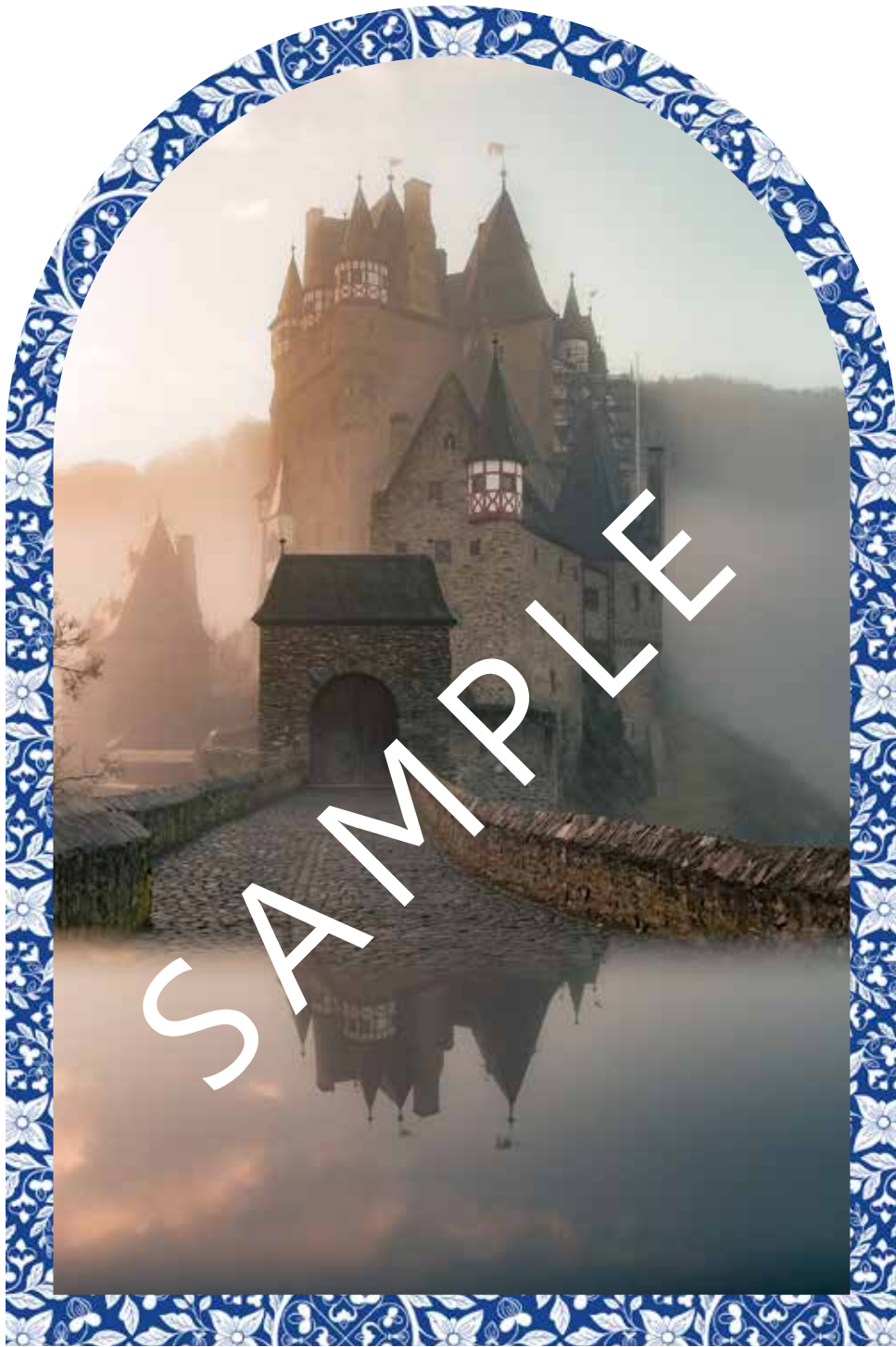


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SAMPLE





Eltz Castle, Wierschem, Germany

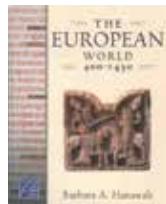
Introduction

The Middle Ages. The term probably conjures up images of brave knights and fair ladies, feasts and tournaments, castles and cathedrals. These are the elements of this period that capture our imagination and may even be the reason you want to study the Middle Ages in the first place. We will learn about brave knights—King Richard, King Arthur, Saladin, and others—as well as fair ladies, among them Queen Eleanor, Joan of Arc, and Shahrazad.

