze the impact it has had on the modern world.

What will my student learn?

Students will continue to build their **background knowledge** to help them **comprehend** the variety of complex texts they will be reading. They will also engage in **deep conversations** with their peers to further develop their understanding of the world around them.

Students will have numerous **writing** opportunities throughout this unit. They will **review the stages of the writing process** by taking notes on the information presented in their Reader. They will use this information to write an informative paragraph that compares two social classes, or groups, from medieval Europe.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is the Middle Ages?
Follow up: Why is it called that?
2. What do you think were some of the positive things about living in towns during the Middle Ages?
Follow up: What were some negative things?
3. You learned about the word *rival* (i.e., competing). Can you tell me what *rival* means by using it in a sentence?
Follow up: What is an antonym (opposite meaning) of *rival*? And a synonym (same meaning)?
4. How did an aspiring knight prepare for knighthood?
Follow up: What do you think would have been the hardest thing about the preparation?
5. What type of craftsmen existed in the Middle Ages?
Follow up: What type of craftsman would you have wanted to be?