



PLAYING THE PAST BADGE PROGRAM

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Medieval Times
DINNER & TOURNAMENT

girl scouts 



Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta
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Medieval Times is partnering with the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta for the Badge in the Box Junior Playing the Past Badge.

Take a step back in time as you work on the five fun steps to earning this badge. Once you have completed them all you will be able to proudly wear the Playing the Past Badge on your uniform. For added fun, let us know when you complete your badge and we will send you the Medieval Times fun patch for the back of your uniform. Contact Michelle at msager@gsgatl.org for more information.

1. Decide who you are
2. Create a costume
3. Experience daily life
4. Have some old fashioned fun
5. Become your character

Enjoy creating a costume suitable for the character that you choose. See what daily life was really like among the castle folk.

Once you have completed the badge requirements, let us know and we can send you a special Medieval Times patch to add to the fun.



PROGRAM GUIDE

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SECTION ONE



DECIDE WHO YOU ARE

Medieval Times is excited to help you earn your Playing the Past badge!

For this part, we will help you decide what character you'd like to be!



OVERVIEW: THE MIDDLE AGES

The medieval era, often called the Middle Ages or the Dark Ages, began around 476 A.D. following a great loss of power throughout Europe by the Roman Empire. The Middle Ages span roughly 1,000 years, ending between 1400 and 1450. During the Middle Ages, most women held the positions of wife, mother, peasant, artisan, or nun. In addition, some women held important leadership roles, such as abbess, queen regnant, or queen regent.

Women in the Middle Ages

Peasants, Serfs and Farmers

Peasants were the poorest class in the medieval era and lived primarily in the country or small villages. Serfs were the poorest of the peasant class, and were a type of slave. Lords owned the serfs who lived on their lands. In exchange for a place to live, serfs worked the land to grow crops for themselves and their lord. In addition, serfs were expected to pay rent. Everyday peasants could be educated and marry if they could afford it. Serfs, however, could do neither and were not permitted to relocate without the lord's approval.



DECIDE WHO YOU ARE

Peasants, Serfs and Farmers Cont.–

Farmers were a bit better off than peasants, as some owned their own farms. Most worked the farm lands themselves or with the aid of peasants and serfs. Farmers and peasants lived in simple dwellings called cottages. They built their own homes from wood and the roofs were made of bundles of reeds that had to be replaced periodically. Often farmers, peasants and serfs brought their animals into their homes to protect them.

Peasant women had many domestic responsibilities, including caring for children, preparing food, and tending livestock. During the busiest times of the year, such as harvest, women often joined their husbands in the field to bring in the crops.

Artisans/Craftswomen

Artisans in the middle ages usually fell into one of a few broad categories. As most businesses were family-owned, women participated in (or ran) many aspects of the business and were allowed to learn as many trades as they liked.

- Victuals (food supplies or provisions): bakers, butchers, millers, brewers of ales and wines, and fishmongers
- Textiles and Leather: tailors, dyers, embroiders, hatters, silk spinners, shoemakers, tanners, skinners
- Metal work: armorers, blade makers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, pewterers
- Builders: carpenters, masons, pavers, tilers
- Other: candle makers, scribes, bow maker, cooper, falconer

Nuns, Abbess

Women became nuns for many reasons in the Middle Ages: devotion to their faith, the wishes of the families, loss of their husband, or to have a place of refuge for non-conformists and intellectuals. Nearly 10% of women in medieval France and England never married, and 'marriage to the church' provided many of them with a livelihood and education not otherwise available. Female writers, artists, and religious scholars were nurtured by the church, as well as botanists, healers, and educators. The medieval church was a major economic enterprise, and the Abbess of a large convent was a force to be reckoned with. The Abbess is the female superior of a community of nuns and was elected from among the nuns in the convent. She could exercise considerable power, especially if she was also of noble or royal birth. Abbesses often had significant control over the secular life of surrounding communities, acting as landlords, revenue collectors, magistrates, and managers.

Queen Regnant, Queen Consort, Queen Regent

A queen regnant is a female monarch, equivalent in rank to a king, who reigns in her own right. Two examples of queen regnants in the Middle Ages are Urraca of Leon and Castile and Isabella of France. A queen consort is the wife of a reigning king and shares his social rank and status, but does not usually share his political and military powers. A queen regent is the guardian of a child monarch and reigns temporarily in the child's stead.



