

Living in Medieval Times

Overview: Students research the life of one vocation in medieval times, using the Compass to organize their research questions and presentations.

Grade: 7, Humanities

Estimated duration: 6 weeks

Unit: Time Capsules

Significant Concept: Societies are structured in different ways

Unit Question: How does the way society is structured affect its citizens?

Area of Interaction: Community and Service

Skills: Use humanities terminology in context
Formulate a clear and focused research question
Show connections between information to make valid, well-supported arguments

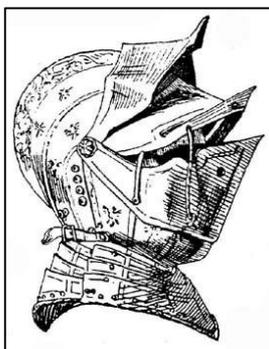
Resources/ Materials/Setting required: Global Issues: MYP Inquire book - unit on time capsules (optional)
Online research, library books on middle ages

Outline:

1. Students choose one "character" or vocation from medieval times (such as a knight, a priest, a black smith, a King, a doctor, a peasant, etc.) to investigate and report on.
2. Students select 5 artifacts they would include in a time capsule, using the Compass to decide and explain/justify from all Compass points which artifacts would be the most beneficial or important.
3. Each student creates an artifact relating to each Compass point.
4. Present to the class, using the Compass to explain why each item was chosen and why it was most beneficial/important (eg, why a sword was better than another item).
5. Draw connections between their own character and other classmates' characters.
6. Hold a medieval banquet.

Student perspective:

The class, which included many ESL students, presented their projects to a group of Compass Workshop participants. All of the students interviewed said using the Compass made it easy and interesting to understand their topic and explain it to others with confidence. The students demonstrated a very good grasp of the system relationships of their topic across Compass domains.



What the compass does:

- Helps students organize their research and justify their reasoning
- Encourages deeper thinking: To get information for all four Compass points and to make connections and linkages, students had to look far deeper into the era
- Promotes self-confidence to explain their thoughts