

Historical Document

This document is here to help being more consistent during the conception of the final story. This is the summary of what is important to know to create the details and the atmosphere of the tale. It is also a helper through the development process.

1 - 15th century

This is the period between the late Middle Ages and the Early Renaissance. The World started to change with the new knowledge acquired over time. However, in the campaigns life is still hard and closer to the Middle Ages.

QUESTIONS :

What is the daily routine?

What are their worries?

What do they eat or drink?

What are their life conditions regarding illness, hunger, safety, money?

What are their beliefs in mythology? (Werewolves, vampires)

What are the problems? (Murders, kidnapping, beasts, etc.)

What is the political system?

What knowledge do they possess?

What is the place of Science and the religion?

How the towns communicate with each other?

What is the difference in the life in a small village and the one in the capital?

Can people travel easily?

REFERENCES :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV7CanyzhZg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z56d4f1uT3k>

https://westernreservepublicmedia.org/middleages/big_intro.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_modern_period

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_the_15th_century

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_century

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquisition>

2 - Anjou area

Anjou was a French province straddling the lower Loire River. Its capital was Angers and it was roughly coextensive with the diocese of Angers. It bordered Brittany to the west, Maine to the north, Touraine to the east and Poitou to the south. The adjectival form of Anjou is Anevin, and inhabitants of Anjou are known as Angevins. During the Middle Ages, the County of Anjou, ruled by the Counts of Anjou, was a prominent fief of the French crown. - *Wikipedia*

QUESTIONS :

What are the main towns of Anjou?

What are the small villages?

Is there any remarkable forest, lake, river?

Who rules in the 15th century?

What is the place of the city in the country?

Is there any special feast, event, fact, etc. ?

REFERENCES :

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anjou>

3 - Hunting

In the Middle Ages, it was an important source of food, however, during the High Middle Ages it started to be a pastime for the aristocracy who had social interactions with it. Games were well planned with a defined role for each member. The weapons were usually bows, crossbows, lances, spears, knives and swords. The essential animals were the horse, the hound and the hawk or falcon. The main quarry was the deer (hart), the boar, the wolf and the hare. Only the king was allowed to hunt in the royal forests.

REFERENCES :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_hunting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pz2dgP7jaFs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZQWS5BpR-o>

4 - Myth : Werewolf

A werewolf is a man who can shapeshift into a wolf. In Europe, the population believed strongly in werewolves especially from the 13th century to the 17th century. Before, people thought the lycanthropy came from the Wolf belt one had to wear to be able to transform. Others thought you had to drink the rain water from a wolf's paw print to become a werewolf. In Italy, they thought if you slept outside during the full moon on a Wednesday or a Friday, you could turn into a werewolf. The belief that you have to be bitten only appeared in the 20th century.

People thought they could identify a werewolf (when he/she was in the human form) by some physical characteristics as a mono brow, long fingernails, lowered ears, fur under the flesh (visible if you cut the flesh) or hairs under the tongue.

To kill a werewolf or lift the spell, one could strike it on the head with a knife, saying his/her Christian name three times when in a wolf form or recently, use a silver bullet. Some illnesses can explain the belief in the werewolves as the rabies who makes the patient excessively salivate, behave strangely and get insomnia. Another sickness could cause the apparition of hairs on the skin.

For Christians, werewolves were associated with the demons or the witches.

Some people were accused of being werewolves and were tortured until confession and then burned at the stake.

