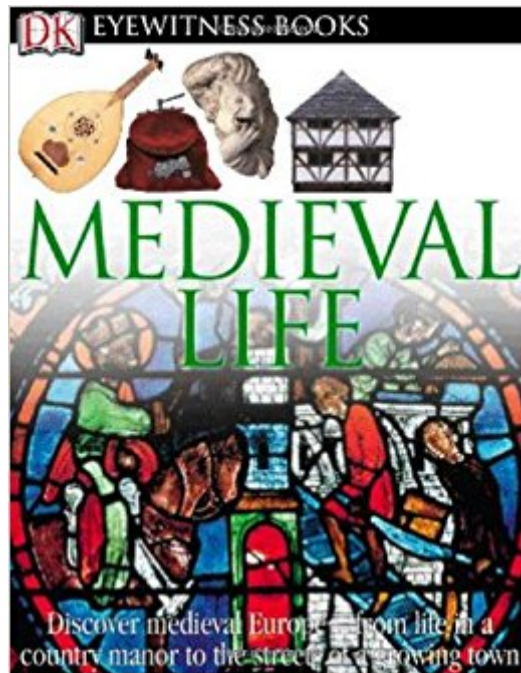




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# Medieval Life (DK Eyewitness Books)



## Synopsis

The mysterious Middle Ages come alive in a pictorial overview of medieval life. Learn about the harsh lives of the peasants, the majestic manor houses of the feudal lords, the tournaments and romance of the royal court, the details of daily life, and many other remarkable aspects of this enigmatic era.

## Book Information

Series: DK Eyewitness Books

Hardcover: 72 pages

Publisher: DK Children; Wal Har/CD edition (April 18, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 075667316X

ISBN-13: 978-0756673161

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.5 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #178,795 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval #82 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8? Like most of the books in this series, this introduction to the Middle Ages gives a clear picture of life and the times through a combination of brief text and an abundance of high-quality pictures with descriptive and informative captions. Beginning with an overview of the period and its societal structure, the book deals with various aspects of daily life among the different levels of society, the role and influence of religion, jobs, culture and the arts, health and disease, and a look forward to the coming Renaissance. All topics are covered in a double-page spread. The result is a clear, interestingly presented overview of medieval life. Details in the pictures such as an underlayer of clothing or the use of a variety of knives will intrigue children and help them gain a sense of life during this period. The excellent illustrations combine art reproductions and drawings and photographs of various objects. Children will find much to interest them here and the format encourages browsing; however, the visual and written information make this title also useful for

reports and projects. ?Jane Gardner Connor, South Carolina State Library, Columbia Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This sweeping visual presentation of medieval life in Europe demonstrates the strengths and weaknesses of historical titles in the Eyewitness series. A thousand years of European history are spanned in relatively few pages of briefly captioned, brightly colored photographs and reproductions. Any of these pages will make readers want to know more. (It will also make them wonder, ``How do we know that?'' without giving them a bibliography or other sources of further information.) Readers won't always know exactly what they're looking at: In a typical spread, entitled ``Holy Orders," there are photographs of objects from the 7th through the 13th centuries. The countries of origin are not always given; while some pieces are from the period, others look like modern reproductions. Many photos are just too small, e.g., the elaborate tapestry of the Hanseatic League is reduced almost to the size of a postage stamp. There are no maps, and the text is so abbreviated as to sound superficial: ``Peasants spent most of the daylight hours outside, so the drafts and little light from their unglazed windows did not trouble them." A book that's mostly for browsers. (index) (Nonfiction. 10-14) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have such high expectations for DK Eyewitness books. As a rule, the photography and visuals are engaging and instructive, the captions are excellent for gleaning additional details, and the text is comprehensive and clear. This book has the visuals and the captions. But... and this is probably due to space constraints... the book focused on medieval life in England and France, to the near-exclusion of any information about the rest of Europe. Taking 1,000 years of history across a continent and crimping it to discuss only a small geographic area was unsatisfying. Also, feudalism, customs, habits, and technology *did* change across ten centuries, but this book presents the Middle Ages as static and monolithic. What was true at a feast in England in 1275 was probably not true of a feast in Spain in 780 or in Germany in 1066. Things change and fashions change, albeit slowly in this time period. The book did not do a good job capturing how insular people were in the Middle Ages. Still the visuals are excellent. Round this out with "A Medieval Castle (Inside Story)" by Fiona MacDonald or "Castle" by David Macaulay.

My 7th grade Language Arts students are reading and discussing Avi's *Crissal* and *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* in our class, and I wanted to be able to

provide them some basic background information on the period. This DK Eyewitness book on Medieval Life does the job beautifully. It provides a great introduction to the various aspects of life in the Middle Ages with a wonderful balance between text and visually arresting photographs that had my students keen to discover more about the period. Highly recommended.

Seemed like this was more for kids. Was not what I was looking for. I was hoping for even more detail than the book gave.

Wonderful book with a bunch of details and beautiful artwork!

I LOVE the DK books, we have many, this is another good one. Bought it for my son to supplement his history curriculum (he's schooled at home). These books are always well-organized with lots of easily digestible information. I enjoy them as much (maybe more!) than he does.

I use this book as a reference. A while back I sent for several dictionaries and reference books that have to do with mysticism to write some fantasy tales for young adults. Because we cannot be experts in everything, I know many writers rely on books like this one.

Adding to our child's mini science library. We gave our child the first book at age-5 (now 8). Remember buy the most current revision that has the CD library attached at the right upper hand corner of the book.

Grandson loved it.

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