ACTIVITY: DESCRIBE DAILY LIFE FOR YOUR CHARACTER

NAME: _____

Who is your character? How old was she? What did she like to do?

Draw or describe daily life for your character:

SECTION TWO



CREATE A COSTUME



CLOTHING STYLES HAVE CHANGED A LOT OVER THE YEARS!

On the next page are some of the common clothing items a woman living in the Middle Ages might have worn.

Medieval Clothing

During the medieval era, what people wore was determined by their rank or social status. This was true for men as well as women. While some things were similar (women never wore pants!), nobility wore very different garments than peasants and servants. In some areas, there were laws restricting what people of different classes could wear. For instance, a peasant was not allowed to wear gold, silver, or silk.

Women's clothing consisted of an undertunic called a chemise or smock. This was usually made of linen. Over the chemise, women wore one or more ankle-to-floor length tunics (also called gowns or kirtles). Working class women wore ankle-length tunics belted at the waist. During the middle ages, many women also covered their hair with a veil. In addition, women may have worn belts, purses, rings, crowns, head dresses, hats, gloves, and jewelry.



CREATE A COSTUME

Medieval clothing, like almost everything else during the Middle Ages, was dictated by status of the person wearing the clothes. There were strict rules governing clothing and they covered everything from types of fabrics to colors. People were generally born into a specific class of people and only rarely did they change or elevate their status during their lifetime.

Peasants, Serfs and Farmers

The peasants, serfs, and farmers were the poorest classes in the medieval era and their clothing reflected that. In addition to being made of very basic materials, the clothing needed to be practical as these classes of women spent long hours working in the home or the field.

Most clothing for a peasant, serf, or farmer would have been made of rough wool or linen that they wove themselves. Women would have worn an undergarment (a chemise) made of linen with a long dress (a gown or a tunic) made of wool over it. Their outer garments were worn every day and very rarely washed. Their undergarments, however, would have been washed regularly. Peasant women would also wear head coverings known as wimples or veils.

Peasants, serfs, and farmers often wore brown and gray.

Artisans/Craftswomen

Artisans and craftswomen often wore clothing similar to that of peasants, serfs, and farmers with perhaps some modifications made based on their trade. Blacksmiths, for instance, would wear a wool tunic with a leather apron over it to stop any sparks from hitting their clothing. A falconer would add a

gauntlet, or a long leather glove, that would protect their hands and arms when they were handling the birds.

Nuns, Abbess

Similar to today, nuns and abbesses in the Middle Ages wore floor-length habits, often made of wool. When wool was undyed, it was white, grey, or brown, so these colors were the most commonly worn. The color of a nun's habit would also help identify what order she belonged to.

Nuns would often tie a piece of cloth or a leather belt around their habits at the waist. Like other women of the time period, nuns would wear wimples or veils that would cover their heads and hair. Many nuns would wear their hair cut quite short, although you couldn't see it under the veil! Unlike today, nuns wearing a habit would have blended in with the clothing of the times.

Queen Regnant, Queen Consort, Queen Regent

Royalty in the Middle Ages generally had complex, rich clothing that was made of luxurious fabrics and items. In many places, only nobility could wear things like velvet, satin, the colors gold or purple, fur, or jewelry. A royal woman's gown was most often made of silk and may have been embroidered with lace or gems. Their headware was often a high headdress vs the more simple wimple or veil. They often wore corsets (tight, waist-slimming lacings) that made them appear slimmer and improved their posture. Gowns were often dyed in bright colors versus the brown and gray worn by the working class.



GLOSSARY OF CLOTHING TERMS

Blaud: an overgarment worn by men and women with a voluminous skirt and long or elbow-length sleeves

Caul/snood/hairnet: a net, usually of gold or silver, used to hold hair, often lined with fabric

Chemise/chainse: a floor length under-tunic, over which another gown or kirtle was worn

Chaperon: hood covering head and draped over shoulders

Chatelaine: a small pouch hanging from a belt that usually carried household tools, personal items, or coins

Coif: close-fitting headdress of white linen, cotton or silk that tied under chin, usually worn under other head coverings

Cotehardie: tight-fitting tunic or gown

Dalmation/angel sleeves: large, voluminous sleeves on a gown or kirtle

Gorget: a square of fabric that covered the neck and was often worn with a wimple

Gown/kirtle: a woman's dress or gown, worn over a chemise or chainse

Hennin: a high and pointed headdress that imitated the Gothic church spire. Vells were often attached to them.

