"The Later Middle Ages: Crisis and Disintegration in the Fourteenth Century"

Chapter 11 Reading Comprehension Guide

*Western Civilization - 10th Ed. - Spielvogel*

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

ATTENTION: Read the instructions carefully as you move through this study guide.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Use these questions to guide your reading over the summer. This material is outside our course time line, but you must begin here to understand what came after…Therefore, you are responsible for knowing the material in this chapter.

You **MUST** create IDENTIFICATION TERM or DEFINITION cards over the summer:

All **ID TERMS** are to be written on index cards with the unit number and term on the front and a thorough description written in your own words on the back. A thorough description includes information addressing WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY DO I CARE (i.e. what is the significance of…)

All **DEFINITIONS** should be written paying close attention to the historical context of the term. Many definitions can be found in the back of your book. For others you should consult a dictionary. Make sure that your definition includes enough historical context to be meaningful to you later in the year.

**MAJOR THEMES / BIG QUESTIONS: (as you work through the chapter, bear these questions in mind)**

* How did interactions with other parts of the world and the growth of trade cause the spread of the Black Death to Europe? What impact did the Black Death have on European society and economy? (INT-4, INT-5)
* How did the new technology used in the Hundred Years’ War lead to military and political change? (SP-13)
* In what ways did the rulers of England, France, and the Holy Roman Empire deal with the political instability brought about by the problems of the late Middle Ages? (SP-1)
* In what ways and to what extent were the city-states of northern Italy different from other nations of this period? (PP-6, SP-1, IS-2)
* In what ways and to what extent did the Great Schism cause a loss of power in the Catholic Church? (SP-3, OS-1)
* In what ways and to what extent were people’s lives changed by new technology and inventions in the late Middle Ages? (IS-3)

**11.1 A Time of Troubles: Black Death and Social Crisis**

1.) What three main pillars of medieval life began to disintegrate during the 14th century?

2.) Explain what each of these pillars means/are.

3.) In the late 13th century (1200s), what weather event occurred and what was the effect it had upon the European population?

4.) By the turn of the 14th century (1300s), why wasn't Europe's population continuing to grow? Hint, think agriculture.

5.) Explain the following: what the "black death" is, where the black death originated, who brought the black death westward, and how it spread to the Middle East before getting to Europe

6.) When it reached Europe in the mid-14th century, describe:

a.) how it affected the population

b.) the path it took through Europe (hint: map on p303)

c.) at least three different reactions people had to their imminent fear of death

7.) What is a flagellant, where were they found, and what did they believe?

8.) What group did flagellants target? The flagellants conducted "pograms" what are these?

9.) Explain at least one way the black death affected art.

10.) Society had been structured into three segments known as "estates" between 1000 and 1300, what were they?

11.) How did the change in population during the 1300s affect the economy for landlords and peasants, particularly in England (p.305-6)?

12.) What was the "Jacquerie" - why was the French peasantry so upset and angry?

13.) How did peasant revolts typically end? Where they generally effective or ineffective for long-term change?

**11.2 War and Political Instability**

14.) Briefly summarize in a few sentences, and in your own words, what caused the tensions between England and France to heighten over time - eventually resulting in the breakout of the Hundred Years' War.

15.) In the early part of the Hundred Years' War, the English were successful in which two major battles? The second of these battles resulted in a temporary peace treaty called what?

16.) In 1415, the war continued - what happened at the Battle of Agincourt?

17.) What role in Joan of Arc play beginning in 1429? How did her role in the Hundred Years' War come to an end?

18.) Explain why European governments faced so much political instability after the Hundred Years' War.

19.) What is a "parliamentary body," otherwise simply known as a "parliament," and how did they become more prominent in England during this era? What two houses comprise the English Parliament?

20.) Why was a monarchy so difficult to effectively rule in France? In what ways might France NOT have been considered to have as much unity as England?

21.) What is a "taille gabelle" and how did French peasants feel about it?

22.) Modern day European borders and nations are very different from the 14th century. The lands that, today, are mostly called "Germany" were a collection of hundreds of monarchies (some large, others very small) known as what? How was it determined who ruled over the kings across this territory? (p316)

23.) Explain in a sentence or two why Italy was not considered a single, unified, centrally-governed territory?

24.) What two trends does the book say you should know about Italy during the 14th century?

25.) Name some of the more powerful states of Italy in the 14th century.

**11.3 The Decline of the Church**

26.) What is the papacy (PAY-peh-see)? When did it reach its highest power? What events caused it to lose some of its reputation in the late middle ages?

27.) What is a papal bull? Who issues them? What did the *Unam Sanctam* state?

28.) Why did the residence of the Pope and many cardinals change from Rome to Avignon?

