

ELA: Grade 6, Lesson 3, Middle Ages

Lesson Objective: Students will learn the characteristics of Knights in the Middle Ages.

Practice Focus: Today we will craft an informational paragraph to demonstrate understanding of knights.

TN Standards: 6.RI.KID.1, 6.RI.KID.3, 6.RI.CS.4, 6.W.TP.2

Teacher Materials:

- Sample images document (optional)
- Board or paper to take notes on

Student Materials

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- The chart from the previous lesson

Vocabulary: feudalism, joust, lance, and chivalry

Teacher Do	Student Do
<p><u>Opening</u></p> <p>Hello! Welcome to Tennessee's At Home Learning Series for literacy! Today's lesson is for all our 6th graders out there, though all children are welcome to tune in. This lesson is the third in our series.</p> <p>My name is ____ and I'm a ____ grade teacher in Tennessee schools! I'm so excited to be your teacher for this lesson! Welcome to my virtual classroom!</p> <p>Today we will be learning about the Knights in the Middle Ages!</p> <p>Before we get started, to participate fully in our lesson today, you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something to write• Paper and the chart that you started if you participated in our previous lesson <p>If you didn't see our previous lesson, you can find it on The TN Department of Education's website at www.tn.gov/education. You can still tune in to today's lesson if you haven't see any of our others. But, it might be more fun if you first go back and watch our other lessons since we'll be talking about things we learned previously.</p>	

<p>We will continue creating the chart today using interesting facts and events that we learn about the Middle Ages. So grab your chart from yesterday and something to write with, and we will get started.</p> <p>As a reminder we learned the events that led to the Middle Ages, or medieval Europe. Our reading is from a nonfiction, informational text.</p>	
<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>During our first lesson, we focused on how the Roman Empire changed under Charles the Great and formed Europe during the Middle Ages. We learned that five countries made up the new Europe: England, France, Spain, Germany and Italy.</p> <p>We also began to learn about the changes that were occurring in Europe under Charles's new government system called feudalism. Feudalism focused on land ownership and how that created the lords and the serfs.</p> <p>In our last lesson, we learned the different opportunities privileged people, also known as the lords, had and how different their lives were from serfs. We also learned that the Middle Ages were violent times and lords were required to protect their land.</p> <p>Today, we will learn about the knights. Knights were hired by lords for protection during the violent times of the Middle Ages.</p>	<p>Student listens to the review of characteristics of the Middle Ages, serfs, lords, and the violent times of the Middle Ages.</p>
<p><u>Interactive Read Aloud</u></p> <p>Whether rich or poor, young men in the Middle Ages learned how to use a weapon of some kind. Rivalries between nobles, wars with other nations, even violence between neighbors required that they be able to fight. When a lord needed to raise an army, he turned to those he governed. In the Middle Ages, ordinary foot soldiers were trained to fight with an axe and a long spear called a pike. Others were trained to be skillful archers and crossbowmen. Some foot soldiers might have worn chainmail, an early form of metal armor, but most had padded coats and carried daggers. However, the most esteemed soldiers were knights</p>	<p>Student will learn about the different types of soldiers during the Middle Ages., and they will respond to question sets about the knights' influence, the characteristics of a knight, and the steps to becoming a knight. Students will respond to questions about chivalry and jousting.</p>

What was happening in the Middle Ages that often required young men to become fighters? [Pause] Yes, that's right; there were rivalries between nobles, wars with other nations, and violence between neighbors.

What are rivalries? [Pause] Yes, I did use that word in my answer. Rivalries is a noun, and it means "competitions" or "conflicts."

Let's learn more about the different soldiers in the Middle Ages.

In the Middle Ages, ordinary foot soldiers were trained to fight with an axe and a long spear called a pike. Others were trained to be skillful archers and crossbowmen. Some foot soldiers might have worn chainmail, an early form of metal armor, but most had padded coats and carried daggers. However, the most esteemed soldiers were knights.

What do we think esteemed means in this sentence? [Pause] Yes, that is right. Esteemed means respected or highly regarded.