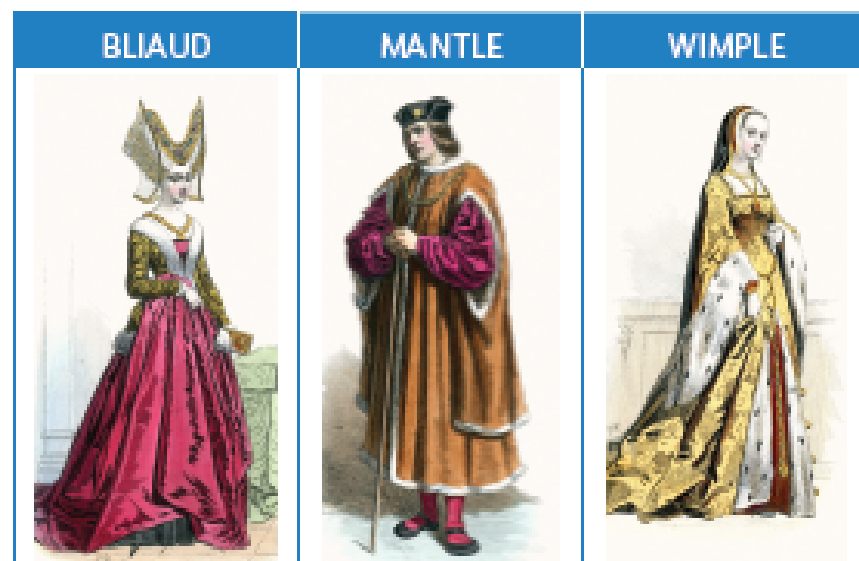
Houppelande: a long, voluminous coat with sleeves sometimes lined or trimmed with fur

Mantle: cloak worn over clothes, sometimes lined with fur or with a hood

Particolored: garments divided into sections and sewn in contrasting colors

Stomacher: a decorated triangular panel that extends to the stomach and along the front of a woman's gown or bodice

Wimple/headrail/couvre-chef: a cloth that draped over one's head and shoulders or over a cloth cap





ACTIVITY: CREATE A COSTUME

NAME: _____

What would your character wear?

Draw it and label the parts!



ACTIVITY: COLOR YOUR CROWN

Using the blank crowns provided, create your own crown using the below examples for inspiration.



SECTION THREE



CASTLES



LIVING IN THE CASTLE

Castles belonged to the wealthy, important, and powerful people of the land – kings, queens, nobles, and knights. Castles were designed to be difficult to attack and easy to defend.

Castles protected owners from rivals and invaders; however, castles were also used to protect the local citizens.

Experience Daily Life

Early castles were built in the 9th and 10th centuries and were constructed of earth and wood; usually constructed on higher ground. Castles from the 11th century and later were always built of rocks and stones on high ground and often surrounded by water such as a lake of wide, deep water called a moat. Stone castles had massive walls that were between 15 and 20 feet thick.

Castles were prominent in the lives of many people in the Middle Ages, regardless of class. In addition to the kings and queens, many lords and high-ranking nobility also had castles as a representation of their wealth and power. Some castles were large structures that housed nobility, and some were smaller structures used only for military defense and offense. Because they were situated on high ground, castles would have been a common sight for people during that time period.



HERE ARE THE FIVE KEY CASTLE STRUCTURES AND HOW THEY HELP CASTLE DEFENSE:

Barbicans were like the gatehouses to a castle. Made of stone, they protected the main entrance and usually had small guard towers on both ends.

Towers were one of the most important defense structures on a castle. Often fitted with slit windows, the corner towers could be used for attacking enemies outside the castle walls.

Keeps were square and often the tallest parts of a castle. Because of their height, they were often used for long distance surveillance. Originally the corners were square, but later designs were rounded or cylindrical. Squared corners were more vulnerable to damage by projectiles like boulders from catapults. Keeps were permanently manned by guards.

Arrow loop windows were rectangular shaped windows that were slim on the outside, but flared wider on the inside. This made it difficult for enemy fire to enter the castle, but enabled those inside with a wider range of motion for attacking the enemy. Most often an archer would be behind the slits shooting arrows.

