

Medieval Europe

Lesson 5 The Late Middle Ages, *Continued*

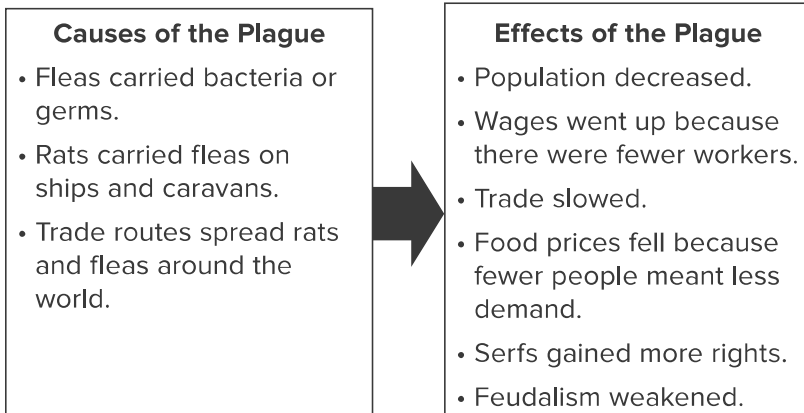
Famine and Plague

In the 1300s, disaster struck western Europe. Bad weather and disease killed the crops. Livestock died from diseases. The result was a seven-year famine, or lack of food.

Then, a terrible **plague** swept across Europe and Asia. A plague is a disease that spreads quickly and kills many people. The plague was called the Black Death. Most scientists think that a type of bacteria carried by fleas was the source of the plague. Rats from boats and trading caravans carried the fleas to places all over the world.

The Black Death probably began in China and spread along the trade routes between China and Europe. In 1346 the Black Death reached Europe. Between 19 and 38 million Europeans died of the Black Death in just four years. That is nearly one out of every two people.

The deaths of so many people hurt Europe’s economy. As a result, the plague helped weaken the feudal system and change European society.



Divisions in Religion and Politics

The plague was not Europe’s only problem. The English and French were at war. Christians in the Iberian Peninsula fought to drive out Muslims who had conquered them centuries before. In addition, the Catholic Church became divided over its leadership.

From 1378 to 1417, the Church was divided by disputes over its leadership. This argument was called the Great Schism. A schism is a break or a split. During this time, several men claimed to be the rightful pope. Each wanted church members to support him.

Defining

1. What is a *plague*?

Marking the Text

2. Circle the number of western Europeans who died of the Black Death.

Analyzing

3. What do you think was the most important effect of plague?

Reading Check

4. How did the Black Death spread?

Explaining

5. What was the Great Schism?

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Lesson 5 The Late Middle Ages, *Continued***Cause and Effect**

6. Why did the Hundred Years' War happen?

**Identifying**

7. Who was Joan of Arc?

**Explaining**

8. What was the *Reconquista*?

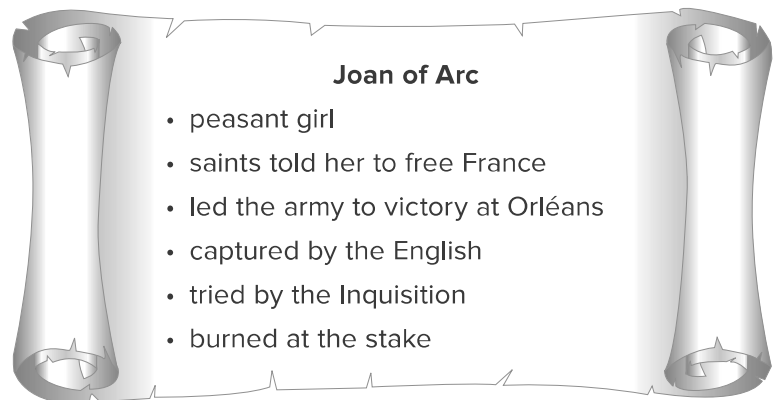
In 1417 a council of church officials chose a pope that everyone agreed on. Many educated people, however, wanted to change the Church. They wanted the Church to be less worldly and more spiritual.

Europe also experienced political divisions. For centuries, the English ruled areas of France. In 1337 English king Edward III claimed to be king of all of France. He invaded France, beginning a war between England and France that lasted more than 100 years.

The English won two important battles, at Crécy in 1346 and at Agincourt in 1415. They had better weapons than the French: longbows and an early form of the cannon.

In 1429 a French peasant girl named Joan visited Prince Charles of France. She told him that saints had spoken to her and wanted her to free France. He let her lead a French army. Joan's faith inspired the French soldiers, and they took back the city of Orléans from the English.

Shortly after, Charles was named king. A few months later, the English captured Joan. They handed her over to the Inquisition. She was burned at the stake. She later became known as Joan of Arc, a French national hero.



The French finally defeated the English in the Hundred Years' War. England's loss in the war was hard on the English nobles. Soon, they were fighting a civil war. It was known as the War of the Roses and fought over who should be king. The winner, Henry Tudor, became King Henry VII.

During the early Middle Ages, Muslims ruled much of the Iberian Peninsula, the area that is now Spain and Portugal. They developed a rich culture. However, over time, Christians drove out most of the Muslims. The struggle was known as the **Reconquista**, or "reconquest." By the 1200s, Christians ruled most of the peninsula.

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Lesson 5 The Late Middle Ages, *Continued*

In 1469 Princess Isabella of Castile married Prince Ferdinand of Aragon. They became king and queen and joined their lands into one country called Spain. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted all of Spain to be Catholic.

Jews in Spain

- Lived freely under the Muslims
- Mistreated under Christian rule
- Some Jews converted to Christianity
- Spanish Inquisition sought Jews who were believed to be practicing Judaism in secret
- Told to convert or leave Spain in 1492

When Muslims ruled, Iberian Jews mostly lived freely. As Christians took over Spain, they mistreated the Jews. To avoid persecution, some Jews became Christians. Ferdinand and Isabella, however, believed many of these people practiced Judaism in secret. So the king and queen set up the Spanish Inquisition. Its purpose was to punish heretics. The Spanish Inquisition tried and tortured thousands of people accused of heresy.

In 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella gave Jews the choice to convert to Christianity or leave Spain. Most Jews decided to leave. The king and queen then turned to the Muslims. In 1492 Spain's army conquered Granada, the last Muslim area of Spain.

Muslims were given the same choice as the Jews: become Christians or leave Spain. Most left for North Africa.

Check for Understanding

List four ways that disputes and wars changed societies in Europe during this time.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

 **Identifying**

9. What was the Spanish Inquisition?

 **Reading Check**

10. How did Ferdinand and Isabella treat those of Muslim and Jewish faiths?

FOLDABLES®

11. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the text titled Check for Understanding. Title the anchor tab *Europe*. Label the two tabs *Religious Division* and *Political Division*.

Use both sides of the tabs to write words and short phrases that you remember to explain the divisions in Europe.

Glue Foldable here