

Welcome!

Grade 4, Unit 2

Empires in the Middle Ages, Part 1

In the first part of this unit, students will learn about the Middle Ages in Europe and the Islamic Medieval Empires.

What's the story?

Students will explore these **two separate regions** and their medieval history and will **analyze** the **impact** they have had on the **modern world**.

What will my student learn?

Students will continue to build their **background knowledge** to help them **comprehend** the variety of complex texts they will be reading. They will also engage in **deep conversations** with their peers to further develop their understanding of the world around them.

Students will have numerous **writing** opportunities throughout this unit. They will **review the stages of the writing process** by taking notes on the information presented in their Reader. They will use this information to **form an opinion** and **draft a persuasive paragraph** in response to what they have read.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is the Middle Ages?
Follow up: Why is it called that?
2. What do you think were some of the positive things about living in towns during the Middle Ages?
Follow up: What were some negative things?
3. You learned about the word *rival* (i.e., competing). Can you tell me what *rival* means by using it in a sentence?
Follow up: What is an antonym (opposite meaning) of *rival*? And a synonym (same meaning)?
4. How did an aspiring knight prepare for knighthood?
Follow up: What do you think would have been the hardest thing about the preparation?
5. What type of craftsmen existed in the Middle Ages?
Follow up: What type of craftsman would you have wanted to be?