Castle moats were a simple but effective way of protecting the castle from intruders. They were often filled with water, but could also be dry and loaded with items that could injure someone who is walking across.

As castle inhabitants also needed to cross the moat to enter the castle, the **drawbridge** was developed as a safe way of passage. Drawbridges were often made of wood and operated by hand or a pulley system.

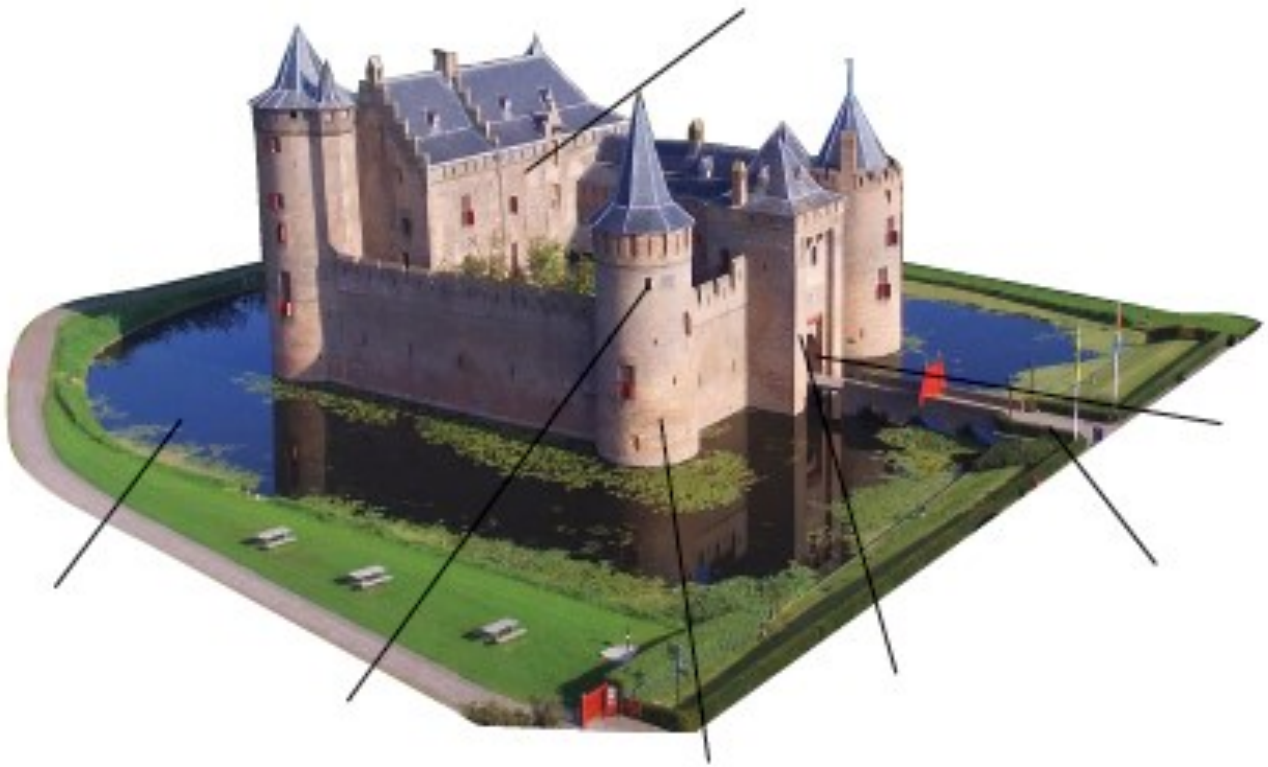
The entrance at the end of the drawbridge was usually protected by a **portcullis** (French for sliding door). This door was often made of wood or iron and provided another protection for the castle.



ACTIVITY: QUEEN OF YOUR OWN CASTLE

NAME: _____

Label the parts of the Castle!



SECTION FOUR



MEDIEVAL GAMES



MEDIEVAL FUN

Medieval games were a mixture of different things, but many of the games played focused on strategy and chance. Some games also involved combat, strength, and skill to win. Toys and games may have also been gender-specific, as boys and girls grew to take on different roles in adulthood.

Have Some Old Fashioned Fun!