REFERENCES :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdGzutS2hEc&t=>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-hfzA3yXd4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSoaOE46vT4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xti11zm6H4g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToW-vClgAEE>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werewolf>

<https://www.history.com/topics/folklore/history-of-the-werewolf-legend>

<https://www.pitt.edu/~dash/werewolf.html>

5 - Real werewolves

Many of them were serial killers :

Pierre Burgot

Michel Verdun

Gilles Garnier - The Werewolf of Dole
Peter Stubbe

REFERENCES :

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/burgot-pierre-d-1521>
<https://thrillvania.com/haunted-house-stories/legend-werewolf-michel-verdun/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilles_Garnier
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Stumpp

6 - Myth : Vampire

The myth of the vampires is more spread than the one of the werewolves. People believed of those undead who suck the blood of their victims. They are often described pale with long canines. They dislike the sun or it can even burn them. The myth of the vampires comes from more common afflictions, including porphyria which makes the skin sensitive so people with this disease avoid the sun, and they can have red or brown teeth. As this illness is hereditary, there were some entire families with it. Also, as people had not advanced knowledge of the process of the decomposition of the body after death, they didn't know it was normal that the hair and the nails continue to grow and that the belly blew up. So when people found bodies in those states although they thought they were dead, they believed they came back to life.

REFERENCES :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrJ3poBaNaQ>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQz5_TMG42g
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vampire>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ThKRmySoU>

7 - Elizabeth Bathory

Báthory has been labeled by Guinness World Record as the most prolific female murderer though the precise number of her victims is debated. Báthory and four collaborators were accused of torturing and killing hundreds of young women between 1590 and 1610. There is no hard evidence about the whole murder case. The highest number of victims cited during Báthory's trial was 650.

She is often compared to Vlad the Impaler of Wallachia (on whom the fictional Count Dracula is partly based); some insist she inspired Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897), though there is no evidence to support this hypothesis. Nicknames and literary epithets attributed to her include *The Blood Countess* and *Countess Dracula*. - Wikipedia

REFERENCES :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_B%C3%A1thory

8 - Gilles de Rais

Gilles de Rais (c. September 1405 - 26 October 1440), Baron de Rais, was a knight and lord from Brittany, Anjou and Poitou, a leader in the French army, and a companion-in-arms of Joan of Arc. He is best known for his reputation and later conviction as a confessed serial killer of children.

A member of the House of Montmorency-Laval, Gilles de Rais grew up under the tutelage of his maternal grandfather and increased his fortune by marriage. He earned the favour of the Duke of Brittany and was admitted to the French court. From 1427 to 1435, Rais

served as a commander in the French army, and fought alongside Joan of Arc against the English and their Burgundian allies during the Hundred Years' War, for which he was appointed Marshal of France.

In 1434 or 1435 he retired from military life, depleted his wealth by staging an extravagant theatrical spectacle of his own composition, and was accused of dabbling in the occult. After 1432, Rais was accused of engaging in a series of child murders, with victims possibly numbering in the hundreds. The killings came to an end in 1440, when a violent dispute with a clergyman led to an ecclesiastical investigation that brought the crimes to light, and attributed them to Rais. At his trial the parents of missing children in the surrounding area and Rais's own confederates in crime testified against him. He was condemned to death and hanged at Nantes on 26 October 1440.

Rais is believed to be the inspiration for the French folktale "Bluebeard" ("Barbe bleue"), which is earliest recorded in 1697. - *Wikipedia*

REFERENCES :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilles_de_Rais

9 - Druids

From the Irish Folklore. Being a Druid was a long journey of 20 to 40 years of learning. The knowledge was passed by more experienced Druids as they didn't record what they knew on writing. They were suppressed at the end of the Roman Empire but lived a bit longer in the North. Many different versions of them exist, from the philosophers, healers, sorcerers or even mixed with shamans. Some of them could transform into animals or creatures. They were organized in clans.

QUESTIONS :

Where do they come from?

What place did they have in the society?

Is there any trace of them in the Modern Age?

What was their purpose, their beliefs?

How did they live?

REFERENCES :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kmxzIY7mE8&list=PLoll8P4KNZyGgt-8BlvqLjt651sRizqsR&index=28>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druid>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Druid>

<http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Dr-Fi/Druids.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shapeshifting>

10 - Alchemy

Alchemy is an ancient branch of natural philosophy, a philosophical and protoscientific tradition practiced throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia, originating in Greco-Roman Egypt in the first few centuries CE.

