

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the important weapons of a knight.
- Explain why each weapon was used.
- List the advantages and disadvantages of each weapon.
- Select the three most important weapons in a knight's collection, and explain your reasons for choosing them.

Conditions of Warfare: 5000 BC – 1400 AD



- Weapons created based on needs + technology available
 - Iron, Steel, Wood
- Close-quarters fights determined winners
 - "mano y mano"
- Over time, weapons developed to reflect these needs

COMPARISON: MEDIEVAL vs. MODERN WARFARE

- | Medieval | Modern |
|--|--|
| ■ Primitive Weapons designed to kill one | ■ Powerful weapons designed to kill many |
| ■ Close-quarters strikes determined winner | ■ Long-distance strikes determine winner |
| ■ Cavalries, Knights | ■ Soldiers, Generals |
| ■ Horses, Catapults | ■ Bombs, Jets, Carriers |

DEVELOPMENT OF ARMORY



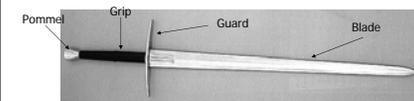
- During Medieval Times, cavalries dominated warfare, due to the invention of the stirrup.
- Knights rode with many offensive weapons + protective gear.
- As new + more protective armor was developed, weapons also underwent many radical changes in design.

STANDARD LONGSWORD



- The most common and popular weapon of the Medieval Ages, the longsword could be found hanging at most everyone's side. Measuring about 48 inches in length it had no standard or common design. The blades were crafted from tempered steel, mainly from Toldeo, Spain, yet Sheffield, England proved itself as an excellent manufacturer of swords.

STANDARD LONGSWORD



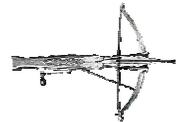
- A weapon that could be easily handled and maneuvered, its long reach protected the user as he could fight from behind a shield with ease. Its sturdy and heavy blade made it an excellent cut and thrust weapon as well as an effective hack and slash tool. The wide-spread use of this weapon is what led to radical changes and improvements in armor as this sword could exploit most weaknesses in suits of chainmail, scale mail and leather armor. The handles, pommels, hilts and grips were varied to appeal to the design of the user, thus making each weapon uniquely detailed.

MACE



- The mace was truly one of the most ferocious weapons of the Medieval Ages. Simple in construction, it was a wooden handle approximately 12 - 18 inches in length. Mounted on the end was an iron or steel housing that supported 4 - 6 metal fins.
- The weapon weighed anywhere from 4 to 6 pounds and was used to smash holes in the most sophisticated forms of armor. One solid blow from this weapon could outright kill. It was actually more effective against an armored knight than a standard sword.

CROSSBOW



- Believed to have been invented by the Italians during the middle of the 12th Century, the crossbow was a marked improvement over the longbow, shortbow and composite bows of the day. As armor improved, standard arrows found little success in penetrating the protective wear of the knights and infantrymen. The crossbow was designed to fire a single projectile (called a bolt) with tremendous force.

CROSSBOW

- Usually the bolts were tipped with iron or steel. Unlike an arrow a crossbow bolt did not use feathers on the end for stabilization or guidance. The draw wire was so tight that it was impossible to pull it back by hand. Therefore, a crank was installed on the side of the bow.
- The traditional means of preparing the weapon to be fired was stepping on a plate attached to the front of the crossbow, holding the weapon alongside the body and then manually turning the crank to draw back the wire. Some crossbows took two people to prepare.
- Though effective against most armors, the bulky weapon was highly inaccurate at long ranges.

FLAIL



- Another savage weapon of the Medieval Ages was the flail. Originally this item was a farming implement used by farmers to separate grain. As the call to arms was answered by the peasant population, its usefulness as a weapon was quickly realized. A wooden handle of 12 - 16 inches sported a 6 inch chain to which was attached a spiked iron ball weighing from 4 - 6 pounds.
- When swung in battle it could literally crush armor with ease and shatter bone without much effort.

ARMOR



- The design of armor saw its true birth during the Roman Empire. After the fall of Rome, armor's importance decreased until The Battle of Hastings in 1066. Those soldiers wore a dress of chainmail with a small helmet to protect their nose.
- Over time, more plate armor was added to the body. Chest and leg plates were added, and eventually the face was fully covered.
- Eventually, the entire body was covered in plate armor. It became the most protective armor used in the Medieval Ages. The craftsmanship, materials and time it took to make was indeed costly.

BASCINET HELMET

- Developed by the French in the early 1400s, this helmet provided tailored comfort and maximum protection. However, your side-vision was limited when the visor was closed.
- The Bascinet Helmet was also one of the first pieces of headgear that contained a Gorget.
- Its excellent design and usefulness in battle made the helmet popular until the end of the Medieval Ages.

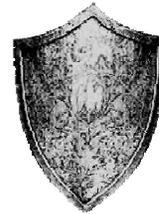


CLOSE HELMET



- Helmets eventually covered the entire face, providing the most protection, but limited the knight's peripheral vision.
- Close Helmets saw their most use during tournaments, when plumes and crests were added to pay homage to the family of the competing knight. This style was more rounded and featured a permanent Gorget.
- Probably developed toward the end of the 1300s, its shape and appearance have French and Italian influences. This helmet remained in wide usage up until the late 15th Century.

SILVER SHIELD



- Shields were sometimes crafted out of precious metals but only for the elite or noble. Such items were rarely carried into battle but rather were used as ornamental decorations in the castle or displayed in parades.
- These items usually had the family crest or noble insignia etched onto their faces by master craftsmen. Many fine examples survive in museums.

TRIANGULAR CRESTED SHIELD



- Shields varied in size and shape. Most knights wielded a smaller shield, because larger ones were too cumbersome for battle. The size of the shield was strictly a matter of personal preference among the knights.
- Many shields displayed similar symbols like a cross or sword. Most contained a Knight's Heraldry, or coat of arms, which contained a collection of symbols and favorite family colors.

Medieval Armor + Weaponry

Name: _____

Date: _____

World History

Period: _____

Directions: Using the presentation, complete the following chart on Medieval Ages weaponry. Please use note form to accomplish this.

Weapon Name	Advantages Disadvantages	Why would a knight carry this weapon?
Standard Longsword		
Mace		
Crossbow		
Flail		
Armor		

After you complete these, draw the helmets and shields below on the back page - be detailed in your drawings!

Bascinet Helmet		
Close Helmet		
Silver Shield		
Triangular Crested Shield		

Closure: Pretend you are a knight preparing for battle: list 3 weapons you would carry and why.