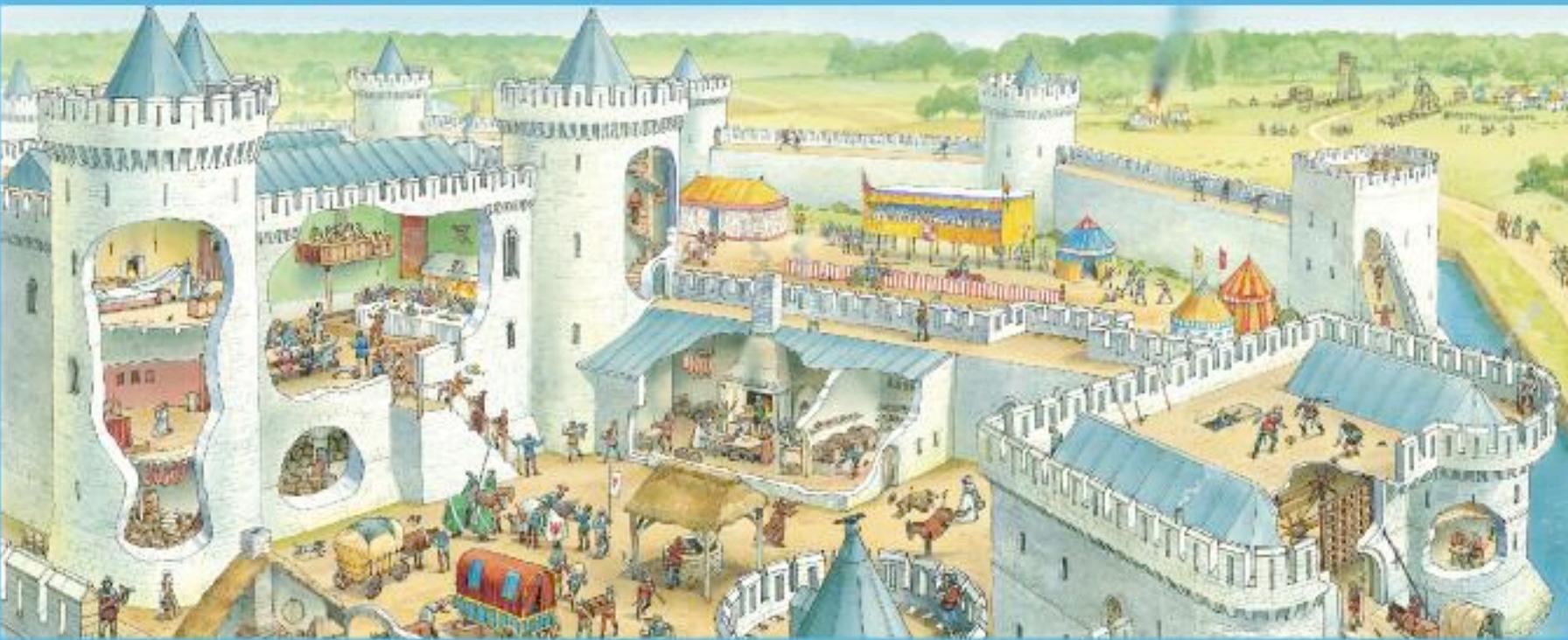
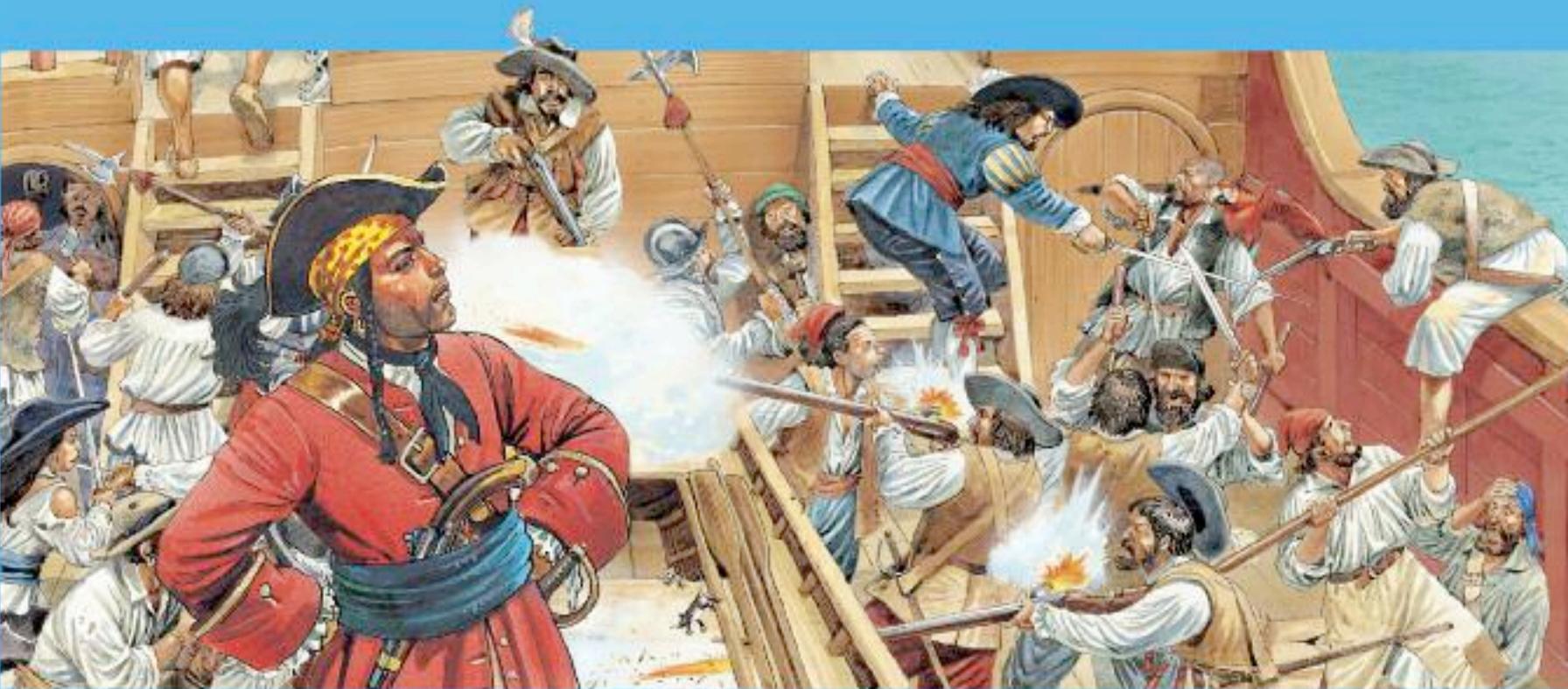


ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA



# HISTORY



More than 250 keywords

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# HISTORY

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# ABOUT THIS BOOK

Each double page contains a brief introduction, explaining the general subject, followed by key words arranged in alphabetical order. To look up a specific word, turn to the index at the back of this book: this will tell you which page to go to. If you want to learn more about a subject, take a look at the factfile, or follow the arrows to read related entries.



**INTRODUCTION**  
This explains the general subject and provides some basic knowledge.

**KEY WORDS AND ENTRIES**  
Key words are arranged alphabetically across each double page. Each entry provides a short explanation of what the key word means.

**A BRIEF HISTORY**  
The brief history provides a summary of the key events in this period.

## ISLAMIC EMPIRES

**D**uring the late 7th century the Islamic religion spread throughout Arabia. Islam's followers, known as Muslims, believe that their sacred book, the Qur'an (Koran), was dictated by Allah (God) to the Prophet Mohammed. Throughout the 7th century, Muslim armies seized control of their bordering countries, converting the people they conquered to Islam. Different regions were ruled by different Muslim leaders. The empires they ruled became centres of learning and the arts.

**Abbas, Shah (571-659)** The most famous of the Safavid rulers. He ruled from 1578 to 1629. Under his leadership, the Safavid army defeated the Ottomans.

**Albar the Great (1542-1605)** A Mughal emperor who came to power in 1556 when he was just 13 years old. By the end of his reign, the Mughal Empire extended across most of central and northern India.

**Babur (1483-1530)** The founder of the Mughal Empire. He seized power after his victory at the Battle of Panipat in 1526, when his army defeated that of the Sultan of Delhi. Babur was the first of the six Great Mughals to rule the Mughal Empire.

