

THE MIDDLE AGES

Glossary

alcazaba: n. a Moorish fortified building used for defense by the Arabs in Spain.

armour: n. the metal coverings formerly worn by knights to protect the body in battle.

bailey: n. the open area within a castle fortification.

castle: n. a large fortified building or group of buildings, typically of the medieval period.

church: n. a building for public, especially Christian worship.

monks: n. the body of people ordained for religious duties in the Christian Church.

craftsman: n. a worker skilled in a particular craft or manual job.

drawbridge: n. a bridge which is hinged at one end so that it can be raised.

feudalism: n. the social system in medieval Europe, in which the nobility held lands from the Crown in exchange for military service, and vassals were tenants of and protected by the nobles.

guild: n. a medieval association of craftsmen or merchants.

keep: n. the strongest or central tower of a castle.

kingdom: n. a country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen.

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

moat: n. a deep, wide defensive ditch surrounding a castle or town, typically filled with water.

mosque: n. a Muslim place of worship and prayer.

nobleman: n. man (or woman) who belongs to the aristocracy.

peasant: n. a member of the class constituted by small farmers and tenants, sharecroppers, and laborers on the land where they form the main labor force in agriculture.

pilgrim: n. a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons.

reconquest: n. second or new acquisition by physical or moral force.

sword: n. a weapon with a long metal blade and a hilt with a handguard, used for thrusting or striking.

synagogue: n. a building where a Jewish assembly or congregation meets for religious worship and prayer.