

When and where?

Historians divide the Middle Ages into three different periods.

Early Middle Ages, 590–1000 CE

Also known as the European Dark Ages, the Early Middle Ages began with the fall of Rome.

Germanic peoples (such as the Vikings, the Angles, the Saxons and the Franks) began to invade the Western Roman Empire. Roman cities were toppled and new rulers took over. The **Islamic Empire** spread from the Arabian Peninsula, invading much of Spain and Northern Africa. Charlemagne led the Franks and with the **Catholic Church** created the Holy Roman Empire. Eventually the Western Roman Empire lost its dominance over Europe and was replaced by the Eastern Roman Empire (also known as the Byzantine Empire).

High Middle Ages, 1000–1200 CE

By about 1000 CE, Europe as we know it today had begun to take shape. The Norman Conquest led by William the Conqueror in 1066 CE led to the creation of France, England and Germany. Farming did very well in Western Europe, and towns and regions became wealthy and built up their resources. Disagreements within the Catholic Church led to a serious split within the Church. During the High Middle Ages there was also a lot of fighting between Christian armies and the Islamic Empire over holy places such as Jerusalem. These wars are known as the **Crusades**.


Late Middle Ages, 1200–1500 CE

The Late Middle Ages saw the end of the great growth and wealth of the High Middle Ages. **Famines** and **plagues** such as the Black Death killed millions of people. Poor people began to **revolt** against the unfair laws and conditions they had to put up with, such as in the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 in England. This was a period of great **civil unrest**, but it was also the beginning of strong interest in literature and the arts.

A medieval timeline

Activity sheet – Introducing Medieval Europe

Achieve!

-  **1** Read the Resource sheet 'When and where?'. Below are some important medieval dates and events. Choose the correct words and fill in the blanks.
- 1066 CE** The Norman invasion of England by _____ (Paul, Tom, William) the Conqueror
- 1346 CE** The _____ (Pink, Black, Green) Death reaches Europe
- 1096 CE** The first crusade is fought. The Crusades were fought between _____ (Christian, Christmas, Christ) armies and the Islamic Empire.
- 711 CE** The _____ (Australian, Islamic, American) Empire conquers Spain (then known as Hispania)
- 395–476 CE** The _____ (Rise, Fall) of the Western Roman Empire.
- 1381 CE** Peasants in England revolt against _____ (unfair, fair) laws and living conditions.
- 2** Place each of the events listed in Question 1 beneath the appropriate medieval period.

Early Middle Ages	High Middle Ages	Late Middle Ages
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____