

More Details about the Integrated Unit: “I Love the Knight-life: A Week in the Middle Ages”

Sample Role Cards Distributed for use in a Simulation for: “I Love the Knight-life: A Week in the Middle Ages.” The teacher plays the role of King or Queen. Most students receive a serf card. Teacher makes some additional cards for miller, carpenters, blacksmiths, baker, minstrel, pages, squires, Lady-in-Waiting, sheriff, night watchman, judge, lawyer, trader, baron, abbess, abbot and nun modeled after the sample below. Students draw the role cards and use this role to guide their research in social studies be certain to separate the roles so that those exclusively for females and males are drawn by members of the correct sex. During the first activity students receive their roles. Serfs present food to a knight or ruler of a manor for protection, and knights pledge their loyalty to the head of the manor and/or King or Queen. While those with other roles gather around and observe. The simulation is followed by a discussion in which students predict what behaviors and actions would be taken by the other roles throughout the year in the Middle Ages. Research on subsequent days will support or require changes to their predictions. On the final day of the unit students perform and present what they learned about life during the Middle Ages through their studies. End the study by having students recap their activities and tell two interesting new things that they learned about the Middle Ages during the weeks study and two new and interesting things they learned from the presentations by their classmates.

List of Trade Books that Support the unit include:

Byrd, Robert. (2003). LEONARDO: BEAUTIFUL DREAMER. New York: Dutton Children’s Books.

MacDonald, Fiona. (1990) INSIDE STORY: A MEDIEVAL CASTLE. New York: Peter Bedrick Books.

Galloway, Priscilla. (2003). ARCHERS, ALCHEMISTS, and 98 OTHER MEDIEVAL JOBS YOU MIGHT HAVE LOVED OR LOATHED. Toronto: Annick Press Ltd.

MacDonald, Fiona. (1990) INSIDE STORY: A MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL. New York: Peter Bedrick Books.

Platt, Richard. (1999). CASTLE DIARY: THE JOURNAL OF TOBIAS BURGESS, PAGE. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

MacDonald, Fiona. (1990) INSIDE STORY: A 16TH CENTURY MOSQUE. New York: Peter Bedrick Books.

Crabtree Publishing Company. The Medieval World Series. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Most of the students should receive serf cards.
2. You might want to place a picture or graphic on the role card that illustrates person described in the statement.

Here are some examples of cards that you can distribute for the activity

You are a serf. You are a member of the lowest class in society, but you do have a small plot of land near the manor that you farm. The Lord owns the land and you must pay him in crops as well as labor. You are not free, but nor are you a slave. You must stay on the land but cannot be bought, sold, or traded.

You are a baker and work long hours to prepare bread. You may work in a town for a merchant or as a servant in the castle or manor house. Through your research learn more about your life and work as you study this week about life in the Middle Ages. On Friday you may want to illustrate your trade or provide a sample of your work for classmates to sample.

You are a freeman. You are a member of the lowest class in society, but you do have a small plot of land near the manor that you farm. The Lord owns the land and you must pay him in crops as well as labor. Unlike the serf you are free; you can move from the land, take a job in the village, start a business, and even be elected to office.

You are a knight. Your job is to go around to the Lords and Ladies and negotiate a “deal” (basically you will want to go with the person who you can get the most food coupons from).

**When you find the manor that offers you the most you will pledge allegiance to them. When the monarch Yell tells you to pledge you must say
“I pledge GREAT KING to always protect your manors, its castles, and its people.”**

You are an abbess. As the head of a monastic center for women you have many responsibilities that you will learn about during your studies this week. Not everyone in your monastery is a member of your religious order because your monastery provides services to members of the nobility.

You are a Monk in a medieval monastery. The monastery is a small religious community that is set apart from the towns and villages.

As a Monk you attend several church services a day, work in the fields and workhouses of the, copy manuscripts, and help provide area serfs with medical care and education.

As a monk, you’ve taken an oath of poverty and own few belongings. Some monks became friars and lived among people in the villages and towns.

You are the Baron of the manor and your job is to defend it against all attackers, expand your lands, and lead your knights and soldiers into battle

When the Monarch tells you to come forward, you must come forward, kneel before him, and say the following:

“I pledge allegiance to you oh GREAT KING and will always protect your land and your interests.”

You are the “Lady” of the manor and your job is to defend it against all attackers, expand your lands, and lead your knights and soldiers into battle

When the Monarch tells you to come forward, you must come forward, kneel before him, and say the following:

“I pledge allegiance to you oh GREAT KING and will always protect your land and your interests.”

Distribute several crop cards to serfs to trade with knights for protection.



