

# Medieval Realms: Then and Now

## Teachers' Notes

Developed by Liz Taylor and Stuart Scott for work in Suffolk schools. We prepared this activity before the class visited a reproduction medieval castle with village at Stansted Mountfichet near Bishops Stortford in Essex. Some of the information in the activity is presented by tableaux at the castle. The aim is to introduce the differences between people's lives then and now. The class is divided into six groups of five, and each group have twelve cards to put into "then and now" pairs. There is some overlap of information on the cards for each group. The activity is for each group to pair as many cards as they can from existing knowledge, and feed back their results in turn in a plenary. Any cards that cannot be paired can be used to raise questions for investigation during the visit. If you print the different card sets on different coloured card your pupils will have an easier time sorting out the many bits and pieces at the end of the lesson.

We wondered whether to have four medieval children instead of two so we could contrast rich castle life with poor village life, but instead have included information about both lifestyles and students could begin to see differences as they learn more. The activity is not designed to rest alone, but rather inspire students to read further and extract information from a variety of sources. Please feed back any suggestions. If anyone has visited Stansted Mountfichet (very near Stansted airport if you have a few hours to kill!) there are a couple of questions we don't have the answer to yet. What kind of oil was used in Boiling Oil that was poured on unwelcome visitors' heads or burned in the dry moat? Since King John used pig fat to raise the siege of Rochester Castle maybe the answer is lard! Were man traps used in the middle ages or were they invented in the eighteenth century to catch poachers?

We think that the activity works as a prequel to any visit to a medieval castle (even a virtual one) so we have let it stay on line.

This activity was last revised 15th July 2015

The webaddress for this activity is <<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/thenandnow.pdf>>

### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

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### BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available by post or internet: "PAPERCLIP".

\*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

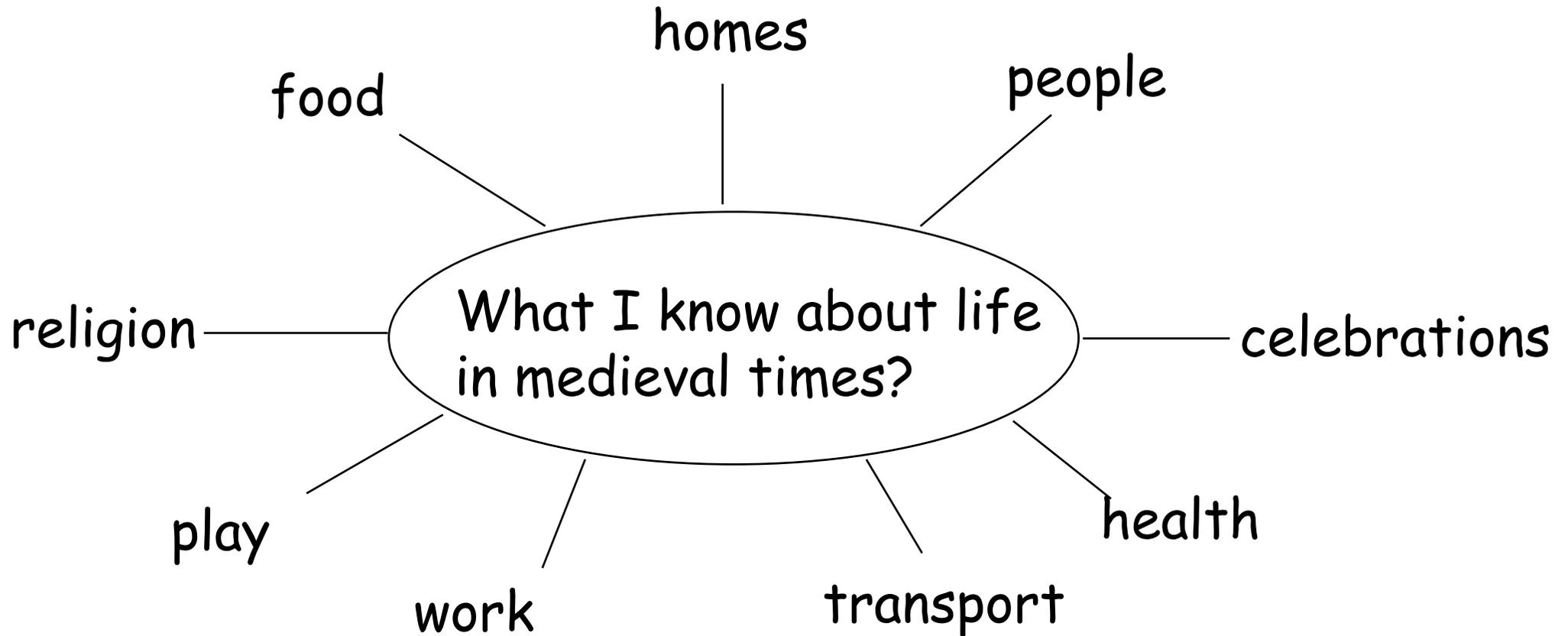
\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/thenandnow.pdf>

