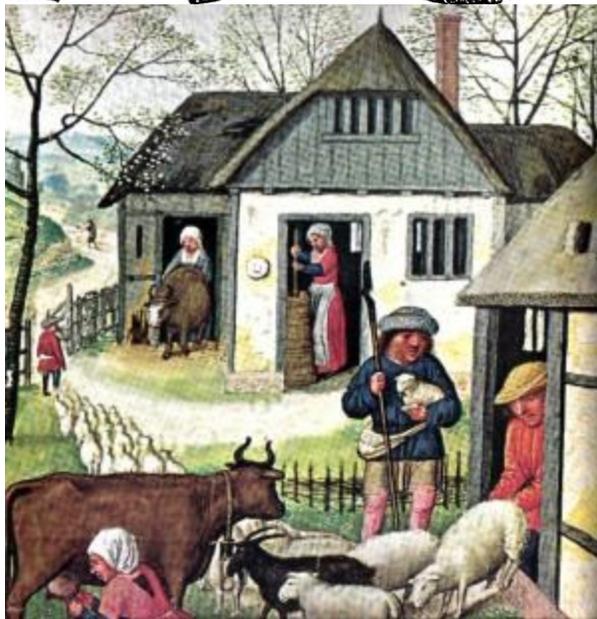
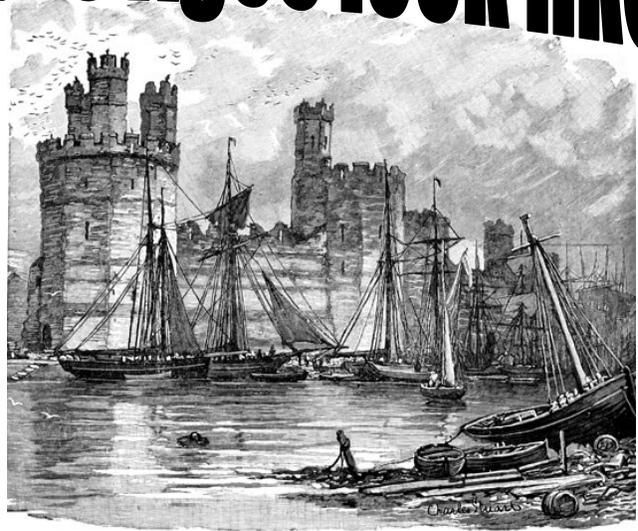
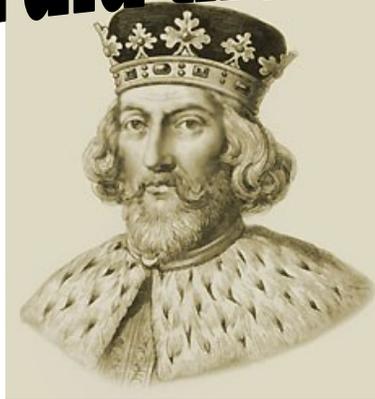


What did the Middle Ages look like?



Name: _____

Date: _____

Music of the Middle Ages

Listening Example #1

Use one word to describe what you hear.

What instruments do you hear?

If you lived during the Middle Ages, where might you have heard this music?

Listening Example #2

Use one word to describe what you hear.

What instruments do you hear?

If you lived during the Middle Ages, where might you have heard this music?



Listening Example #3

Use one word to describe what you hear.

What instruments do you hear?

If you lived during the Middle Ages, where might you have heard this music?

Listening Example #4

Use one word to describe what you hear.

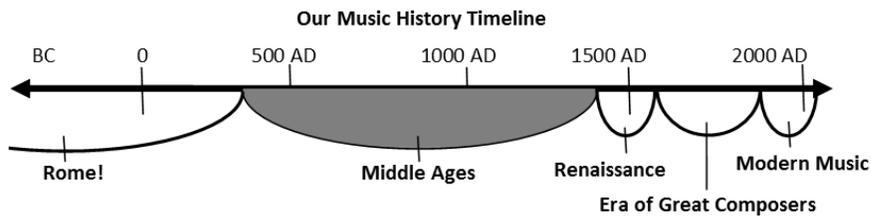
What instruments do you hear?

