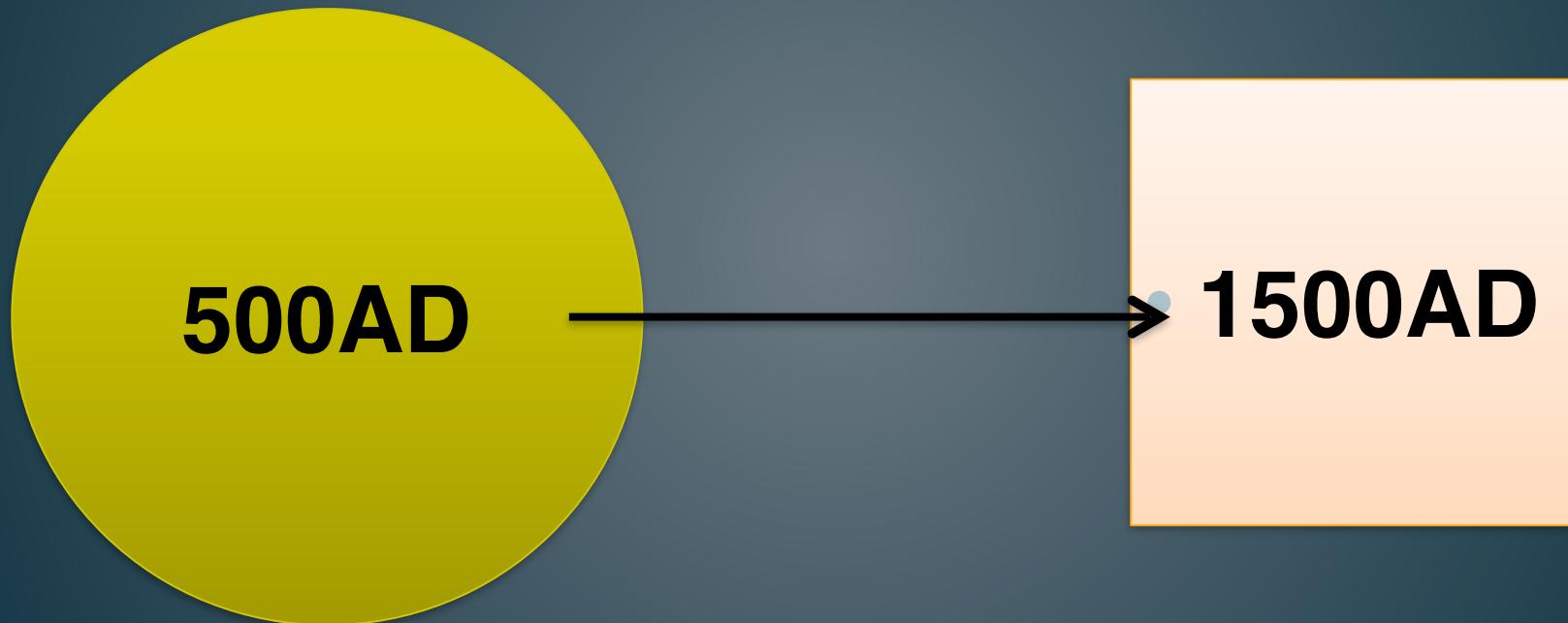


The Middle Ages

Life in the Middle Ages

What were the Middle Ages?



- A time between The break up of the Roman Empire and what we call Modern Times.
- The break-up of Rome left western world with no central government to rule and protect, and no single currency to do business with.
- **What do you think this led to?**
 - Roads and towns fell to ruins
 - Much crime and attacks by bandits
 - Travel and Trade became very difficult

- What did the people do for protection from all of this?
- People looked to the local lords to protect them.
- Lords became very powerful, and possessed most of the land.
- Lords created **the feudal system** .