# Medieval Realms: Then and Now: Brainstorm Mindmap





# Medieval Realms: Then and Now Card Set 1

John sits on a wooden plank that is over a little stream. He then has to wipe his bottom with moss.

Alison rubs goose fat all over her body. She leaves it there for the winter to help keep herself warm.

John looks for honeycombs to dip his fingers in. He also likes to nibble parsnips and carrots.

The alchemist gave Alison some leaves of feverfew to chew.

John sits on a ceramic bowl in a little room. He then has to wipe his bottom with soft tissue paper.

Alison has central heating in her house. The thermostat keeps the temperature the same.

John likes to go to the corner shop to spend his pocket money on pick and mix.

Alison's mum gave her a soluble aspirin because she hates swallowing tablets.

Alison's mum decided that she needed a new skirt, so she began to spin the wool she had collected earlier.

John took ten minutes to catch a carp, even though he had a big net and the pond was only ten feet round.

Alison was told to get a rabbit for supper. So she took her ferret to the warren, caught one and killed it.

John fell asleep when he should have been scaring birds away. He was tied to a post and whipped.

Alison nagged her mum for the money to buy some new designer jeans

John bought two packets of fish fingers and some prawns from the freezer in the supermarket.

Alison got some lamb chops out of the freezer for a barbeque.

John was caught on camera taking a chocolate bar. A policeman came to his house to give him a formal warning in front of his parents.



# Medieval Realms: Then and Now Card Set 2

John sits on a wooden plank that is over a little stream. He then has to wipe his bottom with moss.

Alison rubs goose fat all over her body. She leaves it there for the winter.

At harvest time John renews the straw in his bed.

Alison spent eight hours weaving a new cloth.

John sits on a ceramic bowl in a little room. He then has to wipe his bottom with soft tissue paper.

Alison has central heating in her house. The thermostat keeps the temperature the same.

Every Monday John's mum changes the sheets on his bed.

Alison went to school every day, and did all her homework so she could get her GCSEs.

Alison collected twigs and dried gorse bushes to heat the bread oven.

John watched the wind blowing the cloth away from the window. Some rich people have glass in their windows.

Alison blew on the fire for an hour because the wood was damp.

John had to take six pigs into the forest to feed them on acorns.

Alison bought a large white sliced loaf from the baker's.

John has just had pvc double glazing installed in his house.

Alison switched on the gas fire for immediate heat.

John had to sit through one literacy and one numeracy lesson.



# Medieval Realms: Then and Now Card Set 3

Alison looked at the sundial to see if it was time to cook dinner.

John blew up a pig's bladder to kick around with his friends.

At harvest time John renews the straw in his bed.

Alison spent eight hours weaving a new cloth.

Alison glanced at her watch to see if it was time to start off for the cinema.

John took his new football to play with his mates in the match on Saturday.

Every Monday John's mum changes the sheets on his bed.

Alison went to school every day and did all her homework so she could get her GCSEs.

John gets up about an hour before sunrise in the summer and works for two hours weeding before eating some pottage.

