

Anticipation Guide: Middle Ages–Key

8.4.1
b

Note: It is important that students understand that life and conditions did not remain constant from the fall of the Roman Empire to the beginning of the 16th century. There were many changes over this period of 1000 years.

Statement	Comments
During the Middle Ages, most people lived in castles.	<i>False: Most people were peasants or farmers working on land owned by nobles. Some of the more influential nobles lived in castles, which provided protection from attack or war. Under the feudal system, the nobles provided protection to peasants living on their land. By the late Middle Ages, castles had become less necessary for protection.</i>
After the defeat of the western Roman Empire, there were fewer wars in Europe.	<i>False: The lands that had been controlled by Rome became divided into many small kingdoms. In most of Europe, Germanic leaders fought one another for control of territories. Wars were frequent and the feudal system evolved as a means of assuring loyalty and protection. By the end of the Middle Ages, wars began to decrease in frequency.</i>
During the early part of the Middle Ages, European society was mostly agricultural.	<i>True: Societies were land-based and farming was the basis of the economy. Cities and urbanization in Europe increased over time and became more dominant toward the end of the Middle Ages. By the end of the Middle Ages, the cities of Europe had become important centres of wealth, employment, population, and trade.</i>
Christianity and Islam both grew in influence during the Middle Ages.	<i>True: Christianity in the form of the Catholic Church continued to spread throughout Europe and to play a large role in people's lives (e.g., world view, leadership, education, health care...). The religious leader of Islam, Mohammed, was born in 570. By the year 800, the influence of his teachings had spread. The Muslim Empire, based on Islamic teachings, extended across much of the Middle East, parts of Asia and Europe, and the southern Mediterranean.</i>
Democracy grew during this period in different societies of the world.	<i>False: Chieftains of various tribes (e.g., Angles, Saxons, Franks, Normans, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Huns, Celts...) gained military control of territories of Europe and often these leaders became monarchs. These monarchies were the beginnings of the countries of modern Europe (e.g., England, France, Portugal, Spain, Germany...). Societies of this period in China, Japan, Africa, and Central and South America were also mostly monarchies. In North America, the Iroquois Confederacy developed a democratic constitution as early as 1142.</i>