The Feudal System

1. **King:** owned the land. For management reasons, he gave some land to followers. What he kept for himself (1/4) was a demesne.
2. **Vassals:** The kings followers. Some vassals were lords. Others bishops and abbots.
 1. **Lords:** Gave some land to Knights. Get loyalty in return.
 3. **Knights:** Did the fighting. Rode into battle on horseback.
 4. **Peasants:** Farmed the land. They had to pay heavy taxes and rents to Lord and to King. 2 types of peasant
 1. **Serf**
 2. **Freeman**



KING
APPOINTED TO
CONTROL THE PEOPLE
LORDS
APPOINTED FOR PROTECTION AND TO
HANDLE TERRITORY



KNIGHTS
APPOINTED TO PROTECT BOTH
THE LORD AND KING
SERFS
APPOINTED TO
WORK THE LAND



Peasants

- **Serfs:**
- Most peasants were serfs.
- They belonged to the lord and farmed the land.
- They got own private piece of land and in return worked for free on lord's private land.
- Every decision of a serfs life was made by the lord travel and marriage.
- They paid taxes to him and the priest.

Peasants

- **Freemen:**
- Didn't have to give the lord free labour but they did pay rent.
- They could travel and marry as they pleased.
- Still had to pay taxes to the lord and the priest.

Life in a Middle Ages' Village

- The countryside
 - Small villages and farms owned by local lords or knights ? Manors
- Middle Ages' Manor Village:
 - 20-30 houses per village
 - Peasants farmed land around village ? 3 big fields and a commons

Middle Ages' Manor Village

- Manor House [?] Where the Lord lived.
- On the edge of the village
- This was a large house, not a castle.
- The serfs lived in small houses with a small strip of land.
- Every serf had a strip of land in each of the three big fields.
- The Church was in the centre of the village.
- The priest lived beside the church. Said mass every Sunday for serfs.
- The serfs paid him by giving him a tithe [?] a tenth of their crops

Middle Ages' Manor Village

- Commons --> peasants animals kept.
- The forge
- The water mill
- The river
- The alehouse
- The forest
- The bailiff's house

Farming in the Manor Village

- **The open-field system**

1. Manor land divided into 2-parts
 - Commons Peasant's animals grazed
 - Crops land to grow crops
2. Crop-fields divided into 3 huge fields.
3. Each field divided into long strips
4. Each peasant family had “strips” in each field.
5. **Crop rotation** done on each field:
 - 1 left fallow to rest, to be fertile for next year
 - Then next two years rotated between oats, rye or barley and then wheat.

The life of a peasant

- **Housing:**
- One room homes Cooking and sleeping all in the one room
- Children could sleep in a loft. If there was one!
- Wattle and Daub building method
- Roof thatched Straw
- Animals brought in in winter why?
- **Clothing:**
- Handmade linen or wool
- Dye berries or mosses
- Women long dresses, and bonnets/headscarves
- Men belted tunics