We will also learn about the Tartars who conquered China. We will learn about what life was like for the common people, known as serfs, who lived under a brutal system called feudalism until they decided they had had enough and rebelled. We will learn about Martin Luther, who revealed a new way to approach God that did not involve paying a priest to pray for you. There was also a new way to read the Bible—we have John Wycliffe to thank for that. We will learn about the man who made it possible for people to own a Bible. His name was Johannes Gutenberg, and he invented the printing press. But even before he had invented the printing press the Chinese were printing paper money, the first to ever do so. In the midst of all these advancements, people still liked to have fun, more than a man named Chaucer. Chaucer found people to be very funny, and he wrote down the stories of these funny people for his own amusement. As you can tell, the Middle Ages was a busy time, full of change. Brilliant minds lived between 400-1600 AD, the years covered in this study. For a long time this period of history was referred to as the Dark Ages because people thought very little had been accomplished during this time. They had come to believe that it was a time of fighting, famine, and feudalism, and although those things were certainly common, we now know that much more took place. Documents were written, like the Magna Carta that helped shape future democracies, including our own. The Bible was printed on presses in many different languages, including English and German, not just Latin as it had been in the past. People were traveling farther and farther distances and bringing to Europe exotic spices and fabric. Scientists and alchemists were trying to make gold and studying the heavens. Toward the end of the Middle Ages, explorers were sailing ships to the far corners of the globe, even to our continent! As you can see, it was not the Dark Ages at all, but an exciting time to be alive.



Required Literature and Resources



The European World, 400-1450 by Barbara A. Hanawalt

Filled with intrigue, conflict, power struggles, and colorful characters, and based on primary source materials, this background source is an adventure at every turn. From Attila the Hun to Joan of Arc, from the fall of Rome to the Great Plague, these pivotal moments in history are brought to life.



Medieval World Map published by Beautiful Feet Books

This large foldable world map is designed for use with our Medieval history programs. Chart the movements and events from each time period with this accurate map printed on heavy-duty card stock. Dimensions are 36" by 24". Map folds down to 12" by 9" for easy storage!



Medieval History Timeline published by Beautiful Feet Books

Our Medieval history timeline has been expanded to cover events from the Fall of Rome to Elizabethan England in the early 1600s. Thirty fascinating events and individuals, including Marco Polo, Mansa Musa, the Black Death, Chaucer, Gutenberg, Luther, Joan of Arc, the Spanish Armada, Shakespeare, and many more will reinforce these milestones in the history of Western civilization.



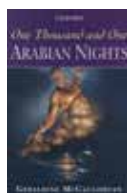
Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

In fifth-century Denmark, a murderous monster stalks the night, and only the great prince of the Geats has the strength and courage to defeat him. Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy the foul fiend Grendel, his mother a hideous sea-hag, and a monstrous fire-dragon is the oldest surviving epic in British literature.



King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green

A legend is born when young Arthur meets Merlin and draws a mighty sword from its stone. This spellbinding retelling brings to life King Arthur and the adventures of his knights, from the quest for the Holy Grail to the final tragedy of the Last Battle.



One Thousand and One Arabian Nights by Geraldine McCaughrean

This book is a delightful window into the Persian world. To delay her inevitable execution, Queen Shahrazad tells her murdering husband, King Shahryar, a wonderfully exciting story every night. The brilliant storyteller preserves her life while relating tales of intrigue, adventure, and duplicity.



PART I

After the Fall of Rome

The fall of Rome plunged western Europe into centuries of cultural and economic decline, often called the Dark Ages. Or so the story goes.

Several hundred years after the Visigoths sacked Rome and the Western Roman Empire fell, Charles the Great (or Charlemagne) united much of central and western Europe under his control. He was eventually crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III. With Charlemagne's rise to power, Christianity continued to spread throughout the European tribes it had not already reached. As early works of literature and other art forms of the period illustrate, this was a period of significant cultural development. Pagan values merged with and then eventually gave way to Christian virtues. Out of the cultural milieu of the Middle Ages arose new economies, systems of government, and political ideals.



Charlemagne, engraving by Adrien Jacques Antoine Migneret, c. 1835

Rabbit Trails



Augustine Came to Kent

by Barbara Willard, illustrated by Mary Beth Owens

In 597, Wolf, a young Angle, travels from Rome to England, the land of his birth, accompanying Prior Augustine, later to be known as St. Augustine of Canterbury, on his mission to bring Christianity to English soil.



