

Year 7: Religion in the Middle Ages Knowledge Map – Autumn 2

Week 5:

Religion in the Middle Ages

The word **church** means a building, the place of worship for Christians whereas **the Church** (with a capital) refers to the Christian religion. By the Middle Ages, nearly everyone in Europe belonged to the Christian religion. It became known as the **Catholic Church**.

The main people who ran the Church were the following:

- **The Pope**-the head of the Catholic Church. He was God's representative on Earth.
- **Archbishops and bishops**-these were rich and powerful men. They owned lots of land and advised kings.
- **Parish priests**-these were often poor men. These were the men most people would come into contact with from the Church. The parish priest had the power to forgive someone's **sins** if they confessed what they had done wrong.

Week 6:

The importance of the Church

Most people in the Middle Ages lived their lives fully believing in **heaven, hell** and **purgatory**. They believed that when they died their **souls** would go to hell unless the Church helped them. They believed hell was a place of suffering and pain. People were taught their souls would go to purgatory before going to heaven. Purgatory was a painful place where your sins would be burned away before your soul went to heaven to live in joy.

The Church encouraged people to do the following so their souls would move quickly from purgatory to heaven:

- Go to church on a Sunday at the service of **Mass**
- Go on a **pilgrimage** to a holy place
- Become a **monk** or **nun** and serve God
- Do **good deeds**, such as caring for the sick and giving food and drink to the hungry

Autumn 2 Challenge Tasks

Castles Competition

Design a medieval castle or weapon of your choice. E.g. motte and bailey castle, square keep castle, battering ram, siege tower. *See your History teacher for further details and the deadline for entries.*



Castles Investigation

Visit or research a castle of your choice. Create a tourist information leaflet to inform visitors to the castle of its history. *See your teacher for further details.*