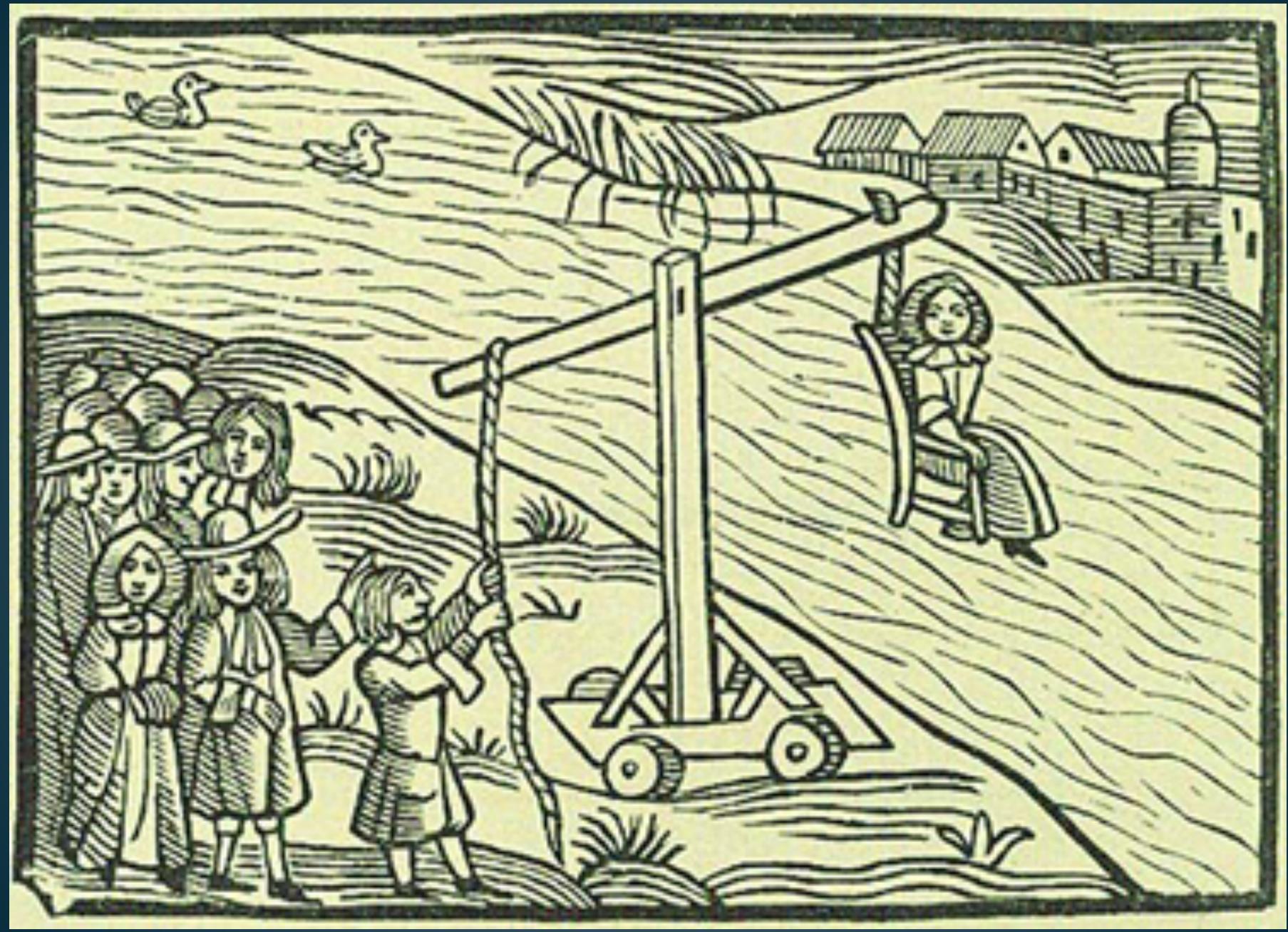
- **Food:**
- Rarely eat meat.
- Simple meals bread and cheese and ale and pottage
- **Pastimes:**
- No work on Sundays! Holy days!
- Other holy days 90 holy days in the year!
- Noughts and crosses!
- Draughts
- Carol singing
- Wrestling
- ‘Hoodsman Blind’

- Law and Order:
- Bailiff [?] sheriff in charge of keeping king and lord's rule and payment of taxes.
- Theft by peasants [?] lord's orchard/poached lord's deer.
- Drunkenness [?] starting fights
- Serfs often ran away [?] if they could stay free for a year and a day = freeman
- If caught? [?] lord would punish them.
- Punishment:
 - Small crime [?] small fines
 - Stocks [?] limbs and head locked between planks of wood.
 - Pillory
 - A thief could have his hand cut off.
 - A ducking stool [?] to punish women [?] tied to a chair and ducked into water repeatedly OR a *Scold Bridle*
 - Hanging.
 - Burn to death [?] witchcraft
 - The prison [?] dungeons for captured soldiers









Medieval Castles

- Common practice during the Middle Ages.
- Kings and nobles lived in Castles
- Housed families, servants, soldiers and a place of safety in attack.
- Courts and prison functions
- Venue for festivals and banquets.

Motte and Bailey Castles

- First type of castle
- Built from wood
- Often built on hilltops Good view why?
- Artificial hills sometimes made of piles of rock and soil
 - =Motte
- At bottom of hill courtyard = bailey
- Surrounded by a wooden fence
- A deep ditch was dug around outside of fence.
- Filled with water why?
 - =Moat
- Not very strong as a defence
- Easily destroyed by fire.