Would that make him higher or lower than a serf in the feudal system? [Pause] Higher, correct.

Knights were soldiers who fought on horseback, and sometimes on foot, for their lord. If you wanted to be a knight, you had to be able to afford horses and armor. You also had to find someone willing to train you. Because it was very expensive to become a knight, these mounted warriors were usually sons of wealthy, influential members of society. Being a knight was one way of making a fortune. If you were involved in successful battles and wars, you might receive money or land as payment for your services. Sometimes a king might also reward you with a title. Having a title usually meant that you were an influential member of society. Knights also made money by looting and by holding certain people for ransom.

Wow, that was a lot of information about knights! Let's review. A knight rode a horse, and knights had to be rich enough to pay for the horse and for armor. Does that mean a knight was usually a serf or a lord? [Pause] Right a knight would have to be part of the wealthy.

If a knight was successful, what are some of the things a knight could have received? [Pause] Yes, money.

What else? [Pause] Yes, they could have received land.

What else? [Pause] You are right – they earned titles that allowed them to be influential members of society.

What does it mean to be influential? [Pause] That's right-powerful.

What was one thing that knights did that surprised you? [Pause] One thing that surprised me was that they could kidnap people and hold them for ransom.

Let's find out more about what it was like to be a knight in the Middle Ages.

Your training to become a knight begins at a young age. You leave home to live with a family friend or relative who has agreed to train you. In the first several years of your training, you help to dress and to serve the lord. You are known as a page. During these early years as an aspiring knight, you probably learn to use a sword, to ride a horse, and to wield a lance, or long wooden pole with a metal tip. Later, when you are ready to learn more challenging skills, you become a squire. Although you are still a servant, as a squire you are now responsible for grooming and saddling the lord's horses. You are also responsible for cleaning and polishing his armor. You learn how to fight while riding a horse. You learn to use other weapons, including a heavier lance. This part of your training lasts for several years.

Based on the way it is used in this paragraph, what do you think the word aspiring means? [Pause] Let me re-read the section: During these early years as an aspiring knight, you probably learn. Yes, good. It means you were hoping to become a knight.

To groom and saddle a horse means to clean and care for it and to put a saddle on its back. What are some differences between a page and a squire? [Pause] That is right; a squire has more responsibility than a page, and he learns more challenging skills.

Now let's review the steps to become a knight. This might be a good time to take out a piece of paper to take notes.

[Please write notes on whiteboard as you read through these answers. Be sure to read slowly so students can take notes]

First, They left their homes at a young age. [Write on board]

This prepared them because it took many years to become a knight, so they had to start at an early age. [Pause]

Second, they learned to use a sword, ride a horse, and wield a lance. [Write on board]

These are some of the basic skills a knight would use, and they had to learn this before moving on to more challenging skills.

Third, they later learned to fight while riding a horse and carrying a heavier lance. [Write on board]

As a knight, the young man would be required to fight on horseback while carrying a heavy lance. [Write on board]

Great now we are all experts in the steps to become a knight.

If you are a successful squire, you might be knighted by the lord. In what is called the dubbing ceremony, the lord taps you on the shoulder with the flat part of his sword. Then, a priest might bless you with a prayer.

What was the purpose of the dubbing ceremony and what took place during it? [Pause] Absolutely. It was the ceremony during which a young man became a knight. The lord would tap the knight on the shoulder with the flat part of his sword, and a priest might bless the knight with a prayer. Let's talk about the expectations of a knight next.

In France in the 1100s and 1200s, certain expectations about how knights should behave in society were developed. The term chivalry [Pause] (Let's say that twice - chivalry, chivalry) which refers to a warrior horseman or knight, became the term used to describe these expectations. These ideas of chivalry spread to other European countries. Knights were expected to serve their lord. They were required to honor and protect the Church and weaker members of society. They were also expected

to treat other knights captured in battle as honored guests until a ransom was received. Sometimes it took months before a captured knight's family paid up. Once payment was received, the captured knight was free to go home"

What is chivalry? [Pause] Yes, chivalry refers to the way knights were expected to behave.

