

*'What does the word 'medieval' conjure up in your mind? Knights and castles? Monks and abbeys? Huge tracts of forest in which outlaws live in defiance of the law? Such images may be popular but they say little about what life was like for the majority. Imagine you could travel in time: what would you find if you went back to the fourteenth century? Imagine yourself in a dusty London street on a summer morning. A servant opens an upstairs shutter and starts beating a blanket. A dog guarding a traveller's packhorses starts barking. Nearby traders call out from their market stalls while two women stand chatting, one shielding her eyes from the sun, the other with a basket in her arms. The wooden beams of houses project out over the street. Painted signs above the doors show what is on sale in the shops beneath. Suddenly a thief grabs a merchant's purse near the traders' stalls, and the merchant runs after him, shouting. Everyone turns to watch. And you, in the middle of all this, where are you going to stay tonight? What are you wearing? What are you going to eat?' (extract from Ian Mortimer, *A Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England*, 2012, p. 1)*

Your task is to continue the story...

TASK: Create a 'Time Traveller's Guide' to the medieval period, using the extract above as inspiration. Imagine that you have been 'transported' to the Middle Ages, and you are writing about what you can see, hear, smell, taste and feel.

You could include some of the following:

Ordinary people seem to be facing some big challenges. These include...

Walking through the countryside, I can see a number of churches. This is because...

This country appears to be ruled by...

Speaking to a merchant, I found out that...

People do not seem to know a great deal about the world outside Europe, although they do know that...

I've heard talk of some big events that have impacted on people's lives in recent years. For example...

You could even try to describe/explain how things have **changed** since the start of the medieval period (what's different in 1500 compared to 1000?).

Themes to write about:

- ❖ Ordinary people's lives.
- ❖ Religion.
- ❖ Kings and rulers.
- ❖ Trade.
- ❖ Knowledge of Europe and the wider world.
- ❖ Global disasters (Black Death and the Little Ice Age).

You could write this from the **first person perspective** ('I travelled... I saw...'). Make sure you describe all the sights, sounds and smells of medieval life. Try to include: what life is like for ordinary medieval people; religious beliefs; who is in charge, and how they rule; what kinds of trade opportunities are available; and any major events that happen during the period.

Criteria:	Tick:
❖ Have you described the differences between life for the rich and the poor ?	
❖ Have you referred to the types of items that were traded?	
❖ Have you described what people knew of Europe and the wider world?	
❖ Have you explained the impact of either the Black Death or the Little Ice Age ?	
❖ Does your account include lots of descriptive language , including adjectives , to help you describe the sights, sounds and smells?	

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Teacher feedback:

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