Stone Castle

- Replaced old Motte and Bailey design
 - Built for defence rather than comfort to begin with.
- The Keep ? a large square tower ? most important.
 - Lord and lady lived here.
- Cold, dark and damp environment.
- Small, narrow glass-less windows ? why narrow?
- No water or heating systems
- Huge fires lit for heat
- Wool hangings and rugs for decoration
- **Garderobe**? instead of toilet ? wooden seats leading to a chute into the moat

- **The keep:**
- **Top floor:** private chambers for lord and lady  safest place to be
- **The Great Hall:** ate meals and entertained guests.
 - Hall also used as a court to try those who broke the law.
- **Dungeon:** Prison and food store.

Defending a castle

- Designed to be strong and easy to defend.
- A stone wall with turrets (small towers) surrounded the castle.
- **Battlements:** gaps in the wall that archers fire arrows out on the attackers.
- Boiling oil and quicklime could be poured from the top of the castle walls onto the attackers.
- **Drawbridge:** Over the moat to pull up for defence.
- **Portcullis:** Steel gate, lowered across the bridge during attack.
- **Barbican:** fortified gatehouse.

Attacking a Castle

- Extremely dangerous task.
- **Siege:** the safest way of attack.
 - Required a lot of time.
 - Surrounding castle and stopping all supplies going in.
 - Some castles well stocked take a lot of time to starve.
- **Battering Rams:** used to break castle gates.
- **Mangonels:** Catapults used to fire large rocks to break walls.
- **Siege Towers and Rope Ladders :** to scale castle walls
- Tunnels were also dug beneath the foundations of the castle.

Life inside the castle

- **Education:**
- 1300s ? Lord could barely read/write? they kept a priest for reading and writing
 - Priest ? schoolmaster for Lord's son (until 7 years of age)
- Good manners and fighting skills were more important!
- **Food:**
- A lot of meat for the rich!!!
 - Dinner ? 12pm
 - Supper? 4pm
- Feast ? top table for important people.
 - Food served on wooden plates or trenchers (big slices of bread)
 - Ate with fingers!!!
 - Wine and ale

- **Entertainment:**
- Hawking [?] trained bird -[?] hunting
- Tournaments[?] mock battles by knights.
 - Jousting [?] single fights
 - Melées [?] team fights
 - Blunt swords and lances
- Minstrels [?] singers and musicians
- Jesters [?] tricks and comedy
- **Clothes:**
- Rich men [?] long tunics
- Shoes [?] leather and pointed
- Women[?] Long dresses into a train [?] wool or sometimes silk!
 - Headdress [?] wimple

The Lady

- Clothes?
- MARRY AND HAVE CHILDREN
- Marriage for status, not love! ↗ arranged marriage “contract”
- **Dowry** ↗ a sum of money or valuable items that came with the Lady on her marriage (happy meal!) ↗ Support in return
- Education – couldn’t read or write ↗ spinning, needlework, embroidery, music.
 - Herbal remedies for curing illness and household affairs.
- When the Lord was gone, the lady was in charge.

The Knight

- Weapons ? a lance, a sword, a mace, a battleaxe
- Expensive weaponry ? Lord's sons could only afford to be knights!

Training to be a knight

- It took 13 years to train to be a knight!

a) The Page:

- a) At 7 years old a Lord's son would be sent to another castle to be a page. Learned to ride a horse/use a sword/sing and dance/have good manners. He served the lady of the castle at dinner and helped the lord to dress.

b) The squire:

- a) 14 years old learned to fight on horseback. Went to war with his lord. Carried lord's armour and tended to horse.

c) The knight: 21 years old.

- a) Dubbing the knighting ceremony
 - b) Squire spent the previous night praying in Church.
 - c) Kneels before his Lord and dresses in his armour piece by piece.
 - d) Code of chivalry swear a promise to be loyal to God and protect women and children and never run away in battle.
 - e) "Arise, Sir Knight"

Life in a Medieval Town

- On Arrival:
- High Walls
- Entrance Gates Strangers stopped and asked business – “Passport Control” Closed at sunset until dawn
- Toll to be paid to sell goods.

Inside the town...

- **High Street** the main street, paved with wooden planks or stones
- Other streets Narrow lanes , muddy unpaved
- **Parish Church** highest building. Every town had one!
Made of Stone

- **Housing:**
- Wood
- Rich lived on High Street [?] 3 storeys, one leaning out from the one below.
- Some houses had long back gardens [?] grow veg; keep animals
- Craftspeople lived over their shops.
- Moving away from centre- houses got smaller.