Life in Medieval Times was very different than life as we know it now! Imagine living in a time without many of the leisure activities you have today. How would you have entertained yourself without television, telephones, movies, or books? For many girls living in medieval times, playing games was a common pastime.

Many of the games on the next few pages are still played today! Have some old-fashioned fun and play a game of checkers, bowling, horseshoes, or ring toss to experience what leisure time was like in the Middle Ages.

GLOSSARY

Draughts was a very popular medieval game, known today as checkers. This game was played on a board that had ten rows of ten squares each. Each player started with a set of 12 playing pieces that differed in color from their opponents. The game pieces were handmade and could be animals carved from jade or stones. The gameplay involved jumping over the enemy's pieces and capturing them.

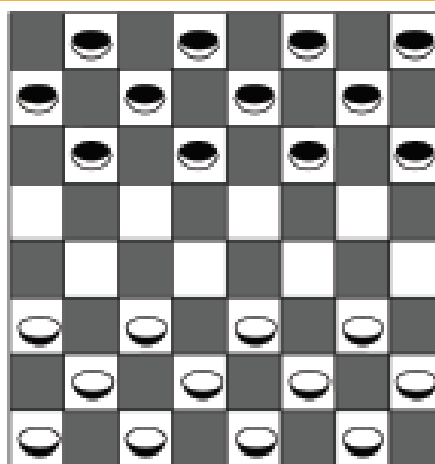
Skittles was an early version of modern-day bowling. It was usually played by the nobles and required the use of wooden balls to knock down skittles placed at the end of an alley.

Shinty was a medieval sport that eventually became what we know as hockey today. It was originally played using curved wooden sticks and a leather ball. Goal posts were established on both ends of the fields and one player guarded each of them. Much like hockey, the leather ball was passed between the players before they attempted to score it through the goal posts.

Archery contests were popular during the medieval era. Participants in an archery contest were given bows and a selection of arrows and must attempt to hit a target set a distance away from them. The closer to the bull's eye of the target the arrow lands, the more points the archer scores.

Quoits (Ring Toss) was a popular game during this time. The equipment for Quoits consisted of eight rope rings and a single wooden pin on a base. The rings might have been adorned with colored scraps of fabric to indicate what rings belonged to what player. A player would earn points by getting the ring over the pin (or close to it).

DRAUGHTS





GLOSSARY

Horseshoes is a medieval pastime that is still popular today! This game involves throwing horseshoes at a set target, often a nail or a wooden pin. The closer a player gets to the target, the more points she scores, while extra points are sometimes awarded if the player can get the horseshoe wrapped around the target.

Tug o War is another traditional game still played today! This was played in medieval times by adults and kids. Two teams would each grab the end of a long rope and try to pull the other team off balance. In medieval times, the game was played with a hazard such as a stream, hedge, a mud puddle in the middle.

Knucklebones are the vertebrae of medium-sized animals like sheep or goats and were used to play games like dice and jacks. The game featured four bones, with each bone possessing four sides, each of a different shape. Each side is given a different value, typically 1, 3, 4 and 6. Players would roll the bones like dice and earn points based on which side landed facing up.

Teetotum (Put & Take) was a commonly played game involving a spinning top with four sides and some coins. Each side gave instructions for what the player should do on their turn: put in a coin, take out a coin, do nothing, or win the whole pot. When the whole pot has been won, the round is over and the players would start again.

Hoodman's Blind is known today as Blind Man's Bluff. One person is designated as "It" and then blindfolded or hooded. The person who is "It" tries to tag or catch any of the other players, who can see. The other players see how close they can get to "It" without being caught. The last person caught is "It" for the next game.

Crafting and Art were also considered leisure activities for children during medieval times. Many of the people during medieval times were peasants who may not have been taught how to read and/or write. Stories that could be told through pictures were important, so things like drawing and making tapestries (woven cloths with pictures) were popular. Tapestries could be used for many things: telling stories, providing insulation for stone walls, and providing privacy if hung around a bed. Tapestry making was a skill that was often passed down in families and required a lot of patience and attention to detail. It could take up to two months to weave one square foot of tapestry!