Beowulf, Dragon Slayer

by Rosemary Sutcliff

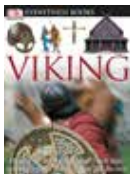
Travel back to the land where human history was first recorded—the land of kings, queens, gods, goddesses, nomads, and scribes. Be an eyewitness to the “land between the rivers,” from the first Sumerian city-states to the mighty Babylonian empires.



Eyewitness: Mesopotamia

by Philip Steele

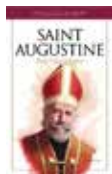
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Eyewitness: Viking

by Susan M. Margeson

Eyewitness books provide an in-depth, comprehensive look at their subjects with a unique integration of words and pictures. Loaded with superb color photographs of Viking ships and swords, clothes and shields, memorial stones and beautiful brooches, this revised and updated edition of *Eyewitness: Viking* offers a unique view into the lives of the Norse people and their outstanding achievements.



Saint Augustine: Early Church Father

by Rachael M. Phillips

This book presents the life and times of Saint Augustine, who grew up during the decay and fall of the Roman Empire and whose writings had particular significance to Christians and their church at that time.



Sword Song

by Rosemary Sutcliff

Discovered among Rosemary Sutcliff's papers after her death in 1992, *Sword Song* is the swashbuckling epic of a young Viking swordsman, banished from his home for unintentionally killing a man, who takes up a new life as a mercenary.

Lesson 1

1. To begin our study, it is important that we establish some background information. Begin reading *The European World, 400–1450*, hereafter referred to as *TEW*. The Introduction and Chapter 1 of this book set the stage for our study. Read them to become familiar with the places and movements that shaped medieval Europe.

2. Unfold the large map that accompanies this course (available at bfbooks.com). Using an atlas and the map at the beginning of *TEW* as guides, label the following (NOTE: A guide map showing these landmarks is available via the QR code on page 4. Mark the country names in a different color from city names. National borders have changed over time, so it is only necessary to label each country by its general area.):

Countries:

Denmark
England
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Norway
Poland
Scotland
Spain
Sweden

Geographical Features:

the Alps
Danube River
English Channel
the Pyrenees Mountains
Rhône River
Seine River
Thames River

You will also mark famous trade routes and journeys of exploration during this study, so set up a map key to add these as you progress.

3. If desired, watch “Medieval Europe: Crash Course European History #1” on the CrashCourse YouTube channel for a quick overview of some of the events we will be studying. NOTE: Video contains medieval artwork that has nudity.



4. Open the Medieval History Timeline that is designed to accompany this course. Following the instructions for where to place each picture, cut out, color, and paste on the timeline: The Fall of Rome.

Lesson 2

1. Continue working on the world map and label the following cities:

Antioch, Syria
Avignon, France
Calais, France
Constantinople
Milan, Italy
Rome, Italy