**Baghdad** The administrative centre of the Abbasid Empire. Founded in 762, the city attracted scholars and artists from all parts of the empire. It was also an important trading city, with goods coming from as far away as China.

**Abbasid dynasty** A ruling family of caliphs. The Abbasid family seized control from the Umayyad dynasty in 750 and ruled Arabia until 1258. Under their rule, science and the arts flourished.

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**Harun al-Rashid (769-809)** The fifth Abbasid caliph, who governed from 786 to 809. His court was the setting for the One Thousand and One Nights, a famous collection of stories from Arabia, China, Egypt and India.

**Arab warriors on horseback**

**The Sultan of Delhi receiving visitors in the 1300s**

**Moors** The Muslims that ruled Spain and North Africa from the 8th to 15th centuries.

**Mughal Empire** An Islamic empire that ruled most of India from 1526. The Empire declined in the early 18th century, and parts of it came under the rule of the British Raj (p. 21). The Mughal rulers, called the Great Mughals, were Muslims but most of their subjects were Hindus.

**Ottoman Turks** A group of tribes that settled in present-day Turkey in the 1200s. They conquered the surrounding lands. By the 1600s, the Ottoman Empire was the largest in the world, covering much of Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Defeat in World War I (p. 29) led to the collapse of the Empire in 1922.

**THE CITY OF BAGHDAD, FOUNDED IN 762 BY THE ABBASID DYNASTY**

**SAFAVID DYNASTY** A ruling family that governed Persia (modern-day Iran) from 1501 to 1722. The Safavids gained power throughout the 1500s. Their empire began to decline after the death of Shah Abbas. In 1722, it was overrun by armies from Afghanistan.

**SHAH** The title given to Persian and Mughal rulers. In ancient Persian the word shah means "king of kings".

**SULEIMAN (1494-1566)** One of the most famous Ottoman sultans. He was known as Suleiman the Law-Giver, or the Magnificent. He ruled from 1520 to 1566. Under Suleiman, the Ottoman Empire expanded and arts, literature, education and architecture flourished.

**SULTAN** The political leader, or king, of an Islamic state. The lands ruled by a sultan are called the sultanate. The most famous sultans were those of the Ottoman Empire, who lived in the Topkapli Palace in Istanbul.

**Taj Mahal** A domed, marble building, ordered by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as a tomb for his wife Mumtaz. Work on the tomb started in 1632 and continued for 22 years. It stands on the banks of the Yamuna River near Agra in India.

**The Royal Mosque in the Safavid capital city of Isfahan**

**A BRIEF HISTORY**

- ★ 570-652 Life of the Prophet Mohammed.
- ★ 646-700 Arab armies spread Islam throughout North Africa.
- ★ 660-750 Umayyad dynasty holds power.
- ★ 711 Muslim armies conquer part of Spain.
- ★ 750-1025 Abbasid dynasty holds power.
- ★ 1000-1325 Rule of the Ottoman Empire.
- ★ 1501-1722 Safavid dynasty rules Persia.
- ★ 1520-1566 Rule of Suleiman over the Ottoman Empire.
- ★ 1519 Mughal Empire founded by Babur at the Battle of Panipat.
- ★ 1526-1605 Mughal Empire rules India.
- ★ 1556-1605 Reign of Akbar the Great over the Mughal Empire.
- ★ 1571-1629 Rule of Shah Abbas over Safavids.

In Turkey, whirling dervishes dance at Muslim prayer meetings.

**BOLD WORDS**  
These highlight useful words that do not have their own entry.

**ARROWS**  
These arrows show you where to look up other words mentioned in the entry. For example, (p. 26) tells you to go forward to page 26 and (p. 6) tells you to turn back to page 6.

**PAGE NUMBER**  
Page numbers are easy to find at the side of the page.

# TIMELINE

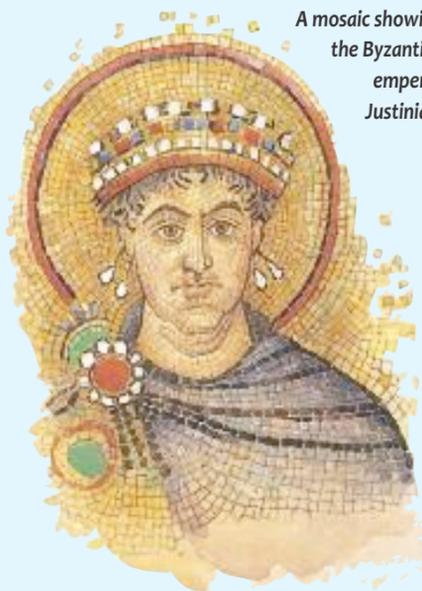
★ In the 4th century, the Roman Empire splits apart. The western half of the Empire is overrun by Barbarian tribes, but the eastern half flourishes and becomes known as the Byzantine Empire (➡14).

★ In Europe, this starts the period known as the Middle Ages (➡14). During the early Middle Ages kingdoms across Europe war with one another and Christianity becomes very important.

★ The Han dynasty rules China until AD 220, when nomads invade from the north and the country splits into three. China is reunited again by the Sui dynasty in 581 (➡10).

★ By 550, China's neighbour Japan has started to take on the religion, culture and language of China. Prince Shotoku (547-622) bases the Japanese system of government upon that of China, concentrating power on the emperor.

★ In 7th century, the Islamic religion spreads throughout Arabia (➡8).



A mosaic showing the Byzantine emperor Justinian.

★ Throughout the 7th century, Islamic armies seize control of the land around them. The Umayyads become the first Islamic dynasty (➡9).

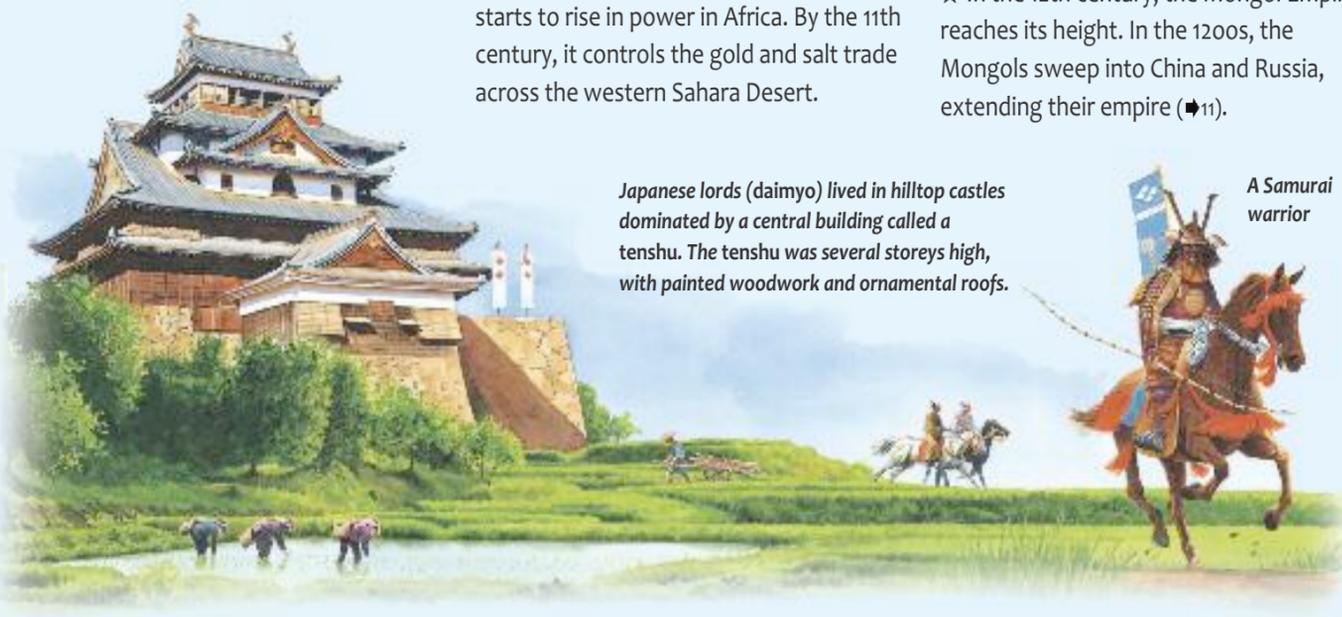
★ In 618 in China, Li Yuan seizes power and begins the Tang dynasty (➡10).

★ In 8th century Europe, the Holy Roman Empire becomes an important force (➡15). At around the same time, the Vikings begin to raid coastal areas overseas (➡12).