HORSESHOES

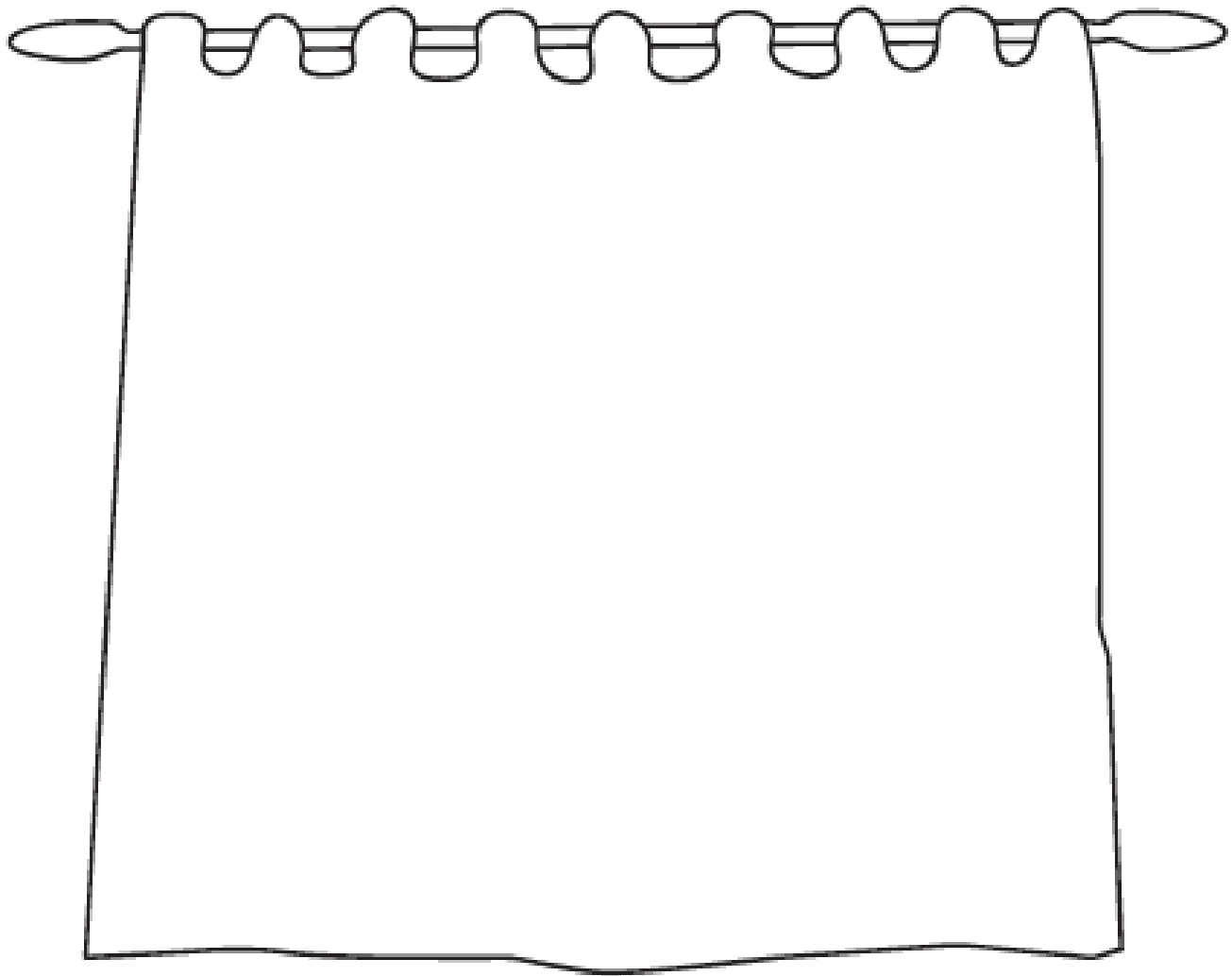




ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN TAPESTRY!

NAME: _____

1. Choose an event that is significant to you and depict that event using only images
2. Tell the story of your medieval character using only images



SECTION FIVE



BECOME YOUR CHARACTER



MEET THE QUEEN!

For this portion, you will get to attend Medieval Times while wearing the costume you made for your character! Use the space below to write down any questions you might have!

Prepare For Your Visit to Medieval Times!

Before attending Medieval Times, you'll create the costume that your character would have worn. During the Middle Ages, what people wore was determined by their rank or social status. On Page 7 and 8, you'll find some examples of what women would have worn during the time period. You can also do your own research to come up with your costume!



QUESTIONS?

Use the space below to write down any questions you might have!