- **Fairs:**
- The highlight of the year! = the annual fair!
- Venue the Fair green outside town walls!
- Could last up to 3 weeks
- Merchants came from all over the world to sell:
 - Silks
 - Spices
 - woollen cloth
 - Furs
- Entertainment acrobats, musicians and jugglers

- Curfew:
- Strict rules for fire safety  why?
- Church bells rang at sunset to mark the extinguishing of all fires.
- Curfew means *COVER MY FIRE*

Dirt and Disease

- Towns were very dirty
- No sewers to carry the dirt away
- Open drain in the middle of the street.
- People Seldom washed!
- Leprosy [?] a common skin diseases that people suffered from [?] sufferers were separated and sent to a colony
- THE BLACK DEATH...

The Black Death 1347-1350

- Plague across Europe
 - Wiped out a third of the population
 - Densely populated, dirty towns made it easy to spread.
-
- Swellings under neck, armpits and groin area.
 - Some thought it was God's punishment.
 - Fleas carried by the black rat.

Citizens of the town: Who lived there:?

- **Charter** [?] a legal document from the king which let a town run it's own affairs.
- Citizens could elect a council or a corporation to run the town.
- The town in return for it's powers would pay tax to the king or local lord.
- Everyone had a place. People mixed with their own kind.
- Town rulers [?] Members of the guilds! [?] citizens who voted for the corporation
- **Guild**[?] An organisation that every craftsman had to belong to! Each guild had its own craft.

Most townspeople were not citizens [?] ‘unfree’

Citizens: Craftspeople

- These people made the things that were needed by townspeople.
- Over 30 craftspeople in every town
- Surnames!
- **Guilds:**
- Every craftsperson belonged to a guild.
- Each guild was in charge of its own trade.
- Set standards for work and wages
- Looked after old sick members.
- Craftswomen did exist but only a few of them were in a guild or could be in a guild if their husband was and had died.

Becoming a Master Craftsman

- **3 stages!**

1. Apprentice:

- 12 years old.
- 7 years he lived in a house with a craftsman and learned a trade.
- **Work with no pay.**

2. J Journeyman:

- Paid for his work
- Leave his master's house and travel around looking for better wages.
- Masons church constructions.

3. Master:

- Produce a masterpiece.
- Own workshop and sell his goods.
- Large payment due to the guild to be a master.
- Most couldn't afford this.

Religion in the Middle Ages

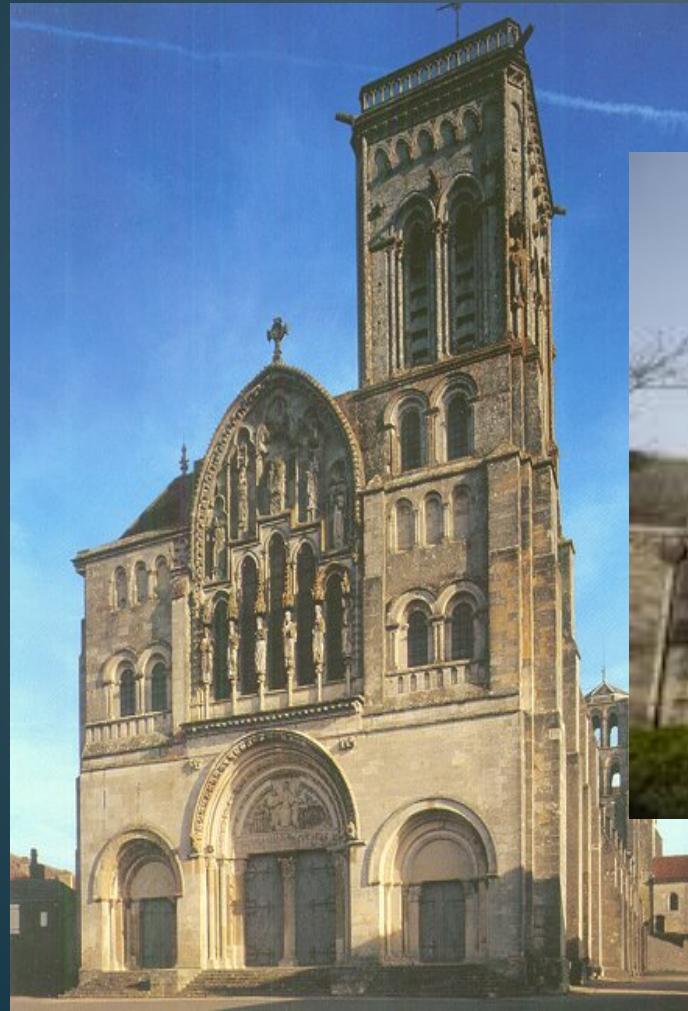
- The Church played an important role in people's lives in the Middle Ages.
- Most people believed in God.
- The Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, had a lot of power in Western Europe during the Middle Ages.
- The Pope nominated bishops to run territories called diocese.
- Many bishops ordered the building of cathedrals in their dioceses. **?** Why?