★ In 750 the Abbasids overthrew the Umayyad dynasty in Arabia (➡8).

★ In the 9th century the Kingdom of Ghana starts to rise in power in Africa. By the 11th century, it controls the gold and salt trade across the western Sahara Desert.

Japanese lords (daimyo) lived in hilltop castles dominated by a central building called a tenshu. The tenshu was several storeys high, with painted woodwork and ornamental roofs.



A Samurai warrior

★ In 9th century Japan, Fujiwara Yoshifusa becomes regent for a nine-year-old emperor. However, he continues in power as a dictator even after the emperor becomes an adult. The Fujiwara family remain in power until the 12th century.

★ After a period of civil war in China, the Song dynasty begins in 960 (➡10).

★ In 1095 Turks ban Christians from entering Jerusalem. The Pope calls on Christians from across Europe to recapture the "Holy Land". This starts a series of battles called the Crusades, that last until the 13th century (➡14).

★ Minamoto Yoritomo takes the title of Japanese shogun (great general) in 1192. During the shogun rule, Samurai knights enforce law and order and fight on behalf of the shogun.

African kings ruled over thriving kingdoms at a time when European people were suffering the effects of plague and war in the later Middle Ages.



★ In the 12th century, the Mongol Empire reaches its height. In the 1200s, the Mongols sweep into China and Russia, extending their empire (➡11).



The 14th century mosque at Jenne in Mali. Jenne was an important city as it was situated on a long-distance trade route across the Sahara.

★ In the 13th century, the Ottoman Turks start to build their empire (➡9).

★ In 1380 an army led by Prince Dmitri of Moscow defeats the Mongols.

★ In the 14th century, the Black Death kills millions of people in Europe (➡14).

★ In 1368 the Ming dynasty comes to power in China (➡11).

★ In 1480, led by Ivan III, Russia overthrows the Mongols. Ivan declares himself czar, or emperor.

★ In the 15th century, the Renaissance begins in Europe (➡18).

★ Toyotomi Hideyoshi becomes ruler of all Japan in 1591. The Tokugawa family take over in 1603 and nearly all contact between Japan and foreign nations is closed down for more than 200 years.

★ During the 15th century, advances in ship design allow Europeans to explore other continents and oceans by sea (➡20).

★ In 1517 Martin Luther delivers the "ninety-five theses", launching the Protestant Reformation (➡18).

★ In 1526 the Mughal Empire starts in India (➡9).



Ivan the Terrible

★ In 1547, Ivan IV, nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible" is crowned czar of Russia. After his death, Russia endures a period of civil war and invasions. This ends in 1613 with the defeat of Polish invaders and the election of Michael Romanov as czar. The Romanovs remain in power for 300 years.



Pirates attack a Spanish galleon carrying treasure in the 1600s

★ In 1644 the Manchus invade China and establish the Qing dynasty (➡11).

★ The American Revolutionary War against the British is fought from 1775 to 1783 (➡22).

★ At the start of the 18th century, the Industrial Revolution begins in Britain. Industry moves to factories in towns and steam power becomes widely used.

★ In 1789 the French people overthrow their king in the French Revolution (➡22).

★ In 1799 Napoleon seizes power in France and starts to build an empire. He is defeated in 1815 (➡23).

★ In 1868 the Meiji family take control of Japan and start to build an empire. Japan fights two successful wars with China (1894-5) and Russia (1904-5), winning the territories of Korea and Manchuria. Japan becomes the first eastern nation to defeat a European power in modern times.

★ From 1861 to 1865, the American Civil War is fought between northern and southern states (➡24).

★ In 1912, rebellions in China lead to the resignation of the last Chinese emperor. China is declared a republic.

★ The early 20th century is a period of rivalry between European nations. World War I is fought from 1914 to 1918 (➡29).

★ In 1917 the Russian Revolution takes place and Russia becomes the first communist state (➡29).

★ In 1937 Japan moves troops into China.

★ World War II is fought between 1939 and 1945 (➡29).

★ In 1949 the communist party in China wins power and China becomes a communist state.

★ At the end of WWII, the Soviet Union controls much of eastern Europe. It establishes communist governments in the countries it occupies, leading to a period of tension between the Soviet Union and the USA known as the Cold War (➡28). This period is also marked by several conflicts such as the Korean War (1950-53) and the Vietnam War (1955-75).

★ In 1989 a series of uprisings leads to the collapse of communism in eastern Europe. In 1991 the Soviet Union breaks up.

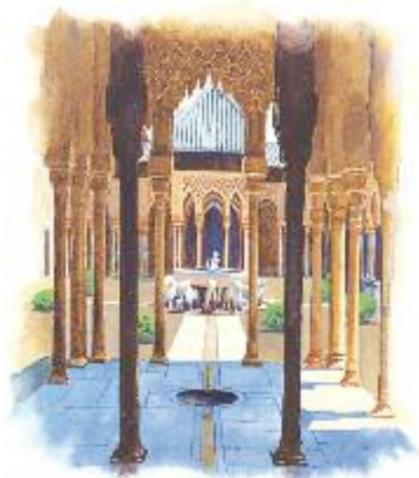
The early 20th century saw the invention of new methods of transport such as the car and aeroplane.



# ISLAMIC EMPIRES

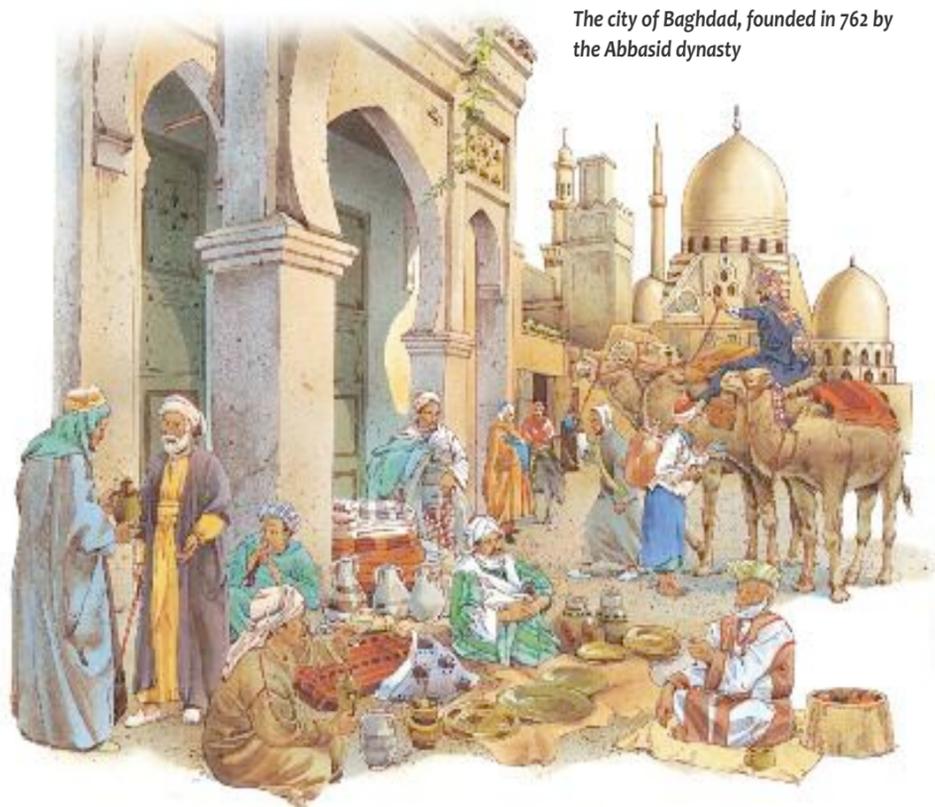
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**Abbas, Shah (1571-1629)** The most famous of the Safavid rulers. He ruled from 1587 to 1629. Under his leadership, the Safavid army defeated the Ottomans.



The Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain, was built in the 14th century by the Moors.

**Abbasid dynasty** A ruling family of caliphs. The Abbasid family seized control from the Umayyad dynasty in 750 and ruled Arabia until 1258. Under their rule, science and the arts flourished.



