**The Monk**

Vocabulary

**monk** — A religious man dedicated to a simple life devoid of luxuries. Medieval monks were devoted to study, prayer and manual labor, and were forbidden to possess personal property.

**Middle Ages** — Also known as the medieval period, the time period that stretched roughly from the 5th to the 15th century. The term was coined to describe the era in between the time of ancient Rome and the Renaissance.

**monastery** — Also known as an abbey, this residence is a place where communities of monks vow to live their religious lives. Communities of nuns also often live in monasteries, which are also called nunneries.

**priest** — A religious man appointed to represent the Church within a given parish.

**Church** — The organization of believers in the Christian religion.

**parishes** — Local Church communities, each with its own priest.

**Christianity** — The religion derived from the life, teachings and death of Jesus Christ.

**St. Benedict** — (c. 480–547) The writer of a monastic rule known as St. Benedict’s (or Benedictine) Rule that described the balance of prayer, work and study that many monks still follow today.

**matins** — A religious service of morning prayers, often celebrated by monks following St. Benedict’s Rule.

**psalms** — Religious songs or poems used during Christian religious services, often from the Book of Psalms in the Bible.

**cassock** — A shapeless garment worn by monks during the Middle Ages. Cassocks hung loosely on monks and were often made out of rough material.

**tonsure** — The shaven crown of a monk’s head.

**oblate** — A child dedicated to a monastery by parents with the goal of eventually becoming a monk.

**novice** — An adult member of a monastery who is in training to become a monk, but has not yet taken final monastic vows. Adults are usually novices for about a year before taking their final vows and becoming a monk.

**friars** — Religious men who devote themselves to a life of poverty and preaching.

**scriptorium** — A special room in a medieval monastery where books were copied, or scribed, by monks.

**abbot** — Ruler of a monastery.

**chant** — Also known as plainsong, a simple religious song often sung by medieval monks.

**cathedral** **schools** — Medieval schools that often taught wealthy, noble children. These schools were usually held in cathedrals, or places of Christian worship.

**nuns** — Religious women who take vows of poverty and service.

**Crusades** — A series of wars fought between Christians and Muslims during the 11th to the 13th centuries in the hopes of taking possession of Jerusalem and other places considered to be holy by the Christians.

**Knights of the Temple** — Also known as Knights Templar or Templars, this religious order of knighthood was established at the time of the Crusades in the Middle Ages

Video Comprehension

1. What are the differences between monks and priests? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2.What kinds of families did most medieval monks come from? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.Why did nobles donate money to monasteries? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. How did people become monks during the Middle Ages? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8.What were some of the rules of medieval monasteries? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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9.What responsibilities did medieval monks have? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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10. How did monks preserve texts of ancient literature? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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11.What role did monks play in establishing schools? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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12. How did people become nuns during the Middle Ages? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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13.What responsibilities did medieval nuns have? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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