




# Middle Ages

A. D. 476 - 1450

## Historical Book List


### Vikings:

 **Leif the Lucky**  
 D'Aulaire, Ingri & Edgar Parin  
 ISBN 0964380307  
 JB Ericsson  
 Biography, Picture Book  
 \$13.95(PB) - www.bfbooks.com  
 L: K R: 3

### Saints:

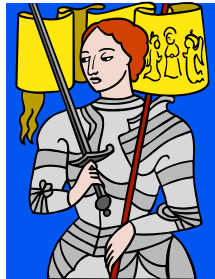
**Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland**  
 de Paola, Tomie  
 ISBN 0823410773  
 J 270.2092  
 Biography, Picture Book  
 \$ 6.95(PB) - Retail  
 L: K R: 3

**St. Jerome and the Lion**  
 Hodges, Margaret  
 ISBN 0531059383  
 J 270.2  
 Legendary, Picture Book  
 OOP  
 L: K R: 3

 **Saint George and the Dragon**  
 Hodges, Margaret  
 ISBN 0316367958  
 J 398.2  
 Classic Fiction, Picture Book  
 \$6.99(PB) - Retail  
 L: 1 R: 3

**Saint Francis**  
 Wildsmith, Brian  
 ISBN 0802851231  
 J 271.3  
 Biography, Picture Book  
 \$20.00(HC) - Retail  
 L: K R: 2


**Joan of Arc: The Lily Maid**  
 Hodges, Margaret  
 ISBN 0823414248  
 JB Joan  
 Biography, Picture Book  
 \$16.95(HC) - Retail  
 L: 1 R: 3



PROJECT #1


**Joan of Arc**  
 Stanley, Diane  
 ISBN 0064437485  
 JB Joan  
 Biography, Picture Book  
 6.95(PB) - Retail  
 L: 1 R: 4  
 PROJECT #1

### Castles and Kings:

 **Castles**  
 Steele, Philip  
 ISBN 0753452588  
 J 940.1  
 Informational  
 Book  
 \$10.95(PB) - Retail  
 L: K R: 3



PROJECT #2  
*Large, detailed and colorful illustrations make this book a wonderful resource. Look up topics as you read about them in other books.*

 **A Medieval Feast**  
 Alik  
 ISBN 0064460509  
 J 394.1  
 Fiction, Picture Book  
 \$6.99(PB) - Retail  
 L: K R: 2  
 PROJECT #4, 5

**The Missing Tarts**  
 Hennessy, B. G.  
 ISBN 0670820393  
 E  
 Adapted Nurs. Rhyme, Picture Book  
 OOP  
 L: K R: 1

**King Bidgood's in the Bathtub**  
 Wood, Don & Audrey  
 ISBN 0152427309  
 E  
 Fiction, Picture Book  
 \$16.00(HC) - Retail  
 L: K R: 1

# Historical Book List

## Knights:

### ***The Kitchen Knight***

Hodges, Margaret  
ISBN 082340787X  
J 398.2  
Legend, Picture Book  
\$16.95(HC) - Retail  
L: 1 R: 3  
*A retelling of Arthurian legend*



### ***The Knight and the Dragon***

dePaola, Tomie  
ISBN 0698116232  
E  
Fiction, Picture Book  
\$5.99(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 2

### ***Knights in Shining Armor***

Gibbons, Gail  
ISBN 0316300381  
J 394.7  
Informational Picture Book  
\$5.95(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 2

### ***The Knight's Handbook***

Gravett, Christopher  
ISBN 0525652418  
J 940.1  
Informational Book  
OOP  
L: K R: 3  
*Although out-of-print, this book is worth checking out of the library. It is full of great project ideas.*

### ***The Knight Who was Afraid of the Dark***

Hazen, Barbara Shook  
ISBN 014054545X  
E  
Fiction, Picture Book  
\$6.99(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 2

### ***Harald and the Giant Knight***

Carrick, Donald  
ISBN 089919060X  
E  
Fictional, Picture Book  
OOP  
L: K R: 3