The city of Baghdad, founded in 762 by the Abbasid dynasty

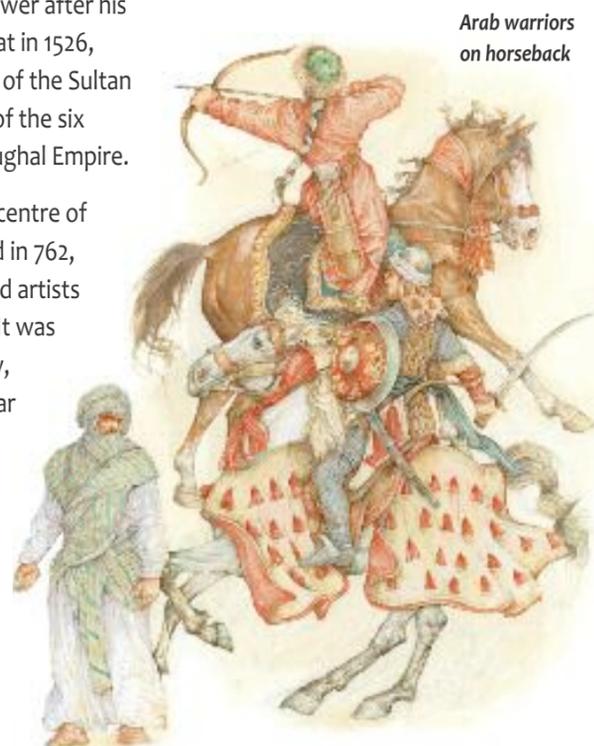
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Arab warriors on horseback

**Janissary** A soldier who fought for and protected the Ottoman sultan.

**Mohammed (570-632)** The founder of the Islamic religion. He was meditating in the mountains near Mecca when the angel Gabriel came to him and told him that there is only one God, Allah, and that he should become the prophet of Allah. As Mohammed gained popularity, officials in Mecca began to distrust him. In 622 he and his followers fled to Medina, where they united the local tribes and led them on to conquer Mecca.



The Sultan of Delhi receiving visitors in the 1300s

**Moors** The Muslims that ruled Spain and North Africa from the 8th to 15th centuries.

**Mughal Empire** An Islamic empire that ruled most of India from 1526. The Empire declined in the early 18th century, and parts of it came under the rule of the British Raj (▶ 21). The Mughal rulers, called the Great Mughals, were Muslims but most of their subjects were Hindus.

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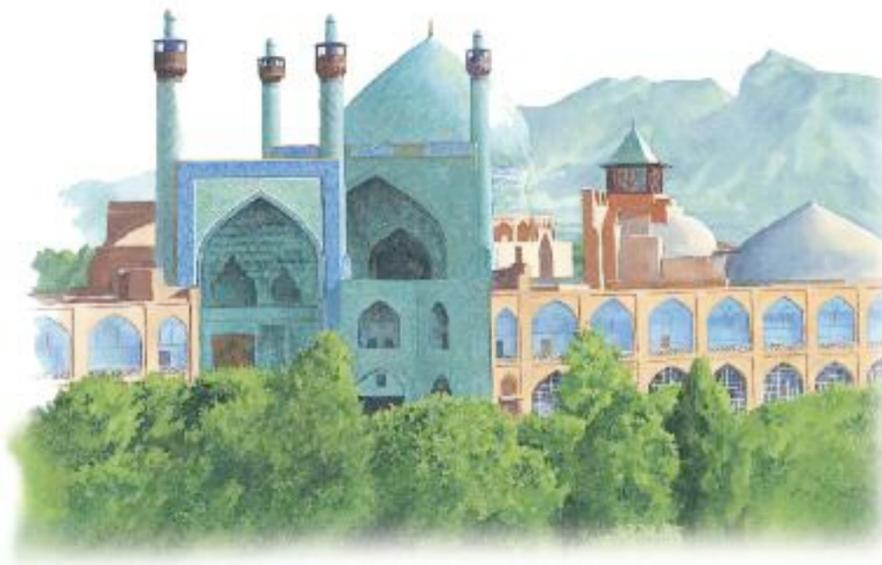
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The Royal Mosque in the Safavid capital city of Isfahan



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- ★ 711 Muslim armies conquer part of Spain.
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- ★ 1200-1922 Rule of the Ottoman Empire.
- ★ 1501-1722 Safavid dynasty rules Persia.
- ★ 1520-66 Rule of Suleiman over the Ottoman Empire.
- ★ 1526 Mughal Empire founded by Babur at the Battle of Panipat.
- ★ 1526-1862 Mughal Empire rules India.
- ★ 1556-1605 Reign of Akbar the Great over the Mughal Empire.
- ★ 1587-1629 Rule of Shah Abbas over Safavids.



In Turkey, whirling dervishes dance at Muslim prayer meetings.

**Umayyad dynasty** The first of the Muslim ruling families. Their rule reached as far west as Spain, and deep into Central Asia in the east. The Umayyad dynasty governed from 661 to 750, when the Abbasids seized control.

# CHINA

In the Middle Ages, China was probably the richest country in the world. Trade flourished between China and the West and many scientific developments and new inventions came out of the country. The Buddhist religion became increasingly important across the country, and many shrines and temples were built. China was ruled by emperors from ruling families called dynasties. But the country was always threatened by tribes to the north.

**Buddhism** A religion that became increasingly important under the Tang dynasty. Buddhists do not worship a god, but follow the teachings of the Indian prince Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 BC) known as the Buddha.

**Chang'an** China's first capital city, which stood at the beginning of the Silk Route. It had many great palaces and gardens. During the Tang dynasty, Chang'an attracted scholars, artists and poets from all parts of Asia.



Chinese farmers carry heavy baskets of rice by balancing them on a pole over one shoulder.

**Forbidden City** A huge palace in Beijing where the Chinese emperors lived. It was known as the Forbidden City because ordinary people were not permitted to enter its walls. Building work started in 1404, under the order of Ming emperor Yong Le. The highest building in the palace was the Hall of Supreme Harmony, where the emperor sat on a golden throne.

**Genghis Khan (c.1162-1227)** A Mongol leader who rose to power around 1200. He was the first leader to bring the Mongols together as one nation. Under his rule the Mongols attacked northern China as well as the lands that lay to the west.

**Grand Canal** A series of waterways built to help the movement of troops and food supplies across China. Its construction was completed during the 13th century, by which time the canal was 1747 km long, stretching from Beijing in the north to Hangzhou in the south.

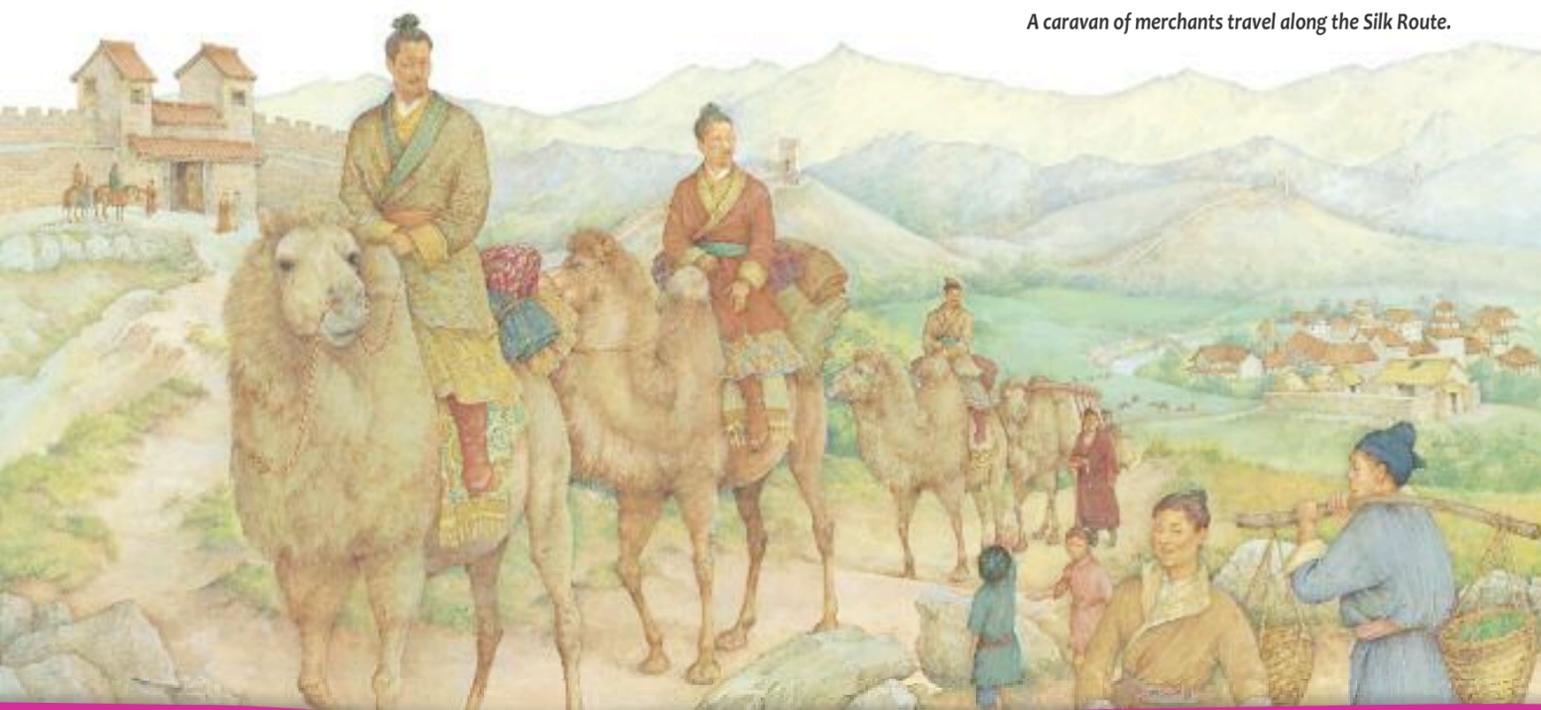
**Han dynasty** The family that ruled China from 206 BC to AD 220. During their rule, the empire expanded into Central Asia and trade flourished. The dynasty ended when nomads attacked from the north and the country split into three kingdoms.



