

Let's work in small groups and gain a good handle of the key aspects of the Middle Ages:

1. Who were the barbarians and the Germanic successor kingdoms?
2. What were the essential differences between the Roman and the Germanic cultures?
3. What role did the Christian Church play in the early Middle Ages?
4. Why is the term 'dark ages' today inappropriate?
5. What was the Carolingian empire?
6. What major forces attacked early medieval Europe?
7. Identify major aspects and developments characterizing the high Middle Ages, focus on urban life, frontiers, technologies, banking, guilds
8. What were the crusades, and what were heretics?
9. What were the three major social estates, and what were their obligations and privileges?
10. What do you know about Jews in the Middle Ages?
11. Who were the major monastic orders?
12. What was the Hundred Years' War all about and between whom?
13. What was the Reconquista?
14. p. 4-6: Identify 4-5 major aspects determining the end of the Middle Ages
15. p. 6-7: Characterize the standard social structure in the high Middle Ages, compared to the situation in the late Middle Ages
16. p. 8-9: List ca. 6 major literary texts from the Middle Ages
17. pp. 9-12: Name ca. 6 major philosophers
18. p. 12: What was mysticism?
19. p. 13-14: Identify ca. 8 major writers from the late Middle Ages. Could you say anything about them more specifically?