If you lived during the Middle Ages, where might you have heard this music?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Middle Ages

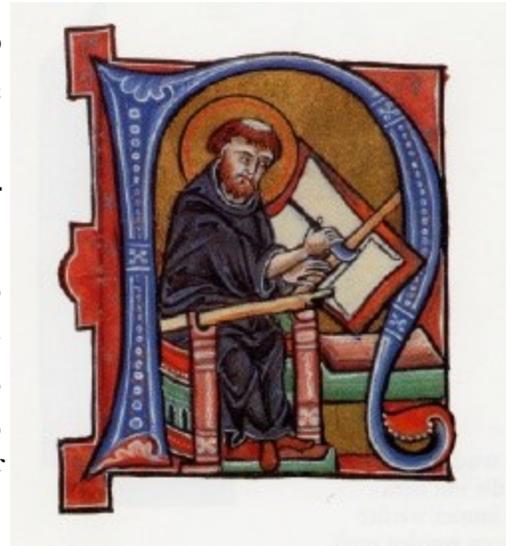
400 AD - 1400 AD



#1 - The People

In the European Middle Ages, also known as the Medieval Period, there were three major *social classes*.

Members of the *nobility* were rich landowners, such as kings, queens, and knights. Most people belonged to the *peasant* class, made up of poor farmers and merchants. The *clergy* was the final class, consisting of priests who worked in the church, and monks who lived in the monasteries. The majority of people lived very difficult lives.



#2 - Sacred Music

In the Middle Ages, the Catholic church was a religious and political power central to the lives of the people.

Music of the church was very important. The *sacred* music of the Middle Ages was called plainsong. Plainsong was *monophonic*, meaning that it had a single melody with no harmony. The Latin words were part of the Catholic *liturgy*, or words from the Bible. Plainsong was written down by monks on four line staves using square notes called *neumes*. The most well remembered form of plainsong is called Gregorian Chant.

Sacred music from the Middle Ages is some of the first music in history to be written on paper.

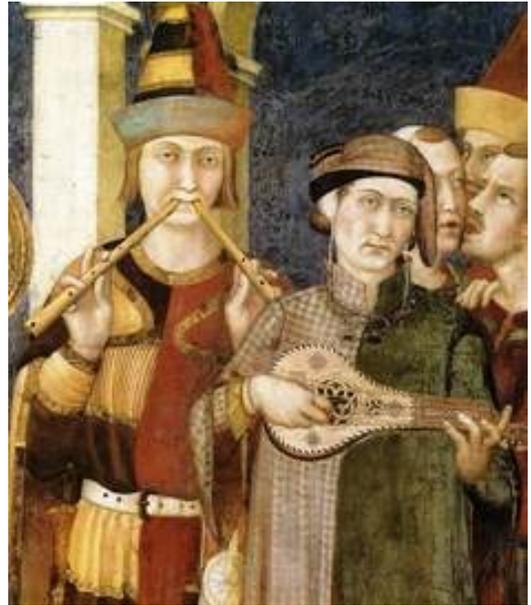


#3 - Secular Music

While sacred music dominated the Middle Ages, *secular* music (non-religious) was also important.

People called *minstrels* traveled from castle to castle singing songs, telling stories, and performing tricks. Their stories and songs were about love, life, and chivalry. Like plain-song, secular songs were simple and had only one melody. However, String or percussion instruments often accompanied the minstrels' songs. A melody with accompaniment is called *homophonic* music.

Minstrels gradually formed *guilds* (unions) to demand better pay and living conditions. These musicians helped to launch society's progression out of the Middle Ages.



#4 - The End of the Middle Ages

The Middle Ages were a dark time with barely any advances in technology, healthcare, science, and government. However, as this era ended, living conditions would improve for millions of people around Europe.

In the next time period, known as the *Renaissance*, music changes dramatically - as does the rest of the world.

Done Reading?

Name 3 ways that life/music of the Middle Ages differed from your life today.

Summarize - What's the main idea?

#1 - The People

#2 - Sacred Music

#3 - Secular Music

#4 - The End of the Middle Ages