Emperor Kublai Khan

**Junk** A type of Chinese boat with sails supported by bamboo masts. The largest junks were ships that could carry 600 people. For centuries, junks were the world's biggest and most advanced boats.

*A caravan of merchants travel along the Silk Route.*



Kublai Khan's summer palace at Xanadu

**Kublai Khan (1215-1294)** A Mongol emperor and the first foreign emperor of China. Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, came to power in 1264 and conquered all of China by 1279. The Mongol dynasty he established was renamed the Yuan dynasty in 1271.

**Ming dynasty** A ruling family that governed China from 1368 to 1644. They strove to keep foreign influences out of China. They were overpowered by foreigners from Manchuria in 1644.



Chinese junks

**Mongols** A nomadic (wandering) people from north-east Asia. They were expert riders and archers. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the Mongols conquered much of Asia and eastern Europe, forming an impressive empire.

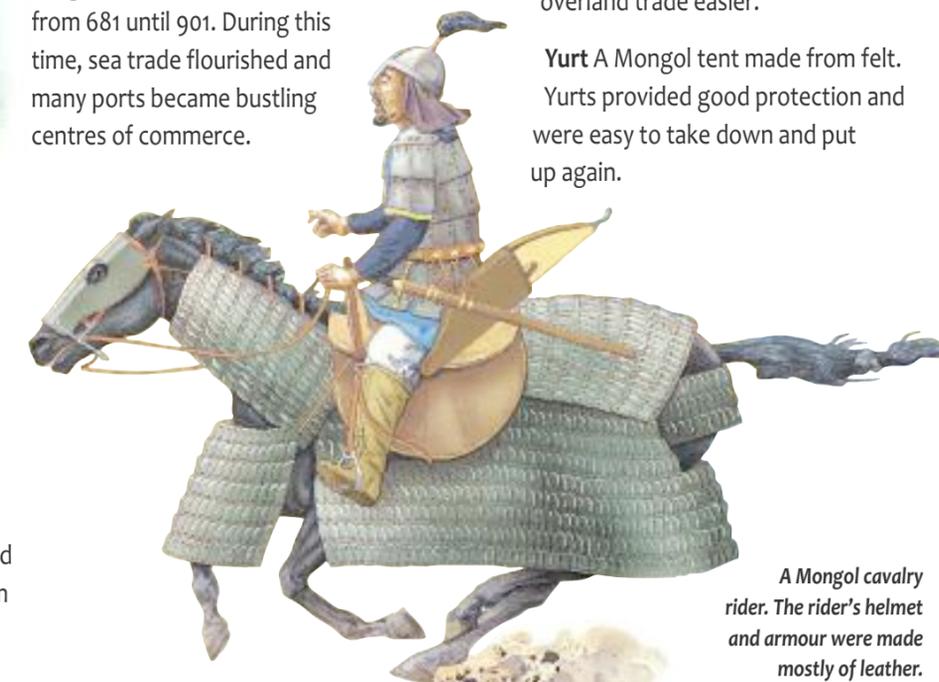
**Qing dynasty** The family that ruled China from 1644 to 1912. The dynasty was founded by the Manchus, a group of foreigners from Manchuria in the north-east. Under their rule, China expanded across the west.

**Silk Route** A group of roads that linked cities in China to various areas in the Middle East. Few merchants travelled the whole Route. Most would travel a certain distance and then pass their goods on to another merchant. Merchants travelled in groups called "caravans" for protection.

**Song dynasty** The family that ruled China from 960 to 1279. This was a time of peace and prosperity in China. Food production increased, and the population topped 100 million. China produced many great inventions, such as gunpowder and movable type, used for printing.

**Sui dynasty** The family that ruled China from 581 to 618. The Sui reunited north and south China after years of division, but their rule was harsh. They made people pay heavy taxes and forced them to work in hard conditions. Hatred of the Sui family led to the collapse of the dynasty.

**Tang dynasty** The family that ruled China from 618 until 907. During this time, sea trade flourished and many ports became bustling centres of commerce.



A Mongol cavalry rider. The rider's helmet and armour were made mostly of leather.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 206 BC-AD 220 Han dynasty rules China. At the end of the dynasty nomads attack the country and it splits into three kingdoms.
- ★ 581-618 Sui dynasty unites China.
- ★ 618-907 Tang dynasty rules China.
- ★ 960-1279 Song dynasty rules in China.
- ★ 1162-1227 Life of Genghis Khan.
- ★ 1215 Mongols capture Beijing in China.
- ★ 1215-1294 Life of Kublai Khan.
- ★ 1271-1368 Mongol, or Yuan, dynasty rules.
- ★ 1368-1644 Ming dynasty rules China.
- ★ 1404 Building starts on the Forbidden City.
- ★ 1644-1912 Qing dynasty rules China.



The wheelbarrow, a Chinese invention

**Yuan dynasty** The family that ruled China and Mongolia from 1271 to 1368. Established by Kublai Khan, the Yuan dynasty made many improvements. They established a new capital at Beijing and improved the Chinese roads to make overland trade easier.

**Yurt** A Mongol tent made from felt. Yurts provided good protection and were easy to take down and put up again.

# VIKINGS

**T**he Vikings, or Norsemen, were seafaring people who came from the Scandinavian countries of northern Europe (modern-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden). Between the 8th and 11th centuries, the Vikings raided and looted many parts of Europe. They were also colonizers, founding settlements in regions such as Iceland and Greenland. Viking ships even sailed as far as North America. Most Vikings were farmers, who grew crops and kept cattle. They were also skilful craftsmen.

**Althing** The governing assembly of Iceland. The *althing* met every summer in Thingvellir and lasted for two weeks. It first met in 930.

**Berserker** A famously fierce Viking warrior. Berserkers prepared for battle by wearing bearskin shirts and working themselves up into a rage. This fit of fury was called “going berserk”.

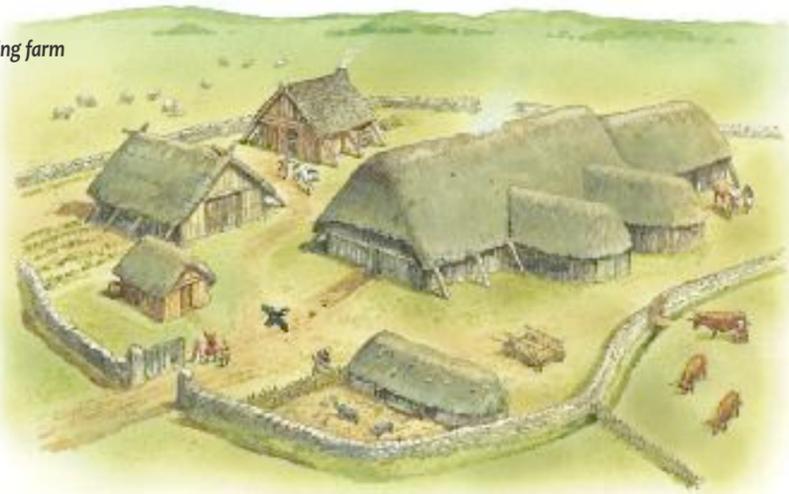
**Chieftain** The leader of a village or of a group of Vikings.

