

STUDENT VOCABULARY

Student Handout

Arrow

Used with longbow in order to reach target by knights.

Andalusian

Pure Spanish horse breed from the Iberian Peninsula. Known for its prowess as a war horse and was prized by the nobility.

Battering Ram

Often created on the spot using a nearby tree, battering rams were used to bash down doors and crumble walls.

Battle Ax

Common weapon used for chopping.

Castle

Structures that belonged to the wealthy, important, and powerful people of the land – King or Queens, nobles, and knights. They were symbols of status during times of war and in peace. Early castles were built in the 9th and 10th centuries and were constructed of earth and wood. They were designed to be difficult to attack and easy to defend.

Catapult/Trebuchet

Large device with weighted throwing arm held under tension until released. Large rocks or iron balls were hurled at castle walls in order to smash them down.

Chain mail

Body shielding that was made of thousands of interlinked rings of steel.

Chivalry

The medieval system, principles and customs of knighthood. The qualities idealized by knighthood, such as bravery, courtesy, honor and gallantry toward women.

Crossbow

A bow mounted onto a wooden body called a stock. Crossbows were used to shoot arrows or stones and required much less skill and training than a longbow.

Dagger

Two-sided blade. Daggers were common to most soldiers and varied from simple to elegant. Most often daggers were used for close combat when the fighter's sword was lost.

Friesian

A horse breed from the Netherlands that resembles a draft horse. Their size enables them to carry a knight in armor.

Helmet

Part of suit of arms covering the head.

Knight

A medieval gentleman-soldier, usually high-born, raised by a sovereign to privileged military status after training as a page and squire.

Knives

Smaller than a dagger and usually only have a single-edged blade. Used primarily as a tool for eating, cutting and repairing.

Lance

Used by knights on horseback. Ceremonial version of a spear used during jousting tournaments.

Longbow

Long range offensive weapon there were highly accurate in skilled hands. Longbow was used to fire arrows. Soldiers who used this were called longbowmen or archers.

Lord

The proprietor of a manor.

Mace

Large club with a ball or spiked ball on the end or fixed to a chain on the end of a handle.

Manor

The district over which a lord had domain and could exercise certain rights and privileges in medieval Europe.

Page

A boy who acted as a knight's attendant as the first stage of training for chivalric knighthood.

Quarter Horse

A breed of stocky muscular horses capable of high speed for short distances.

Shield

Used to protect the fighter from attack.

Squire

A young nobleman attendant upon a knight and ranked next below a knight in feudal hierarchy.

Suit of Armor

The effective of body shielding was tailor-made by a metalsmith to the intended wearer. Overtime, the full head-to-toe suit of armor was developed.

Sword

Medieval swords almost always had a double-edged blade to enable cutting action on the backswing. Swords came in many varieties such as sabers, broadswords and claymores.

Valor

A quality of determination when facing great danger, especially in battle.

Virtue

A quality of someone who displays moral excellence.