### ***A Tournament of Knights***

Laker, Joe  
ISBN 0690045417  
E  
Fiction, Picture Book  
OOP  
L: K R: 3

### ***Sir Cedric***

Gerrard, Roy  
ISBN 0374369593  
E  
Fiction, Picture Book  
OOP  
L: K R: 3

## Legends:

### ***The Legend of the Persian Carpet***

dePaola, Tomie  
ISBN 0399224157  
J 398.2  
Folklore, Picture Book  
\$15.99(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 3

### ***Sindbad: From the Tales of The Thousand and One Nights***

Zeman, Ludmila  
ISBN 08887764606  
J 813.54  
Fiction, Picture Book  
\$17.95(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 3

### ***Robin Hood***

Early, Margaret  
ISBN 0810944286  
J 398.2  
Legend, Picture Book  
\$17.95(HC) - Retail  
L: 1 R: 4  
PROJECT #3  
*This is a beautifully illustrated chapter book based on the length of the text.*

### ***Robin Hood***

Hayes, Sarah  
ISBN 0805012060  
J 398  
Legend, Chapter Book  
OOP  
L: K R: 4  
PROJECT #3

### ***William Tell***

Fisher, Leonard Everett  
ISBN 0374384363  
J 398.2  
Legendary Bio, Picture Book  
\$16.00(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 3  
PROJECT #3

### ***William Tell***

Early, Margaret  
ISBN 0810938545  
J 398.2  
Legendary Bio, Picture Book  
\$17.95(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 3  
PROJECT #3



### ***The Apple and the Arrow: The Legend of William Tell***

Buff, Mary & Conrad  
ISBN 0618128093  
J 398  
Legendary Bio, Chapter Book  
\$5.95(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 4  
PROJECT #3

## Teaching Tip:

*The Middle Ages offers an excellent opportunity to distinguish between true history and myths/legends. You may want to point out that often myths and legends are based on partial truths, as with King Arthur. Another point to share is that myths and legends developed out of the oral passing down of history. Without books, people relied on traveling poets and minstrels, who often exaggerated the truth to entertain as well as inform.*

## Poetry/Fine Arts

### Poetry:

#### *The Real Mother Goose*

Wright, Blanche Fisher  
ISBN 0590225170  
J 398.8  
\$9.95(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 2

#### *Silvia Long's Mother Goose*

Long, Silvia  
ISBN 0811820882  
Nursery Rhymes  
\$22.95(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 2

#### *The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog*

dePaola, Tomie  
ISBN 0152195424  
J 398.8  
\$7.00(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 1

### Across A Dark & Wild Sea

Brown, Don  
ISBN 0761315349  
JB  
\$15.95(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 2  
*This book is about a man named Columcille who hand-lettered Psalters and wrote poetry.*

### Fine Arts:

#### *Illuminations*

Hunt, Jonathan  
ISBN 0689717008  
J 940.1  
OOP  
L: K R: 1  
*This beautiful alphabet book features watercolor paintings and medieval vocabulary.*



### *Lives and Legends of the Saints*

Armstrong, Carole  
ISBN 0689802773  
J 270.0922  
OOP  
*Paintings from the great art museums of the world*

### *Gregorian Chant*

from "Classical Treasury" #2501  
\$70(CDs) - God's World Book Club  
*A compilation of 20 CDs, useful throughout your historical studies.*

### *Music for a Medieval Banquet*

ASIN B00005AWX  
\$5.97(CD) - Retail

### *Courts, Kings, & Troubadours: Medieval & Renaissance Music*

ASIN B000059RXH  
\$7.98(CD) - Retail  
*You can use this CD for Middle Ages and Renaissance.*

## Science

### Herbs:

#### *Herbs Coloring Book*

Bernath, Stefan  
ISBN 0486234991  
Identification, Coloring Book  
\$3.95(PB) - Dover Publications