**Danegeld** A tax paid to Viking raiders. Areas threatened by the Vikings could pay this to stop the Vikings from robbing them, abducting people or destroying their land.



Viking raiders on board a longship.

A Viking farm



**Eric the Red (950–c.1003)** Viking chieftain who founded the first settlement in Greenland. He was exiled from Iceland in 982 and sailed in search of new lands. He returned to Iceland three years later with tales of a new “green land” and encouraged others to follow him there.

**Frey** The Viking god of fertility and birth. He helped the crops to grow and blessed newly-wed couples.

**Futhark** The Viking alphabet, named after its first six letters: f, u, th, a, r and k.

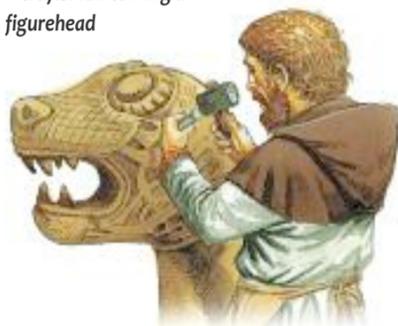
**Greenland** A large, ice-covered island in the North Atlantic. Vikings discovered it 982. Settlements formed inland in the east and west, the only areas that could be farmed.

**Iceland** A large, volcanic island in the North Atlantic. Vikings discovered Iceland in 870. The first settlers travelled there to escape the rule of King Harald of Norway.

**Jarl** A nobleman. Jarls were the highest of the three classes of Viking society.

**Karl** A freeman. Karls were the middle of the three classes of Viking society, and the largest. They worked as farmers, traders, craftsmen and warriors.

A craftsman carving a figurehead



**Knarr** A wide ship used to carry goods for trading. Knarrs were mostly powered by their sails but could be rowed if the wind dropped. They were slower than longships.

**Leif Ericsson (c.970-1020)** A Viking explorer who landed on the coast of North America in 1000. He was the first European to set foot on North American soil. Ericsson established a settlement, but it was abandoned after a few years.

**Longship** A fast wooden ship used to carry warriors into battle. It was powered by a square sail or by oarsmen. The front of a ship was often carved into the shape of a dragon's head. For this reason the boats were sometimes called “dragon ships”.

**Odin** Chief of the Viking gods. Odin was god of wisdom, war, death and magic. The Vikings believed he was a sorcerer who could change his shape at will.

**Rune** A Viking letter. Runes were formed of straight and diagonal lines, which were easy to carve into wood or stone.

A runestone



**Runestone** A stone carved with runes, used to mark boundaries or glorify an ancestor's bravery in battle. Some runestones were highly decorated.

**Rus** A group of Vikings who travelled to Russia in the 9th century, either as invaders or as peacekeepers, to sort out quarrels between the Slav people. They settled in the area around Kiev, which became known as the “land of the Rus”. This is probably where the name Russia comes from.

**A Viking raid of a monastery. Monasteries were perfect targets for the Vikings because they were often poorly defended and filled with treasures.**



**A noble Viking warrior carried a wooden shield and wore either chain mail or leather for protection.**

**Saga** A story about Viking history or mythology. Some sagas were about gods and monsters. Others were about family history and Viking victories. For hundreds of years the Viking's sagas were not written down, but passed down the generations by word of mouth.

**Thing** A meeting held in a community to discuss the law. All free men were allowed to express their opinions at the *thing*.

**Thor** The Viking god of law and order. He was thought to ride through the sky on a chariot pulled by goats.

**Thrall** A Viking slave. Slaves were often captured during the Viking's raids. They were the lowest of the three classes of Viking society.

**Valhalla** The Viking heaven for the souls of men that were killed in battle. Valhalla was believed to be a huge feast hall. In Viking mythology, the souls of those who died of death or old age went to a shadowy realm called **Hel**.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

★ **c.750** Vikings begin their raiding voyages in Europe.

★ **c.860** Swedish Vikings start to move east, to Russia.

★ **870** Iceland is discovered and Vikings begin to settle there.

★ **930** The first meeting of the *althing* in Iceland.

★ **982** Eric the Red explores the coast of Greenland.

★ **c.985** The first Viking settlers move to Greenland.

★ **1000** Christianity becomes the official religion of Iceland.

★ **c.1000** Leif Ericsson sails to North America.

★ **1004-13** Viking settlement established in Newfoundland, North America.



**Valkyrie** Mythological female warriors. They were believed to choose who would die in battle and who would fight on.

**Varangian** The Viking merchants who travelled south and east from Scandinavia in the 9th and 10th centuries. They traded wheat, wool and slaves for silver and furs.

# MEDIEVAL EUROPE

The period of European history between 500 and 1450 is known as the medieval period, or the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages began after the collapse of the Roman Empire and ended with the start of the Renaissance (18). During these years, Europe became a patchwork of kingdoms, frequently warring amongst themselves, and Christianity became very important across Europe.

**Barbarians** The Roman name for the Germanic tribes, such as the Huns, Goths, Visigoths and Vandals. In 410 the Goths invaded Italy, and 45 years later the Vandals overran Rome itself.

14



Charlemagne

**Black Death** A disease that swept across Asia and Europe in the 14th century, also known as the **plague**. Its name may have come from the black spots that appeared on victims. The disease was carried by fleas on rats, although no one knew this at the time.



A MEDIEVAL MARKET TOWN

**Byzantine Empire** The eastern half of the Roman Empire, formed when the Empire split apart in the 4th century. The capital, **Constantinople** was founded in 330 by Emperor Constantine I. The official religion was Christianity. The Empire lasted until 1453 when it fell to the Ottoman Turks (9).

**Charlemagne (c.742-814)** King of the Franks, and first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Under his rule, his empire expanded to include Germany, France, northern Spain and most of Italy.

**Crusades** A set of eight military expeditions led between 1096 to 1272. Called by the Pope, Christians from across Europe tried to recapture Palestine, the Holy Land, from Muslim rule. The Crusaders failed to win back the Holy Land.

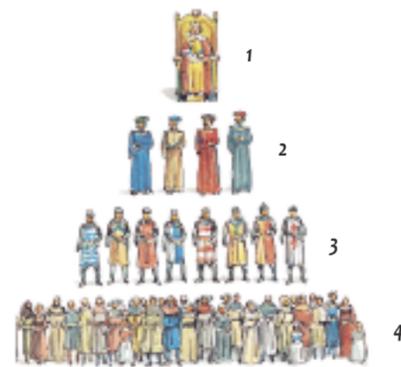
**Feudal system** A social system developed in Europe from 700. In return for military services, the King would lease land to lords (vassals). The lords divided their land into manors and leased these to lesser lords or knights (16), who raised armies on their behalf. The lesser lords let peasants farm the land in exchange for rent.

**Fief** A piece of land given to a vassal by a lord, within the feudal system.

**Franks** A Germanic tribe, who rose to power in the 6th century when they conquered Gaul (France).

**Friar** A monk who travelled from place to place, preaching Christianity as he went.

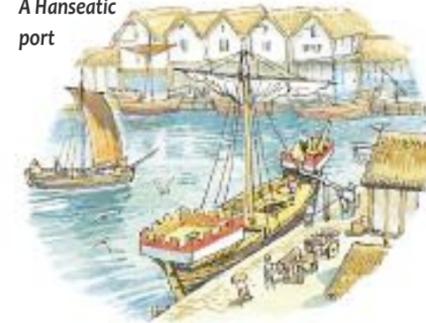
**Hanseatic League** An alliance of trading towns in Germany, founded in the 13th century. The League controlled the trade in furs, fish and timber across much of northern Europe.



Within the feudal system, the King (1) had the most power, followed by lords and barons (2), then lesser lords and knights (3). The peasants (4) were allowed to farm a lord's land in exchange for rent.

**Holy Roman Empire** A group of European states. It was ruled by an emperor but the Pope also claimed some power. It was first founded in 800 when Charlemagne was crowned emperor by Pope Leo III.

A Hanseatic port



**Hundred Years' War** A series of wars fought between France and England from 1337 to 1453. The war started when King Edward III of England claimed the French throne and invaded France.

**Justinian (483-565)** Ruler of the Byzantine Empire from 527 to 565. He won back former Roman territories in Greece, Turkey, Italy, Africa and Spain. The laws he issued have since been used as the basis for legal systems in many countries.