View local events by
clicking on a Diocese
on the map of Ireland.

Ard-Easpag



Gothic and Romanesque Architecture



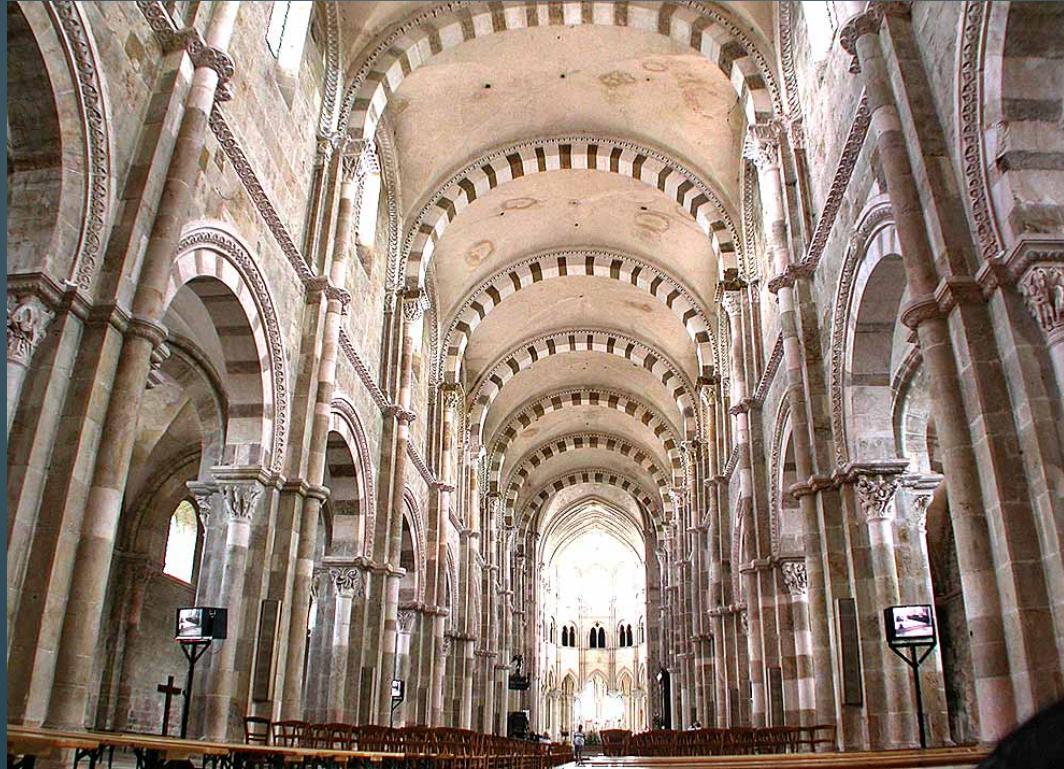
The shape of
the doors and
windows?

Buttresses
?

