

Knights and Castles Timeline for Kids

476 to 1450

The Middle Ages lasted about 1,000 years. It was the time of kings and queens, knights and castles. This timeline shows some of the big events of that time in Europe.



476

The Middle Ages Begin

The Roman Empire in the west comes to an end. Europe breaks into many small kingdoms.

Why it matters: This was the start of a new time, called the Middle Ages.



800

Emperor Charlemagne

A king named Charlemagne rules much of western Europe. On Christmas Day, he is crowned emperor. He builds schools and wants people to learn to read.

Why it matters: He joined many small lands into one big one.



1066

A New King of England

William, a duke from France, sails to England with an army. He wins a great battle and becomes king. He builds castles all over England.

Why it matters: Castles helped a king keep hold of his land.



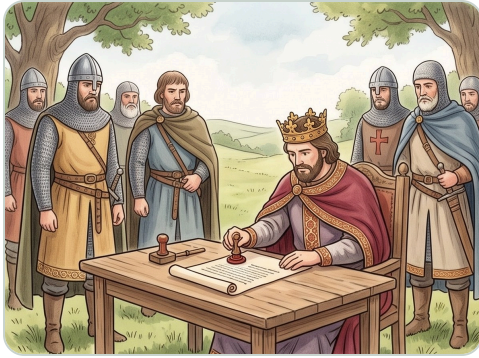
About 1150

Knights and Castles

Lords build strong stone castles with thick walls and moats. Knights in armor protect them. A boy starts to train as a page at age seven. He can become a knight at about 21.

Why it matters: Knights promised to be brave and to keep their word.

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1215

The Magna Carta

The lords of England make King John sign a paper called the Magna Carta. It says that even the king must follow the law.

Why it matters: It was an early step toward fair laws for everyone.



1347

The Black Death

A terrible sickness called the Black Death spreads across Europe. About one out of every three people dies.

Why it matters: With fewer workers, life in Europe began to change.



About 1450

The Printing Press

A man named Johannes Gutenberg builds a machine that can print books. Before this, every book was copied by hand.

Why it matters: Books became cheaper, and many more people learned to read.

Words to know

knight: a soldier in armor who fought on horseback

castle: a strong stone building where a lord lived

moat: a deep ditch of water around a castle

emperor: a ruler of an empire