**Lord** A member of the nobility who was granted land and had control over the serfs who worked on it.

**Manor** A division of the land owned by a nobleman. One manor consisted of three large fields: one each for wheat and barley and a third left unsown so that the soil could recover its richness.

**Monk** A man who devoted his life to the Christian Church and lived in a **monastery**. Medieval monks worked in the fields or cared for the poor. They also copied and illustrated texts, such as the Bible.

**Normans** The people from Normandy in northern France. They were descended from the Vikings (12). In 1066 the Normans, led by **Duke William of Normandy**, conquered England.

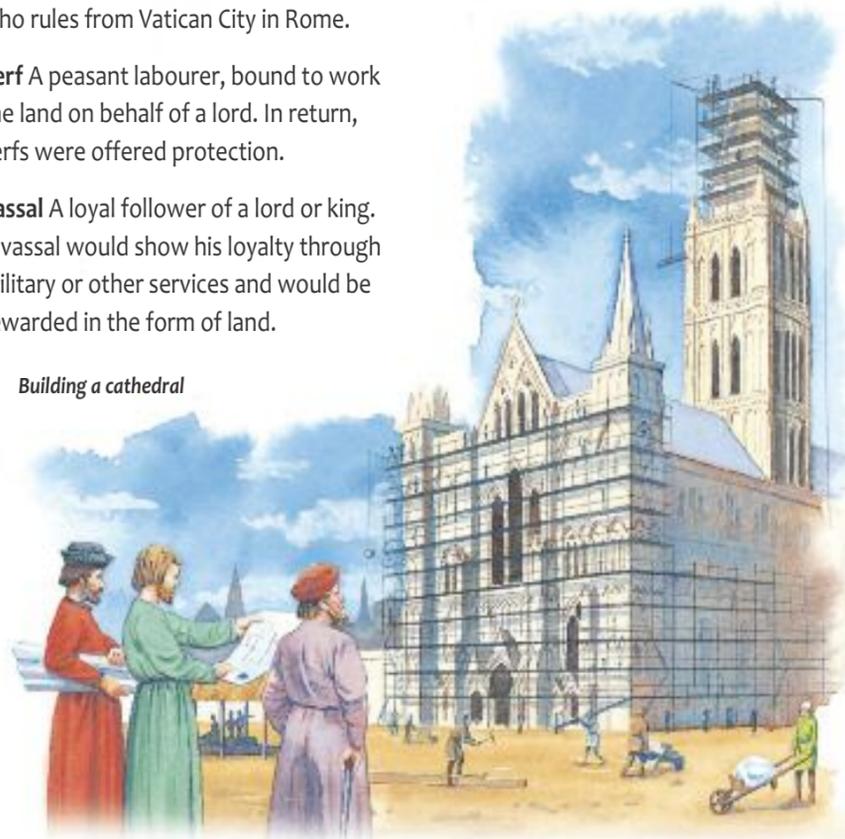
**Peasant** A poor person in medieval society, who stood at the very bottom of the feudal system. Most peasants worked as farmers in fields owned by a lord.

**Pope** The head of the Catholic Church, who rules from Vatican City in Rome.

**Serf** A peasant labourer, bound to work the land on behalf of a lord. In return, serfs were offered protection.

**Vassal** A loyal follower of a lord or king. A vassal would show his loyalty through military or other services and would be rewarded in the form of land.

Building a cathedral



## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 455 Vandals sack Rome.
- ★ 486 Frankish kingdom founded by Clovis.
- ★ 527-65 Justinian rules Byzantine Empire.
- ★ 786-814 Charlemagne rules the Franks.
- ★ 800 Charlemagne crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III.
- ★ 1066 Duke William of Normandy conquers England.
- ★ 1096-1272 Period of the Crusades.
- ★ 1337-1453 Hundred Years' War between France and England.
- ★ 1347 The Black Death arrives in Europe, killing millions.
- ★ c.1450 The start of the Renaissance.

Burying plague victims



15

# CASTLES & KNIGHTS

In medieval times, a castle was a fortified building that served as a home for the king or a lord. Wars frequently broke out in medieval Europe so it was important that a lord could protect himself, his family and followers. A knight was someone who served a king or lord as a mounted soldier. During the Middle Ages, knights became a separate class of people, below the nobility in the feudal system (14), but above the merchants and craftworkers. Knights underwent years of training to learn fighting skills and were expected to protect the weak.

**Archery** A sport involving shooting with bows and arrows at a target.

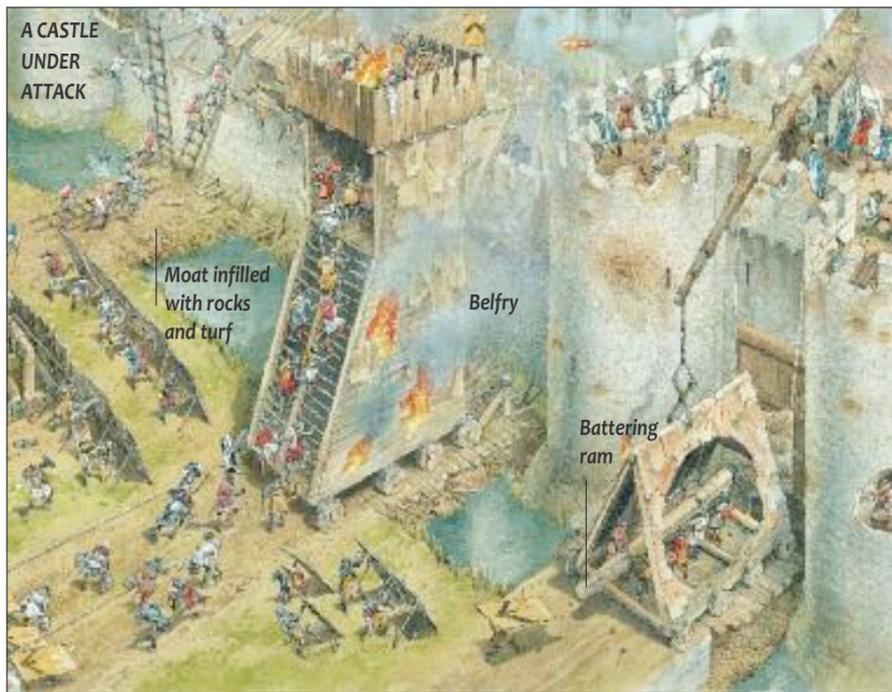
**Bailey** A courtyard within castle walls.

**Battering ram** A large beam used to break down walls or doors of a castle.

**Battlements** The top of a wall with a series of gaps, called crenelles, between raised portions. Battlements are also called **crenellations**. Archers could fire through the gaps to defend the castle.



A knight bearing his coat of arms



A CASTLE UNDER ATTACK

Moat filled with rocks and turf

Belfry

Battering ram

**Belfry** A wooden tower on wheels, which attackers used to climb over castle walls during a siege.

**Chain mail** Heavy but flexible armour made from thousands of tiny metal rings linked together by hand.

**Chivalry** The behaviour expected of a knight, such as loyalty, bravery and honour. Knights were expected to defend the weak and show courtesy, especially towards women.

**Coat of arms** A shield marked with the symbols of a family. A knight would wear his coat of arms on his shield as a way of identifying himself in battle.

**Crossbow** A mechanical bow using short metal bolts rather than arrows.

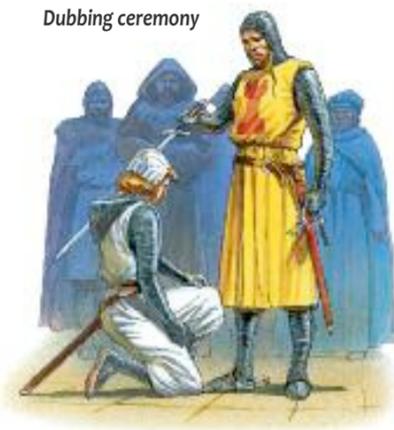
**Curtain wall** The outer wall of a castle.

**Drawbridge** A bridge across a moat that could be lifted to prevent entry to a castle.

**Dubbing ceremony** The ceremony in which a squire became a knight. The squire would kneel before his master, or the king, to receive a light tap on the shoulder with a sword and the words "I dub you knight".

**Gatehouse** A heavily fortified structure, built at the entrance to a castle. A drawbridge and a portcullis were part of a gatehouse's defences.

