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
Dungeon
Hut
Drawbridge (a bridge that goes up and down)
Tapestry

Castle
Gothic cathedral
Walled town
Moat (like a canal all around a castle)
Thatched roof (= a roof made of straw)

Jousting/ tilting (fighting on horseback with long sticks)
Tennis
Darts
Marbles
Dog fighting
Wrestling

Falconry (hunting with birds)
Football
Skating
Bear baiting
Skittles (similar to ten pin bowling)

The Crusades
Chain mail (armour made from linked metal hoops)
Bow and arrow
Cannon
Rifle

Chivalry
Mine
Cavalry
Siege engine
Mercenary

Apothecary (similar to a modern pharmacist)
Tinker
Guild
Apprentice
Accountant
Merchant
Landed gentry
Carpenter
Bricklayer
Rat catcher

Blacksmith
Troubadour
Minstrel
Serfs
Eunuch
Baron
Tenant farmer
Mason
Glassblower
Potter

Chastity belt
Veil

Dowry
Bra burning

Monastery
Pilgrimage
The Inquisition
Astrology

Excommunicate
Evangelical Christians
Nun

The Black Death (= bubonic plague)
Humours
Herbal cure

Leech
Antibiotics

Mead (a kind of wine made from honey)
(Wild) boar
Rabbit

Potatoes
Black pudding (= blood sausage)
Fasting

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Poll tax
Cheques
Government monopolies

Salt tax
Banks
Tax farmer

Palanquin
Horse and cart
Toll gate

Steam engine
Inn
Sailing ship

Torture
The ducking chair
Witch trials
Branding
Mutilation

The rack
Ordeals
Poaching
Corporal punishment
The electric chair

Lute
Dancing bears
Piano

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  Castle
Dungeon  Gothic cathedral
Hut  Walled town
Drawbridge  Moat
Tapestry  Thatched roof

Sports and games
Jousting/ tilting  Falconry
Tennis  Football
Darts  Skating
Marbles  Bear baiting
Dog fighting  Skittles
Wrestling

War
The Crusades  Chivalry
Chain mail  Mine
Bow and arrow  Cavalry
Cannon  Siege engine
Rifle  Mercenary

Professions, trades and social classes
Apothecary  Blacksmith
Tinker  Troubadour
Guild  Minstrel
Apprentice  Serfs
Accountant  Eunuch
Merchant  Lord
Landed gentry  Tenant farmer
Carpenter  Mason
Bricklayer  Glassblower
Rat catcher  Potter

Women and marriage
Chastity belt  Dowry
Veil  Bra burning

Religion
Monastery
Pilgrimage  Excommunicate
The Inquisition  Evangelical Christians
Astrology  Nun
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