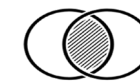


## Knowledge organiser: How different was life across the medieval world?



<p>By the early 1400s, Europeans had made some amazing discoveries about the world and had begun to trade with different countries in Africa and Asia. In this unit you will find out about and compare the similarities and differences between three key medieval civilisations.</p>		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words	
		<b>762 AD</b>	Baghdad founded by Abbasid caliph al-Mansur as the new centre of his Islamic empire.	<b>Civilisation</b>	The society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.
<p><b>Summarise your learning</b></p>		<b>1066 AD</b>	Norman conquest of England	<b>Peasant</b>	A poor person of low social status who works on the land.
		<b>1324 AD</b>	Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca	<b>Merchant</b>	A person who is involved in the buying and selling of goods.
<p><b>Topic 1:</b> What was life like in medieval England?</p> <p>The land ruled by the King of England included England, part of Ireland, Wales and two regions of France: Gascony and Calais. Power rested with monarchs and the Church. 90% of people were farmers who lived in the same villages all of their lives and farmed the land. There was a clear hierarchy in medieval society, often called the feudal system. Most of the land was owned by the Lord of the Manor who let the peasants live on his land in return for their obedience and work. There were not many towns in medieval England, and those that existed were small. London was the largest with a population of 10,000. Trade was a key part of town life, with goods such as iron, wool, salt and agricultural products being commonly bought and sold. Coastal towns would trade with other countries. Education was rare and only for the rich or clergy and healthcare was poor.</p>		Who were these people?		<b>Empire</b>	A set of different countries, regions or states, controlled by one 'mother country' or ruled by one person.
		<b>The prophet Muhammad</b>	The person who founded Islam. His teachings spread around the world.		
<p><b>Topic 2:</b> What was life like in the medieval Islamic Empire?</p> <p>The Islamic Empire was built up in the 7th and 8th centuries AD. Inspired by the Prophet Mohammed, the founder of the Islamic religion, the Arabs conquered vast territories. At its height, the empire stretched from Spain, through North Africa and across Asia as far as India. It was ruled by a Caliph. It was a centre of trade and travel. Baghdad was considered to be the largest city in the world with between 1.2 -2 million inhabitants. A key building was the House of Wisdom, a large library home to millions of books. It was here that texts on mathematics, theology and religion, science and medicine were stored, translated and used to educate. Many developments were made in maths, science and medicine.</p>		<b>Ibn Sina</b>	Produced an encyclopaedia of medicine called 'The Canon of Medicine'.	<b>Trade</b>	The activity of buying and selling goods or services between people or countries.
		<b>Mana Musa</b>	The Emperor of Mali between 1312 and 1337. He is believed to be the richest man that has ever lived!	<b>Caliph</b>	The chief Muslim civil and religious ruler.
<p><b>Topic 3:</b> What was life like in medieval Mali?</p> <p>The Empire of Mali grew out of Wagadou (the Empire of Ghana) following its collapse into smaller kingdoms. Mali had at least 400 cities, many of these densely populated urban centres. Major cities included: Timbuktu &amp; Niani (the capital). At it's height, there were 20 million subjects of the empire. Salt, copper and gold were the main items traded. Trade in and out of the Empire was taxed, making the Empire of Mali extremely wealthy. The Mansa (emperor) oversaw the Empire, which was divided into provinces administered by governors called Ferbas. The most famous emperor was Mansa Musa who is believed to be the richest man who has ever lived! He demonstrated his wealth on his Hajj to Mecca. On his return, he brought architects from Andalusia (Spain) to Mali, building Madrasas (religious schools), Mosques and Universities. The University of Sankore became a centre of learning with up to 700,000 books and was the largest library in Africa.</p>				<b>Mansa</b>	The Emperor/ King of Mali.
				<b>Scholar</b>	A person who has done advanced study in a special field.
				<b>Translation</b>	The process of translating words or text from one language into another.
				<b>Hajj</b>	An Islamic pilgrimage (holy journey) to Mecca.