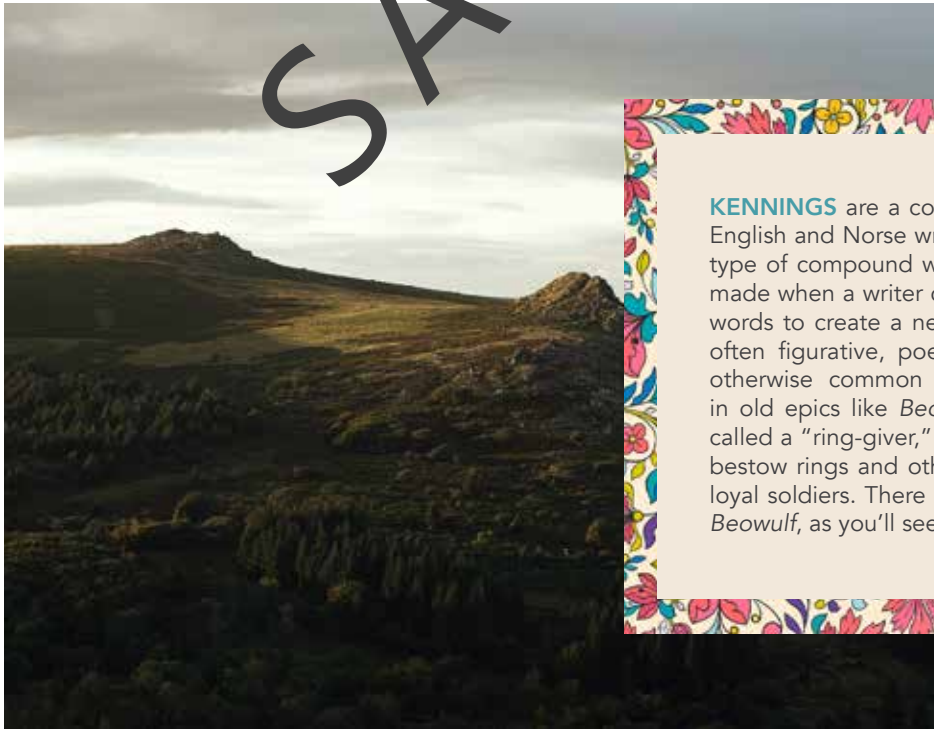
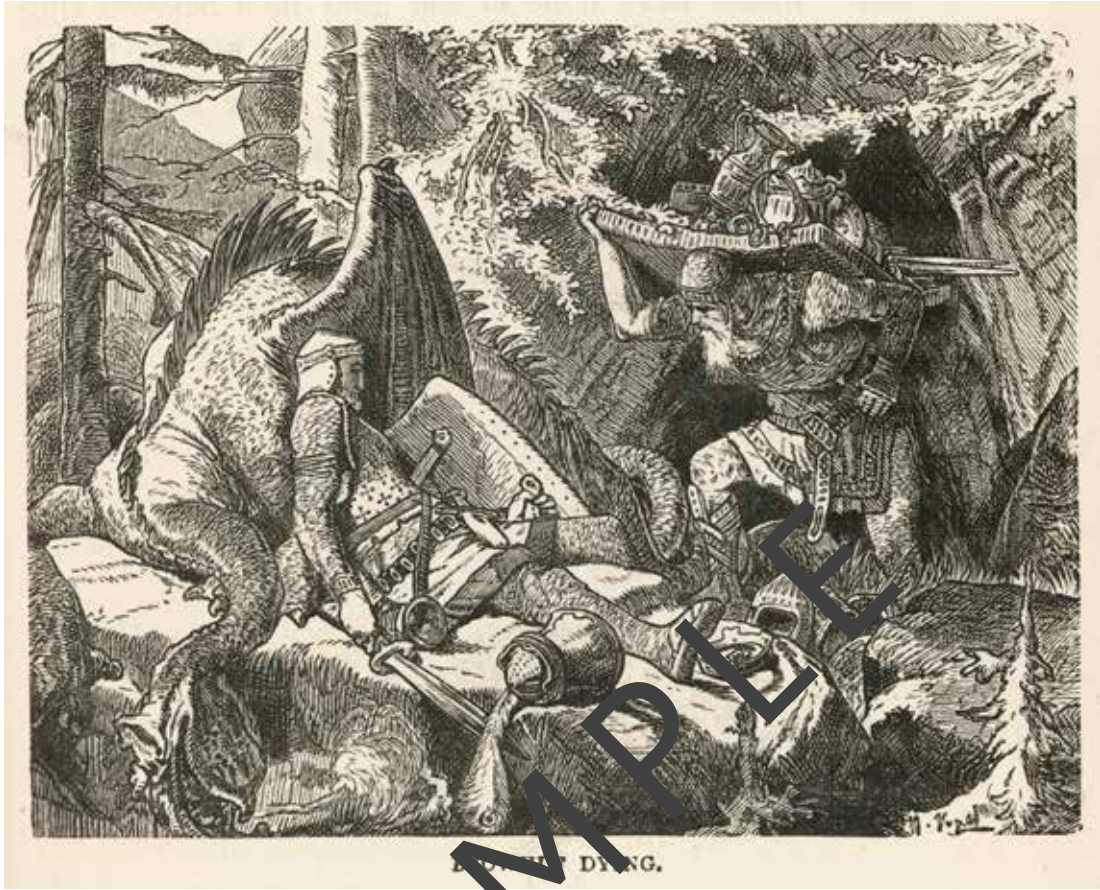
Aquitaine, France
Barcelona, Spain
Canterbury, England
Jerusalem
Naples, Italy
Seville, Spain

2. Read and discuss Chapter 2 of *The European World (TEW)*. Discussion prompts:

a. Despite efforts to keep Roman and Germanic peoples separated, a shared culture eventually arose. Why do you think it is difficult to keep people groups from merging when they live in such close proximity to one another?

b. Christianity continued to spread to the far reaches of western and northern Europe, but many in these lands still held on to some of their pagan practices too. Why do you think that is?