### Whales:

#### *A First Look at Whales*

Selsam, Millicent Ellis & Springer, Harriett  
ISBN 0802763871  
J 599.5  
\$7.95(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 2

#### *The Wonderful World of Seals and Whales*

Crow, Sandra L.  
ISBN 9997433572  
J 599.745  
\$12.95(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 3



*Note: Unless otherwise noted,*

*all primary science books are informational picture books.*

### Birds of Prey:

#### *Amazing Birds of Prey*

Parry-Jones, Jemima  
ISBN 0833593056  
J 598.91  
\$18.45(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 3  
PROJECT #7



#### *A First Look at Owls, Eagles, and Other Hunters of the Sky*

Selsam, Millicent E. & Hunt, Joyce  
ISBN 0802766250  
J 598.91  
OOP  
L: K R: 2  
PROJECT #7  
*Learn to identify birds of prey.*

### Forests:

#### *Wonders of the Forest*

Sabin, Francene  
ISBN 0893755737  
J574.52

\$3.50(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 3  
PROJECTS #6, 10

#### *How the Forest Grew*

Jaspersohn, William  
ISBN 068811508X  
J 574  
\$6.95(PB) - Retail  
L: K R: 2  
PROJECTS #6, 9

#### *A Tree is Growing*

Dorros, Arthur  
ISBN 0590453009  
J 582.16  
\$15.95(HC) - Retail  
L: K R: 2  
PROJECTS #8, 9, 11  
*This is beautifully illustrated and a superior informational book.*

#### *A Tree is Nice*

Udry, Janice May  
ISBN 0064431479  
E  
Fiction, Picture Book  
\$6.99(PB) - Retail  
R: K R: 1  
PROJECT #8, 9, 10

## History:

### 1. *Make a Cross*

Using two sticks (from outdoors or craft sticks) make a simple cross. Hold the sticks together crisscrossing twice between the angles formed at the cross section. Discuss why such a simple cross meant so much to Joan of Arc.

### 2. *Make a Family Crest*

Design a family crest using the shape of a “shield of arms.” You may want to use poster board. Divide your crest into four sections and put one symbol that is important to your family in each section (for example, a cross or a Bible).

### 3. *Bow and arrow activities*

Purchase a Nerf™ (or the plunger-style) bow and arrows. Make a target or shoot through Hoola™ hoops to have an archery contest.

### 4. *Make trenchers*

Bake or buy a ready-made loaf of unsliced bread. Slice it in half, lengthwise to make 2 trenchers. Scoop out the soft middle and use the outside crust as a plate. Use when you make a poultry meal.

### 5. *Have a poultry meal*

Eat a chicken dinner without any utensils. Use small a bowl of water (perhaps scented) and a towel to clean up afterwards.

*Note: for additional history projects, check out **The Knights Handbook** in the Historical Book List.*

## Science:

### 6. *Nature Walk*

Go for a walk in a wooded area. Notice the trees, grasses, birds and animals in the woods. Encourage your child to draw and discuss the surrounding nature.

### 7. *Bird Watching*

Take the time to watch some birds. Take advantage of any local animal sanctuaries or natural parks. Use binoculars if you have them. See if you can identify some common birds from your geographic area.

### 8. *Leaf Collection*

Start a simple leaf collection. Go on a walk and gather a few different types of leaves. Iron the leaves on low setting between two pieces of wax paper. Adhere to a large piece of poster board and label your finds, or place in a scrapbook with name labels.

### 9. *Bark Rubbings*

Take a piece of unlined paper and place it against the bark of a tree. Using the side of an unwrapped crayon, gently

color on the paper until the imprint of the tree bark appears. Label the tree bark and place in your child’s notebook.

### 10. *Drawing (or Watercolor) Picnic*

Find a “nice” tree and have a picnic lunch under it. Then look up from the ground and sketch what the tree looks like from this angle. Talk about the different points of view that animals have including squirrels on the branches, birds flying above the tree, bugs on the ground by the base of the trunk or crawling up the tree, etc. Have your child make a simple drawing or paint a picture from one of these viewpoints.

