

The Early Middle Ages

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Feudal societies shared common elements in Europe and Japan.
2. Europe and Japan differed in their cultural elements such as religion and art.

Key Terms and People

chivalry code of honorable behavior for European knights

haiku short poems, with only three lines and 17 syllables, that usually describe nature themes

Section Summary

FEUDAL SOCIETIES SHARE COMMON ELEMENTS

Feudalism was not unique to Europe. You may have noticed a connection between the lords and vassals of Europe and, half a world away, the samurai and the daimyo of Japan. But how similar were the two societies?

Both knights and samurai were paid in land, rather than in money, and had peasants work the land for them. Both collected part of the crop yield in return for allowing the peasants to farm on their property. Both kinds of warriors promised to serve and fight for their nobles. In exchange for the land, both lords and daimyo expected their warriors to behave with honor and loyalty. The Japanese code of behavior for a samurai was called Bushido. A similar code of honorable behavior for European knights was called **chivalry**.

How were knights and samurai paid for their military service?

Underline the names of the two codes of honor that ruled behavior for the knights and samurai.

EUROPE AND JAPAN DIFFER

Still, there were many differences between the two cultures. Perhaps the main difference was expressed through religion. Although religion was important to both groups, the religious concepts were different. The Europeans were mostly Christians, while the Japanese had blended the naturalistic

Section 4, *continued*

Shinto religion, where everything has a spirit, with Buddhism and Confucianism. Religion strongly influences the way people look at life and ultimately how they act.

The differences in religion appear in the art of the two cultures. In Europe most art of the Middle Ages showed Christian religious themes. Painting and sculpture represented scenes from the Bible or male and female saints. Poems and stories often taught people how to live or tried to inspire them with the lives of great Christians.

The art of Japan, on the other hand, expressed mostly natural scenes. Paintings of nature were common, and people designed and built beautiful gardens. The simple wooden architecture of a house was designed to blend into nature, rather than stand out. Japanese literature also celebrated nature. For example, Japanese poets in the 1600s created **haiku**, short poems of three lines and 17 syllables that often describe scenes of nature.

Still, it is remarkable that similar systems of feudalism developed at the same time in two completely different cultures, located so far from each other. While feudalism has faded, it still impacts the life and culture of these two different regions today.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences How do you think religion influences your modern outlook and the people around you? Think hard about this concept. Even if you do not hold religious beliefs yourself, religion is a system of thought that influences how you view life and how you act. Write a brief essay discussing how your thoughts and attitudes on religion reflect the way you view the world.

What is the main subject of most European art of the Middle Ages?

What is a haiku?

Section 4, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The code of honorable behavior for European knights is called _____ . (**chivalry/Bushido**)
2. _____ is a short, three-line poem of 17 syllables that describes nature scenes. (**Shinto/Haiku**)
3. A young person who trains to be a knight is called a _____ . (**chivalry/squire**)
4. During the Middle Ages, most Europeans were _____ . (**Christian/Shinto**)
5. Japanese religion blended beliefs from Buddhism, _____ , and Confucianism. (**Christianity/Shinto**)
6. The medieval art of Europe often emphasized religion while Japanese art usually focused on _____ . (**haiku/nature**)
7. _____ , the Japanese code of the samurai, was similar to the European idea of chivalry. (**haiku/Bushido**)

SECTION 2**Summary**

(First Page) during Rome's long collapse; It was divided into many small kingdoms.

(Second Page) to convert the people of Ireland to Christianity; Clovis; the Vikings

Challenge Activity

Student letters should explain their decision to become a monk.

Fill in the Blank

1. Monks
2. Middle Ages
3. Saint Patrick
4. Charlemagne
5. monasteries
6. Saint Benedict
7. medieval

SECTION 3**Summary**

(First Page) because the nobles began defending their own land when the Frankish no longer could; to fight at a lord's command and to house and feed a lord if he visited

(Second Page) Frankish knights; The knights provided serfs land to grow food, and the serfs provided knights with food or other payment; the invention of the plow and increased trade

Challenge Activity

Student summaries should include any options for advancement for their chosen person.

True/False

1. T
2. T
3. F; A knight who promised to support a lord in exchange of land was called a vassal.
4. T
5. F; The best soldiers were knights or warriors who fought on horseback.
6. T
7. T

SECTION 4**Summary**

(First Page) They were paid in land; Students should underline: *Bushido* and *chivalry*

(Second Page) Christian religious themes; a short Japanese poem of three lines and 17 syllables that often describe scenes of nature

Challenge Activity

Student essays should include personal beliefs how religion influences their view of the world.

Fill in the Blank

1. chivalry
2. Haiku
3. squire
4. Christian
5. Shinto
6. nature
7. Bushido

The Later Middle Ages**SECTION 1****Summary**

(First Page) to decide what the church would teach and to occasionally write bulls; Answers will vary. Sample answer: because of their belief in the pope's connection to God

(Second Page) Students should underline: *the throne was inherited through family* and circle: *the nobles elected the emperor*; when Pope Leo IX excommunicated the bishop of Constantinople; He excommunicated him.

Challenge Activity

Student papers should include their choice and reasons to support it.

True/False

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F; The Holy Roman emperors were elected by their empire's nobles.
5. F; Pope Leo IX excommunicated the bishop of Constantinople, who formed the Eastern Orthodox Church.