

Middle Ages Vocabulary

- 1. **Middle Ages:** the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the modern era, from about 476A.D. to 1453.
- 2. Medieval: from the Middle Ages.
- 3. **Feudalism:** a political system in which lords gave land to vassals in exchange for services.
- 4. Lord: a powerful landowner.
- 5. **Vassal:** a less wealthy noble who paid taxes to and served a lord in exchange for land.
- **6. Knight:** a vassal trained in combat who fought on behalf of lords.
- **7. Serf:** a person who lived and worked on the manor of a lord or vassal.
- **8. Manor:** a noble's house and the villages on his land where the peasants lived.
- **9. Renaissance:** a rebirth of creativity, literature, and learning in Europe from about 1300 to 1600.
- 10. **Patron:** a wealthy or powerful person who provides money, support, and encouragement to an artist or a cause.
- 11. **Secular:** worldly or not related to religion.
- 12. **Perspective:** a technique used by artists to give the appearance of depth and distance.
- 13. **Reformation:** a movement in the 1500s to change practices in the Catholic Church.
- 14. **Protestant**: a member of a Christian Church founded on the principles of the Reformation.