Alison walks through the forest for two hours to visit her grandmother in the next village.

Alison broke her leg climbing for firewood. Now her leg is bent and she walks much more slowly.

John stayed in bed on Sunday and missed church. Now his father has to do a day's work for the priest.

John gets up at 7.30 and eats a bowl of cornflakes and a boiled egg before cycling to school.

Alison flies in a plane for six hours to visit her grandmother in India.

Alison broke her wrist playing football, and after six weeks in plaster it is as strong as it was before.

John overslept on Sunday and missed his favourite TV programme.



# Medieval Realms: Then and Now Card Set 4

Alison looked at the sundial to see if it was time to cook dinner.

John blew up a pig's bladder to kick around with his friends.

There were only leeks left in the garden in March, so John ate leek soup for two months.

Yesterday was a feast day. Alison helped to dress two wild boars for the feast.

Alison glanced at her watch to see if it was time to start off for the cinema.

John took his new football to play with his mates in the match on Saturday

John ran out of frozen peas, so ran down to the corner shop to buy some more.

Alison went to Ibiza for two weeks in the summer holiday.

John learned to read Latin by singing in church and working with the priest at learning the psalms.

Alison found that a chicken had laid an egg in her bed this morning.

John was cupbearer to the lord at the feast and held his cup of ale for three hours during dinner.

Alison learned to make stools from greenwood. Her uncle is a bodger and can work a pole lathe.

John learned to read at home before he went to school by sharing story books with his mother and father.

Alison found that the tooth fairy had left 50 pence under her pillow.

John was lucky enough to win a place as a ball boy at Wimbledon last year.

Alison learned how to mould plastic in technology, and designed a clock face.



# Medieval Realms: Then and Now Card Set 5

Alison went to the lord's feast at Christmas and ate a piece of bread soaked in real meat juice.

John had five brothers and four sisters, but seven of them had died before they were three years old.

There were only leeks left in the garden in March, so John ate leek soup for two months.

Yesterday was a feast day. Alison helped to dress two wild boars for the feast.

Alison would not eat her Christmas dinner because she decided to be a vegetarian.

John's grandfather died peacefully last year at the ripe old age of ninety four.

John ran out of frozen peas so ran down to the corner shop to buy some more.

Alison went to Ibiza for two weeks in the summer holiday.

John had a bath last May, but had to share the water with his brothers.

Alison found a lot of sheep's wool in the hedge to stuff into her shoes. She only wears them on Sunday. Her dad made them for her.

Alison spent the evening picking fleas out of her sister's clothes and pinching them until they cracked.

John's mother put a honey poultice on his sore leg.

John usually showers every morning.

Alison's new designer trainers were made in Thailand.

Alison spent the evening painting her toenails a fashionable colour.

The doctor prescribed antibiotics for John's infected finger.



## Medieval Realms: Then and Now Card Set 6

Alison went to the lord's feast at Christmas and ate a piece of bread soaked in real meat juice.

John had five brothers and four sisters, but seven of them had died before they were three years old.

John's sleeps with all his family in two beds in the same room.

Alison is thirteen and her family is looking for a husband for her.

Alison would not eat her Christmas dinner because she decided to be a vegetarian.

John's grandfather died peacefully last year at the ripe old age of ninety four.

John has a room of his own, and so does his sister and brother.

Alison's sister has just got married. She is twenty five.

John loves 1st May. Everyone walks in the forest and picks flowers and welcomes the warmth and sunshine.

Alison thinks they will have to build a new church soon. There is hardly room for everyone to stand. The old people have no space to lean against the wall.

John prefers to drink ale for breakfast. The water in the stream tastes bad because the sheep mess in it.

Alison's dad is worried. Two people in the village died of the plague last week.

John got some super presents, including a game cube, for Christmas.

Alison went to church with her mum last Sunday. There were ten people at the service.

John prefers filtered water to that out of the tap, because the chlorine taste is not so strong.

Some neighbours caught 'flu last week. Alisons dad is going to get a job at the doctors.