An Ailtearacht Rómhánach

Romanesque architecture

The inside of the cathedrals



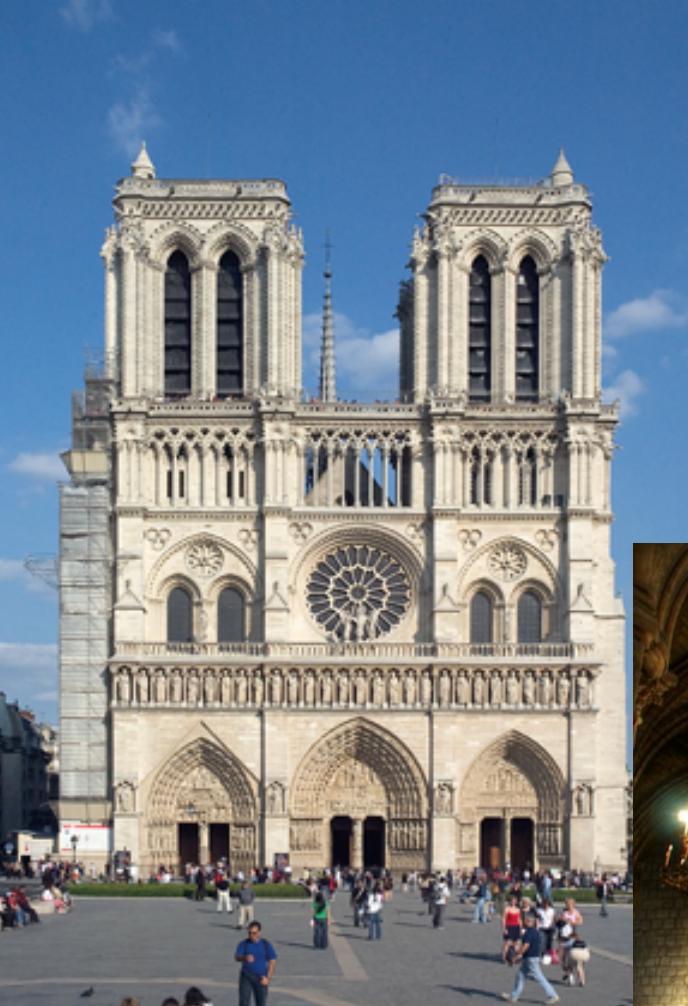
Thick
columns

Gothic Architecture

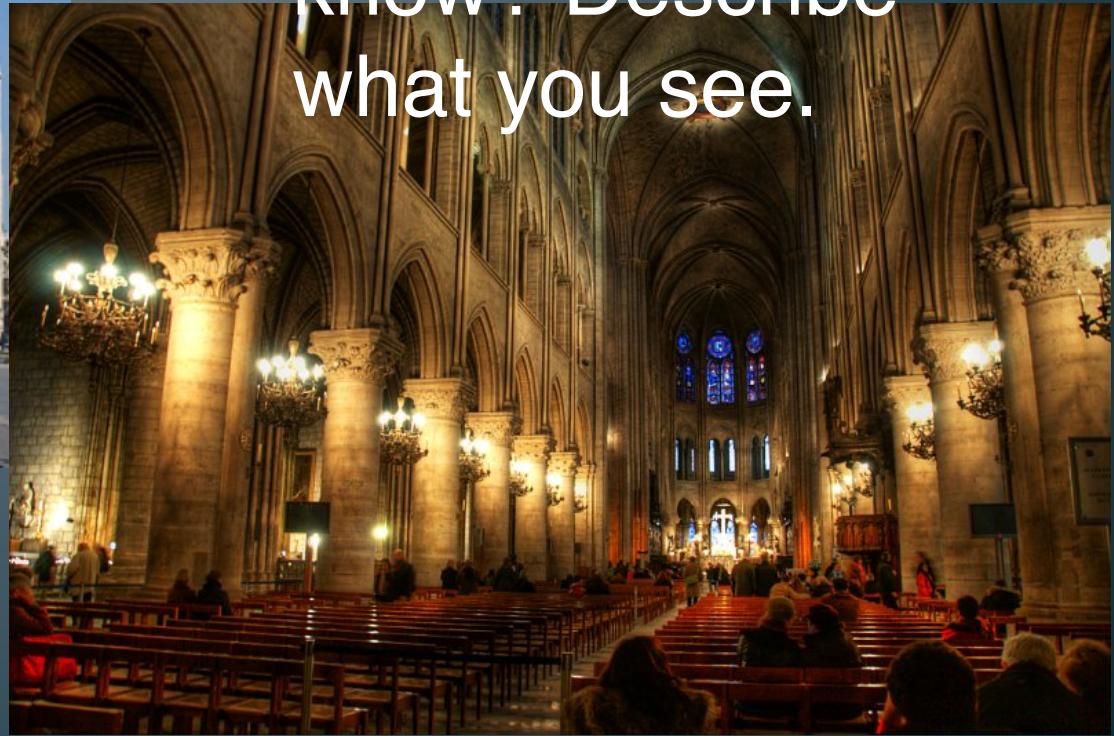
The inside of the gothic cathedral



Slender
columns



- Gothic or Romanesque Architecture?
- How do we know? Describe what you see.



Romanesque Architecture

- The first style of Architecture in the Middle Ages.
- Rounded Arches and Doors
- Thick Columns within the Church

Gothic Architecture

- The later style of Architecture
- Pointed arches over doors and windows
- Thin columns
- Narrow aisles as the nave.
- Nave ? central aisle
- Rose window? Large tinted windows
- Flying buttresses ? Side supports

Monasteries

- Many Christians went to live in religious communities as monks and nuns.
- They lived apart from the rest of the community in monasteries or convents.
- They followed strict rules and prayer there.
- Different orders:
 - Augustinians
 - Benedictines
 - Cistercians
- Monasteries were also hospitals, poorhouses and inns.
- Friars  Travelling monk: travel from town to town spreading Word of God.

A Medieval Monk

- The Stages of becoming a monk

1. Novice :

- You spent a year in the monastery learning the rules of the monastery and the code of discipline in the monastery.
- St. Benedict wrote a set of rules for monks to follow:
- They had to spend much of the day praying to God
- They must serve God by ordinary work such as working in the fields, caring for the sick and the poor, cooking washing and cleaning.
- They must serve God self-discipline. They must give up everything they own, obey the abbot and follow a life of poverty and chastity.

- 2. The monk:
- After a year's training the novice became a monk by taking a vow that they would obey the rules of the monastery.
- The monks had the crown of his head shaven in a tonsure, which looked like a bald patch on the top of his head.
- Monks wore a special woollen tunic called a habit and wore sandals on their feet.

- 4.00am: Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 6.00am: Mass