### 11. *Season Illustration*

Fold a piece of white drawing paper in half twice, so that you end up with four divisions once opened. In each division, have your child illustrate a tree along with other details to show the different seasons. Have your child write the season’s title in each rectangle.



## Resources:

### *Dover Publications, Inc.*

31 East 2nd street  
Mineola, NY 11501-3582  
www.doverpublications.com

*Dover has a wonderful catalog full of children’s items that go well with the Middle Ages Unit, such as:*

*Easy to Make Castle* (A. G. Smith)

*Cut and Make a Knight’s Helmet* (A. G. Smith)

*Medieval Knights Paper Soldiers* (A. G. Smith)

*Knights and Armor Coloring Book* (A. G. Smith)

*Life in a Medieval Castle and Village Coloring Book*  
(John Green)

*Birds of Prey Coloring Book* (John Green)

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1342 Oak Mill Court  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

# The Middle Ages Overview

*This covers from after the fall of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476 through the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453.*

**T**he Middle Ages is often thought of as a time of brave knights, damsels in distress, chivalry and enormous castles. While the **Code of Chivalry** was developed in 500 A.D., the Middle Ages focused less on romantic interludes and more on brutal raids and battles. Castles were often filthy and smelly, with little privacy and even less hygiene. Most people still believed that bathing more than once a month was unsafe, allowing disease, such as the **Black Death**, to run rampant. Superstition ranked over science until near the end of the Middle Ages, where traveling merchants shared culture from Asia, the Middle East and Africa that opened people's eyes to learning more about the earth and their own bodies.

For most people of that period, life was routine, revolving around the agrarian or farming calendar. Social activities were an important means of distraction primarily in the form of fairs. These events included many merchants,

performing troubadours and competitions for knights such as jousting, sword fighting and archery. Medieval weddings offered opportunities for village-wide celebrations.

The **feudal system** was developed and implemented in the Middle Ages. Basically, the king was the highest authority with his knights as his military strength to enforce his desires. Nobility, often selected by the king, would be allotted land from the king. The nobles would take the land from whoever was living on it, primarily peasants, who would then work the land for the nobles for little compensation. While there were various forms of feudalism throughout medieval Europe, no system benefited anyone other than those already in power.

## **England**

This small country was the only European land not under **Charlemagne's** rule in the 8th century.

It was settled by the Angles and the Saxons in 449 (thus the term **Anglo-Saxon**). Britain would be invaded by numerous other groups during this period, including the **Vikings** and the Jutes. It incorporated words from all of the various invaders and eventually created one of the most complicated languages in the world, with conflicting grammar rules and many exceptions to those rules.

**King Arthur**, the most legendary of England's kings, died in battle in 537. Although much has been written about him, it is challenging to determine how much of his life has been fictionalized.

In 739, Vikings began raids on the country. Danish Vikings, in the 9th century, were held off under the reign of Alfred of Wessex, also known as **Alfred the Great**. During his 29 year reign, Alfred was known for starting a revival of education throughout England. It would be more than 300 years after Alfred's reign before England would open its first university with the founding of Cambridge in 1209.

Two of Britain's most famous ruling houses included:

1. *House of Plantagenet (1138-1399)*

Included Henry II, who fought Thomas Beckett over the powers of Church v. State.

Also included **Richard the Lionhearted**.

2. *House of Lancaster (1399-1461)*

**Henry V**, written about by Shakespeare, who reinstated the English claim on the French throne and conquered a portion of northern France.

Battled the House of York in what would become the **War of Roses**.

The **Magna Carta**, which **King John** was forced to sign by his barons, became a foundation of English constitutional government in 1215. **Parliament** was established in 1295.

Castles were the seat of European nobility by the 10th century and Britain boasts of some of the world's oldest architecture. After **William the Conqueror** invaded in 1066, Norman castles became commonplace. In the same year, the size of Westminster Abbey was significantly increased.

This is just sample of the Middle Ages Teacher's Overview. The full overview is several more pages.