Alchemists attempted to purify, mature, and perfect certain materials. Common aims

were chrysopoeia, the transmutation of "base metals" into "noble metals" (particularly gold); the creation of an elixir of immortality; the creation of panaceas able to cure any disease; and the development of an alkahest, a universal solvent. The perfection of the human body and soul was thought to permit or result from the alchemical *magnum opus* and, in the Hellenistic and Western mystery tradition, the achievement of gnosis. In Europe, the creation of a philosopher's stone was variously connected with all of these projects. - *Wikipedia*

QUESTIONS :

How do you become an alchemist?

What is the process of creating a potion?

What were the beliefs about alchemy in the 15th century?

What were the dangers?

REFERENCES :

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchemy>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxiLuz9kHi0>

11 - Medicine in 15th century

Medieval medicine, especially in the second half of the medieval period (c. 1100-1500 AD), became a formal body of theoretical knowledge and was institutionalized in the universities. Medieval medicine attributed illnesses and disease, not to sinful behaviour, but to natural causes, and sin was only connected to illness in a more general sense of the view that disease manifested in humanity as a result of its fallen state from God. Medieval medicine also recognized that illnesses spread from person to person, that certain lifestyles may cause ill health, and some people have a greater predisposition towards bad health than others.

Monasteries developed not only as spiritual centers, but also centers of intellectual learning and medical practice. Locations of the monasteries were secluded and designed to be self-sufficient, which required the monastic inhabitants to produce their own food and also care for their sick. Prior to the development of hospitals, people from the surrounding towns looked to the monasteries for help with their sick.

A combination of both spiritual and natural healing was used to treat the sick. Herbal remedies, known as Herbals, along with prayer and other religious rituals were used in treatment by the monks and nuns of the monasteries. Herbs were seen by the monks and nuns as one of God's creations for the natural aid that contributed to the spiritual healing of the sick individual. An herbal textual tradition also developed in the medieval monasteries. Older herbal Latin texts were translated and also expanded in the monasteries. The monks and nuns reorganized older texts so that they could be utilized more efficiently, adding a table of contents for example to help find information quickly. Not only did they reorganize existing texts, but they also added or eliminated information. New herbs that were discovered to be useful or specific herbs that were known in a particular geographic area were added. Herbs that proved to be ineffective were eliminated. Drawings were also added or modified in order for the reader to effectively identify the herb. The Herbals that were being translated and modified in

the monasteries were some of the first medical texts produced and used in medical practice in the Middle Ages. - *Wikipedia*

REFERENCES :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_medicine_of_Western_Europe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGiZXQVGpbY>

12 - Bloodletting

Bloodletting (or blood-letting) is the withdrawal of blood from a patient to prevent or cure illness and disease. Bloodletting, whether by a physician or by leeches, was based on an ancient system of medicine in which blood and other bodily fluids were regarded as "humours" that had to remain in proper balance to maintain health.

The Talmud recommended a specific day of the week and days of the month for bloodletting, and similar rules, though less codified, can be found among Christian writings advising which saints' days were favourable for bloodletting. During medieval times bleeding charts were common, showing specific bleeding sites on the body in alignment with the planets and zodiacs. Islamic medical authors also advised bloodletting, particularly for fevers. It was practised according to seasons and certain phases of the moon in the lunar calendar. - *Wikipedia*

REFERENCES :

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloodletting>

13 - Death by burning

Death by burning (also known as immolation) is an execution method involving combustion or exposure to extreme heat. It has a long history as a form of capital punishment, and many societies have employed it for criminal activities such as treason, heresy and witchcraft. The best known execution of this type is burning at the stake where the condemned is bound to a large wooden stake and a fire lit beneath them. - *Wikipedia*

REFERENCES :

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_by_burning