3. Cut out, color, and paste on the timeline: The Founding of Islam. (We will study the history and rise of Islam later in this course.)



KENNINGS are a common feature in Old English and Norse writings. A kenning is a type of compound word or phrase that is made when a writer combines two smaller words to create a new one. Kennings are often figurative, poetically describing an otherwise common noun. For example, in old epics like *Beowulf*, a king is often called a "ring-giver," because kings would bestow rings and other treasures on their loyal soldiers. There are many kennings in *Beowulf*, as you'll see in your reading.

1. *The Death of Beowulf*, engraving, date unknown 2. Dartmoor, England

Lesson 3

1. Introduce *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo. This epic tale, one of the earliest recorded poems in history, relates the legend of Beowulf's battle against the evil monster Grendel. Stories like this one entertained people while also passing down their history in the tall-tales of their heroes. In the days following the fall of the Roman Empire, bards traveled the lands relating fierce ballads of heroism like Beowulf's. For the people who lived in constant fear of Viking raids and barbarian invasions, these stories provided solace and inspired courage, while reminding them that life was short, difficult, and often violent. In preparation for your reading, read about kennings on page 16 and define the following words from *Beowulf*. Create a glossary in your portfolio to record all vocabulary terms.

mead-hall (5)	mead-horn (8)	moors (10)
reprieve (12)	omens (13)	whetted (13)
fjord (13)	ringmailed (14)	thanes (20)
piteous (16)	marauding (16)	hearsay (21)
loathsome (23)	larder (25)	regal (29)
brooding (31)	sinew (31)	fitfully (33)
steeling (34)	vise (38)	callous (30)

2. Read pages 1-29 of *Beowulf*. **NOTE:** This story, like many tales from this time, relates violent events. If your student is particularly sensitive, it may be worth reading ahead to evaluate the material. Discussion prompts:

- What Bible story appears in *Beowulf*?
- Describe Hrothgar. Why was he a well-loved king? Did he possess character qualities we admire in our leaders today? How would you describe a good ruler?
- Beowulf is the hero of this epic. What qualities made him a hero for his time? How do you think those qualities would be viewed in a leader today?

3. The British Library has several interesting articles on *Beowulf*, Old English, and other works of medieval literature. At the link below, you can hear the opening lines of *Beowulf* recited in Old English or follow along with a modern English translation.

www.bl.uk/medieval-literature/videos/reading-of-beowulf-in-old-english

Lesson 4

1. Define the following words in preparation for your reading in *Beowulf*:

fens (38)	ogre (38)	asunder (39)
cacophony (39)	banish (40)	strident (40)
pinioned (40)	ebbing (45)	brackish (45)
cavernous (45)	slight (v) (45)	hag (58)
bereaved (58)	stag (63)	ghoul (69)

2. Read pages 30-56 of *Beowulf*.

3. Pretend to be a medieval Danish reporter and write a "breaking news" article relating the events you just read about in *Beowulf*. You can turn your paper into a filmed report if you want to dress up as a medieval Dane (look at Viking costumes for inspiration) and film yourself describing the event. If you would rather write a news article, illustrate it, if desired.



Map of Denmark, 1570

Introduction to *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table*

The legends of King Arthur are well-known and have significantly shaped the literature, history, culture, and morals of the Western world.

Debate continues as to whether Arthur was a real historical character or simply a legend. The source of these stories may very well be an early British king named Arthur, or another king-like figure. Whether or not Arthur ruled Britain, fought against German tribes, and had a round table, this story is important because it tells us so much about the people who lived during this time. *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* relates the story of the establishment of a code of chivalry that still influences British law and customs.

The stories are an interesting mix of Christian references and pagan lore. Magic coincides with biblical stories, showing how European tribes mixed their ancient pagan beliefs with the newly arrived Christian faith. These days we think of magic in terms of tricks and illusions, but in the days of Arthur, people used it to explain things they did not understand. It also helped people distinguish good from evil—the dark arts were something to be feared and avoided at all costs. As you'll see in these stories, magic is used to warn people of the dangers of evil and to encourage right action. Good magic is often explained in terms of generosity, humility, courage, or honesty, whereas bad magic, or the dark arts, causes treachery, pride, greed, anger, murder, lust, and other moral failings.