How were knights expected to behave? [Pause] You are right. Knights were expected to serve their lord; honor and protect the Church and weaker members of society; treat knights captured in battle as honored guests; release captured knights when a ransom was received.

Let's learn a bit more about knights today, if we have time.

Knights could prove their strength and abilities by taking part in jousting matches. Jousting matches were mock, or pretend, battles between two or more knights. Knights rode horses, wore full armor, and carried lances. Those who took part in jousts did so to gain respect and possibly a generous prize. For the privileged, attending the jousting matches was considered to be a day of excitement and entertainment. It was very much like watching a football or baseball game today. When the joust began, the knights charged at each other. With the aid of a lance, each knight attempted to knock his opponent off his horse.

Why would a knight take part in a jousting match? [Pause] I am wondering why someone would fight for fun. We do that in our society today in a lot of sports. I guess a knight would fight because he could prove his strength and fighting abilities; he could gain respect; and he could win a generous prize.

When we read that knights fought in jousting matches and that other people came to watch the matches. I wondered how those spectators felt about attending the matches. What do you think? [Pause] I looked back in the text and decided. "Spectators liked watching the matches because they were exciting events." I looked at the statement for this answer. "For the privileged, attending the jousting matches was considered to be a day of excitement and entertainment."

Guided Practice

The guided practice focuses on comparing and contrasting knights to professional

[Teacher Note: Be sure to pause frequently as you are writing notes to be sure that students have time to take notes. They will need these notes for the independent practice.]

Let's review what we read and talked about today.

You will want to take your notes out and add to your earlier notes about how to become a knight.

First, why was there a need for knights and castles during the Middle Ages? [Pause] Yes, there were rivalries between nobles, wars with other nations, and violence between neighbors that created a need for protection.

Let's discuss two ways in which foot soldiers and knights were different. Think about your answer. [Pause] Yes, different clothing; different weapons; knights were more esteemed.

How are knights similar and different from professional athletes today? [Pause]

Let's make a two column chart. We talked about baseball in our text today. So let's label one column knights and one column baseball players. [Pause]

Let's review the characteristics of a knight. Write each one with me on your notes sheet. [Pause]

Knights began training at an early age. [Pause]

Knights had different levels of training. Being a knight was dangerous, but rewarding. [Pause]

Knights made money by winning battles, looting, kidnapping and by earning titles.

Knights also fought as a sport and showed their strength for spectators. [Pause] Yes, spectators were like fans. You gave a lot of specifics about knights!

Now let's discuss characteristics of a baseball player. [Pause]

Hmm. Professional baseball players often begin training at an early age too.

baseball players. The intent of this section is to help reinforce the characteristics of a knight to prepare students for the intended practice of comparing and contrasting a knight to a baseball player.

Student will articulate the characteristics of a knight by taking notes and making a chart.

<p>They also have levels of training like t-ball, coach pitch recreation baseball, high school competitive teams, college baseball, and the minors.</p> <p>What else? [Pause] Ah yes. Baseball players play for fans and make a great deal of money, but they don't make money in the same way as knights. They also don't fight in real battles. Well done.</p>	
<p><u>Independent Practice</u></p> <p>Now, we are going to use our notes to create a paragraph that shows how knights are different from professional baseball players. [Repeat directions 2x]</p> <p>In your paragraph, use your notes that you created earlier. Be sure to include all of the characteristics we used to describe knights and then show how professional baseball players are the same or different.</p> <p>Again, in your paragraph, use your notes that you created earlier. Be sure to include all of the characteristics we used to describe knights and then show how professional baseball players are the same or different.</p>	<p><i>This section is focused on writing a compare/ contrast paragraph, but the intent is for students to demonstrate their understanding of a knight not their understanding of how to write a compare/contrast paragraph.</i></p> <p>Student will write a compare/ contrast paragraph to demonstrate their understanding of a knight.</p>
<p><u>Closing</u></p> <p>Wow, I enjoyed learning reading and discussing knights in the Middle Ages with you today.</p> <p>Thank you for inviting me into your home. I look forward to seeing you in our next lesson in Tennessee's At Home Learning Series! Bye!</p>	

