



## History Vocabulary for ESL Students- The Middle Ages

Find one word in each section below which is not relevant to the topic of the Middle Ages in Europe, e.g. things that didn't exist at that time.

Iron bridge	Castle
Dungeon	Gothic cathedral
Hut	Walled town
Drawbridge (a bridge that goes up and down)	Moat (like a canal all around a castle)
Tapestry	Thatched roof (=a roof made of straw)
Jousting/ tilting (fighting on horseback with long sticks)	Falconry (hunting with birds)
Tennis	Football
Darts	Skating
Marbles	Bear baiting
Dog fighting	Skittles (similar to ten pin bowling)
Wrestling	
The Crusades	Chivalry
Chain mail (armour made from linked metal hoops)	Mine
Bow and arrow	Cavalry
Cannon	Siege engine
Rifle	Mercenary
Apothecary (similar to a modern pharmacist)	Blacksmith
Tinker	Troubadour
Guild	Minstrel
Apprentice	Serfs
Accountant	Eunuch
Merchant	Baron
Landed gentry	Tenant farmer
Carpenter	Mason
Bricklayer	Glassblower
Rat catcher	Potter
Chastity belt	Dowry
Veil	Bra burning
Monastery	Excommunicate
Pilgrimage	Evangelical Christians
The Inquisition	Nun
Astrology	
The Black Death (= bubonic plague)	Leech
Humours	Antibiotics
Herbal cure	
Mead (a kind of wine made from honey)	Potatoes
(Wild) boar	Black pudding (= blood sausage)
Rabbit	Fasting



Poll tax  
Cheques  
Government monopolies

Palanquin  
Horse and cart  
Toll gate

Torture  
The ducking chair  
Witch trials  
Branding  
Mutilation

Lute  
Dancing bears  
Piano

Salt tax  
Banks  
Tax farmer

Steam engine  
Inn  
Sailing ship

The rack  
Ordeals  
Poaching  
Corporal punishment  
The electric chair

Passion plays (religious drama)  
Trumpet  
Flute

*Match the sections above with the categories below:*

War  
Transport  
Law and order and crimes  
Food and drink  
Health and disease  
Religion  
Women and marriage  
Professions, trades and social classes  
Buildings and architecture  
Music and entertainment  
The economy  
Sports and games

*Choose one of the categories and discuss which things in that section were also relevant to the Middle Ages in your country or another country you know about outside Western Europe.*



## History Vocabulary for ESL Students- The Middle Ages

### Answer key

*The words in bold are the odd words out that aren't connected to the Middle Ages and the underlined parts are the names of the categories underneath*

#### **Buildings and architecture**

##### **Iron bridge**

Dungeon

Hut

Drawbridge

Tapestry

Castle

Gothic cathedral

Walled town

Moat

Thatched roof

#### **Sports and games**

Jousting/ tilting

Tennis

##### **Darts**

Marbles

Dog fighting

Wrestling

Falconry

Football

Skating

Bear baiting

Skittles

#### **War**

The Crusades

Chain mail

Bow and arrow

Cannon

##### **Rifle**

Chivalry

Mine

Cavalry

Siege engine

Mercenary

#### **Professions, trades and social classes**

Apothecary

Tinker

Guild

Apprentice

##### **Accountant**

Merchant

Landed gentry

Carpenter

Bricklayer

Rat catcher

Blacksmith

Troubadour

Minstrel

Serfs

Eunuch

Lord

Tenant farmer

Mason

Glassblower

Potter

#### **Women and marriage**

Chastity belt

Veil

Dowry

##### **Bra burning**

#### **Religion**

Monastery

Pilgrimage

The Inquisition

Astrology

Excommunicate

##### **Evangelical Christians**

Nun



**Health and disease**

The Black Death (= bubonic plague)  
Humours  
Herbal cure

Leech

**Antibiotics**

**Food and drink**

Mead  
(Wild) boar  
Rabbit

**Potatoes**

Black pudding  
Fasting

**The economy**

Poll tax

**Cheques**

Government monopolies

Salt tax

Banks

Tax farmer

**Transport**

Palanquin  
Horse and cart  
Toll gate

**Steam engine**

Inn

Sailing ship

**Law and order and crimes**

Torture  
The ducking chair  
Witch trials  
Branding  
Mutilation

The rack

Ordeals

Poaching

Corporal punishment

**The electric chair**

**Music and entertainment**

Lute  
Dancing bears

**Piano**

Passion plays

Trumpet

Flute