- 7.00am : Light Breakfast
- 8.00am: Work
- 10.00am: Prayers
- 11.00am: Work
- 2.00pm: Dinner
- 3.00pm: Work
- 5.00pm: Vespers(evening prayers)
- 6.00pm: Supper
- 7.00pm: Retire to bed

The Normans in Ireland

Who are the Normans?

- The Normans were the descendants of the Vikings who settled in Normandy, France. After 1066 they ruled England and in 1200 they brought the **Feudal system** to Ireland.

How did they get here?

Dermot MacMurrough, a king of Leinster, invited the Normans to Ireland. He wanted to be High King, and invited the Normans so that he would be strong enough to achieve this and defeat all the other kings.

1169: The Normans arrived in Wexford. They began to plunder and take over the land. The King of England king Henry II arrived 3 years later.

The Kings of Ireland swore allegiance to Henry II, hoping they'd get protection from the Normans who had been taking all the land.

Henry declared that he was King of Ireland.

When Henry left the Normans kept on plundering.

- The Normans had more men and more weapons than the Gaelic kings and so the kings were defeated easily.

Norman Castles:

- Motte and Bailey castles mark the territory the Normans conquered.
- Later they built stone classes.
 - On high ground normally or near rivers.
 - Carrickfergus
- 1400s and 1500s the Irish and the Normans built smaller stone castles called tower houses.
- 2,000 castles built by Normans
- Near castles they built manor farms

Norman Language:

- Before the Normans arrival everyone spoke Gaelic.
- The Normans and the settlers that followed them here spoke the first form of English in the country.

Norman Law

- Before the Normans we followed the Brehon Law system.
- Underthis system the land a person owned was split up amongst its family members in inheritance.
- The Normans brought in a new legal system whereby the eldest son inherited the land.

Norman farming

- Where before, the Gaelic people herded cattle mainly, the Normans brought in new methods of tilling the land and growing crops and vegetables.