

Name:  
Date:  
Class/Block:

**Read the following documents and answer the questions that accompany them.**

**Document 1**

In *The Middle Ages*, historian Frantz Funck-Brentano made use of previously published texts to describe Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries (Heinemann, 1922, pp.1-3).

The barbarians have broken through the ramparts. The Saracen (Moors) invasions have spread in successive waves over the South. The Hungarians swarm over the Eastern provinces...they sacked town and village, and laid waste the fields. They burned down the churches and then departed with a crowd of captives...There is no longer any trade, only unceasing terror...The peasant has abandoned his ravaged fields to avoid the violence of anarchy. The people have gone to cower in the depths of the forests or in inaccessible regions, or have taken refuge in the high mountains...Society has no longer any government.

Question: What is life like during the Middle Ages according to this document?

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Choose which of these labels best fits this document (make a check):

Doc	The Dark Ages	Age of Feudalism	Age of Faith	Golden Age
1				

**Document 2**

This excerpt is from the Homage Oath taken by John of Toul.

I, John of Toul, make known that I am the liege man of the (count and countless of Champagne)...I will aid the count of Champagne in my own person, and will send to the count and countess of Champagne the knights whose service I owe to them for the fief which I told them..."

Question: Who is saying this? Why is he saying this? What does it mean?

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Choose which of these labels best fits this document (make a check):

Doc	The Dark Ages	Age of Feudalism	Age of Faith	Golden Age
2				

### Document 3

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells of invasion of England.

842	In this year there was a great slaughter in London and Quentavic and in Rochester
846	According to their custom the Northmen plundered...and burned the town of Dordrecht...the Northmen, with their boats filled with immense booty, including both men and goods, returned to their own country...

Question: What is this news report writing about? What's happening in England?

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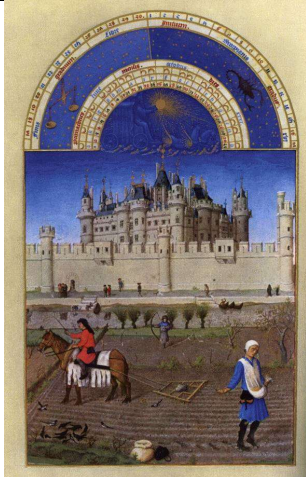
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3				

### Document 4

Vassal to lord:		Lord to vassal:
Obligation		Obligation
Loyalty		Protection
Military Service		Land (fief)
Ransom (if needed)		



Question: What do the two pictures show about the relationship between lord and vassal?

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Choose which of these labels best fits this document (make a check):

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4				

### Document 5

A Church council calls for the observance of the Truce of God, 1083.

...That from the first day of the Advent of our Lord through Epiphany...and throughout the year on every Sunday, Friday, and Saturday, and on the fast days of the four seasons...this decree of peace shall be observed...so that no one may commit murder, arson, robbery, or assaults, no one may injure another with a sword, club, or any kind of weapon...On...every day set aside, or to be set aside, for fasts or feasts, arms may be carried, but on this condition, that no injury shall be done in any way to any one...If it shall happen that any castle is besieged during the days which are included within the peace, the besiegers shall cease from attack unless they are set upon by the besieged and compelled to beat the latter back...

Question: What is the Church asking for? Why?

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5				

### Document 6

This excerpt describes the Middle Ages. (From Gray C. Boyce, "The Medieval Period" in *The 34<sup>th</sup> Yearbook of the National Council for the Social Studies*, 1964, pp. 69-70).

...we learn that an age once traditionally described as "dark" had remarkable vitality and exuberance. Even at its worst it performed the function of guarding, frequently by accident and chance, the knowledge and treasures of what had come before, but even more it was creative and inventive, and transmitted to later ages great riches of its own.

Question: What was life like during the Middle Ages according to the document?

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6				

**Document 7**

This description of the positive aspects of the Middle Ages was taken from *Medieval Europe* by H.C. Davis, Oxford University Press, 1946, p. 79.

...Medieval culture was imperfect, was restricted to a narrow circle of superior minds...Measure it, by the memories and the achievements that it has bequeathed to the modern world, and it will be found not unworthy to rank with those of earlier and later Golden Ages. It flourished in the midst of rude surroundings, fierce passions, and material ambitions...we must judge of them by their philosophy and law, by their poetry and architecture...

Question: What was life like during the Middle Ages according to the document?

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7				

**Document 8**

This excerpt is from the monastic vows of Brother Gerald.

I hereby renounce my parents, my brothers and relatives, my friends, my possessions...and the vain and empty glory and pleasure of this world. I also renounce my own will, for the will of God. I accept all the hardships of the monastic life, and take the vows of purity, chastity, and poverty, in the hope of heaven; and I promise to remain a monk in this monastery all the days of my life.

Question: Who is talking in the document? What is he saying? Why?

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8				

**Document 9**

In 1095, Pope Urban II issued a call for a holy crusade—a war to recapture the Holy Land.

...Your brethren who live in the (Middle) East are in urgent need of your help...For, as most of you have heard, the Turks and the Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania (the Byzantine Empire)...They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians...They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the Empire...all who dies by the way, whether by land or sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins.

Question: Why does the Pope make this speech? What happens as a result of the speech?

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Choose which of these labels best fits this document (make a check):

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9				

**Document 10**



Question: What do you notice about the architecture of the churches? What does it tell you about the time period?

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Choose which of these labels best fits this document (make a check):

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10				

### Document 11

#### The Black Death

From Agnolo di Tura, of Siena:

"The mortality in Siena began in May. It was a cruel and horrible thing...It seemed that almost everyone became stupefied seeing the pain. It is impossible for the human tongue to recount the awful truth. Indeed, one who did not see such horribleness can be called blessed. The victims died almost immediately. They would swell beneath the armpits and in the groin, and fall over while talking. Father abandoned child, wife, husband, one brother another; for this illness seemed to strike through breath and sight. And so they died. None could be found to bury the dead for money or friendship. Members of a household brought their dead to a ditch as best they could, without priest, without divine offices. In many places in Siena great pits were dug and piled deep with the multitude of dead. And they died by the hundreds, both day and night, and all were thrown in those ditches and covered with earth. And as soon as those ditches were filled, more were dug. I, Agnolo di Tura...buried my five children with my own hands...And so many died that all believed it was the end of the world.

Question: What is the Black Death? How did it affect the people of the Middle Ages?

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11				

### Document 12

The medieval university did not limit itself to the study of metaphysics, theology, law, and medicine. It also contributed significantly to the advance of science. That the curriculum in medicine concentrated on what passed as scientific studies is understandable. Yet even in the arts curriculum the student gained some acquaintance with astronomy, physics, meteorology, geometry, optics, mathematics, and what the Middle Ages called natural philosophy but the modern world knows as natural science in general. Roger Bacon even recommended the study of techniques employed by artisans and alchemists. And when he declared that the study of theoretical sciences was justified principally by the use man made of them, he sounded thoroughly modern.

Question: What was learned and/or discussed during the Middle Ages? How did it effect?

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12				

