

UNIT 6 - STUDY GUIDE
World History & Geography 1 Rev.1/20/2011 ©studentsfriend.com
The Late Middle Ages: 1000AD to 1500AD

Overview: During the early middle ages we saw Europe mired in the so-called “dark ages” after the fall of Rome, but civilizations flourished in the Byzantine Empire, in China, and in the Maya lands of Mesoamerica. A new Islamic civilization from Arabia quickly created an empire. Now we turn to the late middle ages when Islam spread to new lands in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Terrifying Mongol raiders will sweep out of the Asian steppes to create the greatest land empire in world history. China will pull back from ocean exploration, and Europe will gain the knowledge and confidence it needs to set out on the great voyages of discovery, voyages that will end the middle ages and begin the “modern era” of world history.

Essential Question: What is human nature?

What can the great voyages of discovery tell us about human nature?

Essential Question: What makes a good society?

Why do you think European towns in the Middle Ages developed their own governments?

Historical Force: How does technology make history?

How did technology help to end the age of knights and castles in Europe?

How did technology make possible the European discovery of America?

Did the Inca quipu qualify as writing?

Historical Force: How does geography make history?

How did geography influence the development of African cities like Timbuktu?

Historical Force: How does human choice make history?

Why did the Ming dynasty of China stop exploring the world’s oceans?

Historical Force: How does trade make history?

Why are the numbers we use called “Arabic numbers” rather than “Indian numbers”?

What was the reason behind the European discovery of America?

1. Read for understanding pages 21-24 of the *Student’s Friend*. Demonstrate your understanding by MAKING NOTES and TAKING QUIZZES over the 16 main topics on pages 21-24.
2. Correctly spell the 16 main topics on pages 21-24.
3. On a map of the world, locate the Holy Land, Swahili Coast, Timbuktu, Beijing, Mongol Empire, Istanbul, France, England, Andes Mountains, Aztec, Inca, Spain, Portugal.
4. Be familiar with the historical timeline from the Big Bang through the late Middle Ages.
5. During the late Middle Ages, how did the social/military system of Japan resemble the social/military system in Europe?
6. How did ancient history help change Europe during the late Middle Ages?
7. Identify three events during the Middle Ages that set the stage for the European voyages of discovery that would come later.
8. Consider these events: the Mongol reopening of the Silk Road trade routes, the Ming decision to stop ocean exploration, and the Spanish voyages of Christopher Columbus. How do these events illustrate the “law of unintended consequences”? *

* “The law of unintended consequences, often cited but rarely defined, is that actions of people—and especially of government—always have effects that are unanticipated or “unintended.”” –Rob Norton, *Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*