29.) It is generally said the prestige of the papacy declined while at Avignon. Why was this the case?

30.) During the Great Schism, two men called themselves the rightful Pope. Who were they, and which kingdoms supported each?

31.) Marsiglio de Padua wrote *Defender of the Peace* where he said the church was only one element of society and should confine itself to spiritual functions and that the clergy held no special authority. Gradually more and more people adopted his theory, known as what?

32.) Because of all of the chaos in the 14th century, Spielvogel argues Christians became increasingly preoccupied with death. A few notions to his argument are significant:

a.) People increased performance of "good works" - what are these and why did people do them?

b.) The concept of "purgatory" became increasingly important - what is it?

c.) People increasingly completed good works without clerics or clergymen - why is that significant?

d.) The expansion of "mysticism" - what is it, and what kinds of behaviors can be considered mystical?

**11.4 The Cultural World of the 14th Century**

33.) Prior to the 14th century, almost anything that was written in Europe was written in Latin, even though it was no longer the spoken language. What is vernacular? Name some authors who helped to expand the practice of writing in vernacular. What were some examples of their works? (pp.322-324)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Writer** | **Name of Works** | **Significance of Works and/or the Writer's Message** |
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34.) Giotto is considered the forerunner of the Italian Renaissance. In what ways (name 3) was his art very different from other art being created during his time? Where was his work performed?

35.) Explain how life in urban life changed after the Black Death.

**11.5 Society in an Age of Adversity**

36.) How did gender roles change after the plague? What effects did this have on women?

37.) Describe the way the average middle or upper class child was raised in the late middle ages.

38.) Explain some fundamental flaws in the understanding of medicine according to what was believed by clergymen and "physicians" living in the 14th c. What was the general hierarchy of people who practiced any kind of medicine in those times?

39.) According to Spielvogel, what was the most extraordinary invention of the 14th century? WHY?

40.) What were two other important inventions of the 13th and 14th centuries? What makes them significant?

**QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES (BOXED DOCUMENTS)**

“A Medieval Holocaust: The Cremation of the Strasbourg Jews”: What were the specific reasons stated in the document that led to the cremation of the Strasbourg Jews? What were the several possible motives–religious, economic, and others–that led to the killing of many Jews during the Middle Ages, particularly in the aftermath of the Black Death? (page 304)

“A Revolt of French Peasants”: Why did the peasants react so strongly against their noble lords? What seem to be the principal motivations of their action? How reliable do you believe this source to be as an accurate account of what happened? Are there any possible connections between the onset of the Black Death in 1347 and the revolt of the French peasants in 1358? If so, what are they? (page 307)

4. “A Feminist Heroine: Christine de Pizan or Joan of Arc”: Is Christine de Pizan’s poem about the triumphs of Joan of Arc a “feminist” literary work? Why or why not? (Define “feminist.”) What are the religious references and allusions in the poem? What are the references to the classical world? In subject matter, is there anything “modern” in the poem? Does the work better reflect the waning Middle Ages or the waxing Renaissance? How and why? (page 315)

5. “Dante's Vision of Hell”: What realism does Dante convey with this scene? How would this piece of literature compare with earlier medieval works? Why would the church oppose this work? What lessons do you think this work was intended to teach its readers? (page 323)

**Key Vocabulary and ID Terms**

1. “little ice age”

2. Black Death

3. bubonic plague

4. Yersina pestis

5. pneumonic plague

6. Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron

7. flagellants

8. pogroms

9. Statute of Laborers

10. the Jacquerie

11. Wat Tyler and John Ball

12. Florence’s ciompi

13. the longbow

14. the Battle of Crecy

15. Henry V

16. the Battle of Agincourt

17. Joan of Arc

18. Orleans

19. Charles the dauphin/VII

20. gunpowder

21. the gabelle and the taille

22. dukes of Burgundy and Orleans

23. Golden Bull of Charles IV

24. Italian communes

25. the Visconti and the d’Este

26. condottieri

27. grandi and popolo grasso and popolo minuto

28. Council of Ten and the doge

29. Pope Boniface VIII’s Unam Sanctam

30. Avignon

31. Catherine of Siena

32. Great Schism

33. the Antichrist

34. Conciliarism

35. Marsiglio of Padua

36. Council of Constance

37. purgatory

38. good deeds and pilgrimages

39. Meister Eckhart

40. Modern Devotion

41. Brothers of the Common Life

42. William of Occam and nominalism

43. the vernacular

44. Dante’s Divine Comedy

45. Petrarch’s sonnets

46. Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales

47. Christine de Pizan

48. Giotto

49. the “four humors”

50. clocks, eyeglasses, and paper