Dubbing ceremony



**Heraldry** The system used for designing coats of arms. Designs and colours often had meanings associated with the person who bore the arms.

**Hoardings** A wooden gallery attached to a castle wall with holes in the floor, through which defenders attacked the enemy.

**Jousting** An entertainment in which two knights tried to knock one another off their horse using a weapon called a lance. It was a test of bravery and skill.



Jousting tournament

**Keep** The fortified stone tower at the centre of some castles.

**Mangonel** A catapult used to throw missiles from close range. It was effective for smashing castle walls during a siege.

**Moat** A dry or water-filled ditch surrounding a castle.

**Motte-and-bailey** An early European castle formed of an earth mound (motte) topped by a keep, next to a fenced courtyard (bailey).

**Murder hole** An opening in the ceiling of the gatehouse through which defenders dropped missiles on enemies below.

**Page** A young boy who lived in a knight's household, learning the skills and behaviour expected of a knight. He would become a squire at the age of 15 or 16.

**Portcullis** A heavy wooden grating that could be slid down to close the gateway at the entrance of a castle.

**Siege** The surrounding of a castle by an enemy army.

**Squire** A young nobleman who acted as personal servant to a knight. He rode into battle with his master and learned how to fight. When his training was complete, he was ready to become a knight.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

★ **1000s** Motte-and-bailey castles are built across Europe.

★ **1096-1291** Many castles are built by Christian Crusaders (14) to protect the lands they win in the Middle East.

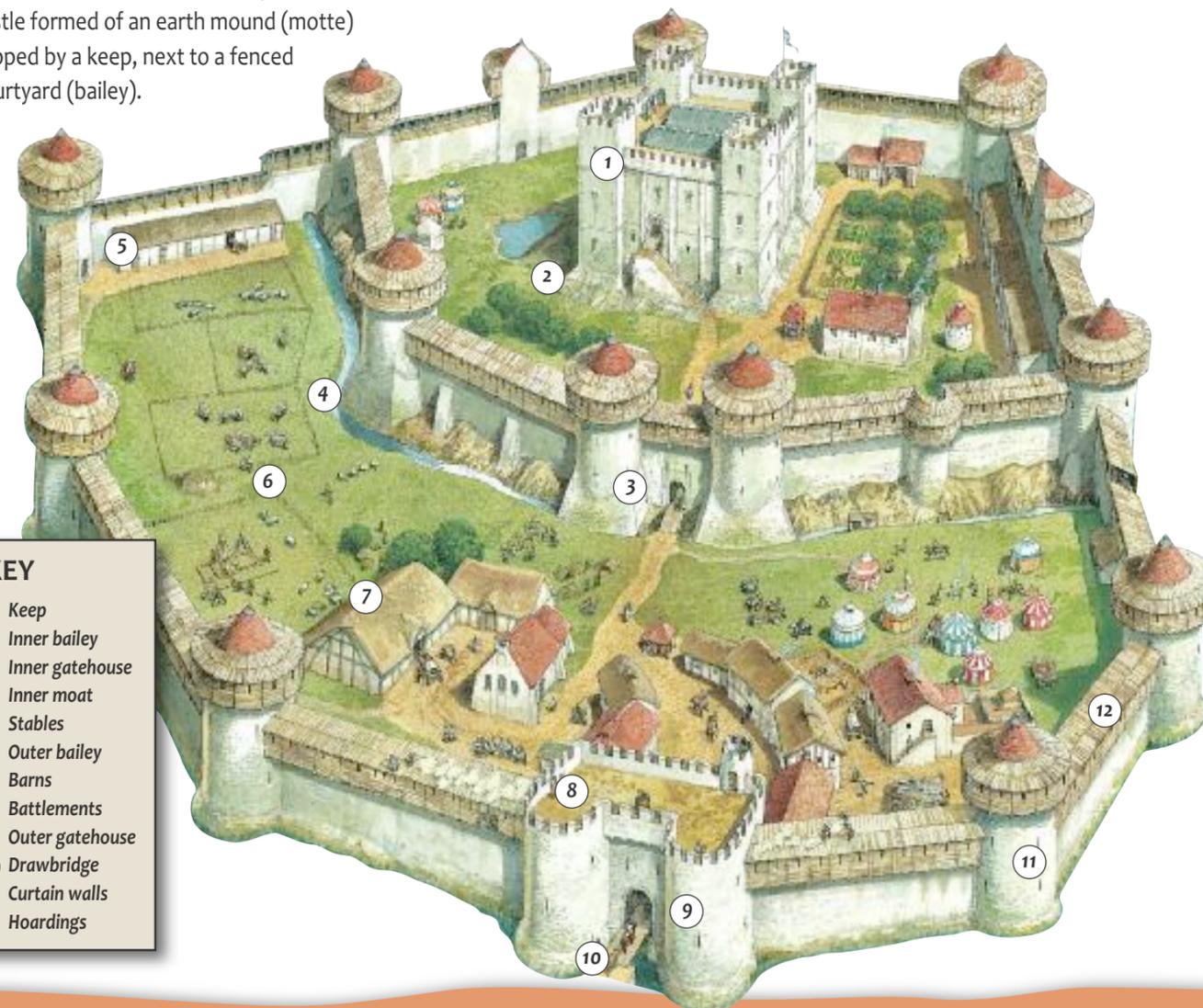
★ **1100s** Large stone keeps are developed.

★ **1150-1250** Period of major castle building in Germany.

★ **1200s** Features of crusader castles such as portcullises, curtain walls and rounded towers are introduced to European castles.

**Tournament** An event where knights jousted and acted in mock battles.

**Trebuchet** A giant catapult that hurled missiles such as rocks, dead animals, or human heads into a castle during a siege.



### KEY

- 1 Keep
- 2 Inner bailey
- 3 Inner gatehouse
- 4 Inner moat
- 5 Stables
- 6 Outer bailey
- 7 Barns
- 8 Battlements
- 9 Outer gatehouse
- 10 Drawbridge
- 11 Curtain walls
- 12 Hoardings

# RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

The word Renaissance means “rebirth”. It describes the time when the arts and learning of ancient Greece and Rome were rediscovered by people in Europe. The Renaissance started in Italy in the 14th century and spread across Europe throughout the 15th century. The Reformation was a religious movement against the corruption of the Catholic Church. It eventually led to the rise of Protestantism. The split between Catholics and Protestants in Europe led to years of conflict and religious wars.

**Anglican Church** The church created by Henry VIII in England when he broke with the Catholic Church after the Pope refused to grant him a divorce.

**Botticelli, Sandro (1444-1510)** An Italian artist, famous for his detailed paintings on mythological themes.

**Calvin, John (1509-1564)** A reformer who worked to establish Protestantism in France. His followers were known as Huguenots and his teachings on the Church and Bible are known as Calvinism.



The buildings in this Italian town are designed in the classical style of ancient Rome and Greece.

**Catholic Church** The Christian Church headed by the Pope (☛ 15). By the 16th century, it was very powerful in Europe, but many people thought that it had become corrupt, for example, in its practices of selling “indulgences” (pardons from sins).

**Charles V (1500-1557)** King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor (☛ 15) from 1516 to 1556. He fiercely opposed the Reformation. After several brief wars, he signed the **Peace of Augsburg** in 1555, allowing each state in his territory to choose its own religion.

**Council of Trent** A committee that met several times between 1545 and 1563 to oversee the Counter-Reformation.

**Counter-Reformation** The actions of the Catholic Church to improve its practices and prevent the spread of Protestantism. It lasted from 1545 to 1648.

The Birth of Venus, by Botticelli

**Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)** An Italian poet, famous for writing the *Divine Comedy*.

**Erasmus, Desiderius (1466-1536)** A Dutch priest and humanist scholar who supported the Reformation.



Martin Luther posts his Ninety-five Theses.

**Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)** An Italian astronomer and scientist. He proved that the Earth and all the planets revolve around the Sun.

**Giotto di Bondone (1267-1337)** An Italian painter. He was one of the first artists to paint figures in a lifelike way instead of a flat, decorative style.

**Gutenberg, Johannes (1398-1468)** A German inventor who devised a way of making movable type for printing. Printing meant books became cheaper and easier to access, enabling the spread of knowledge.

**Heretic** Someone who did not live by the Roman Catholic faith. During the Reformation, heretics were arrested and tortured by the Inquisition.

**Huguenots** French Protestants, who followed the teachings of John Calvin.

**Humanism** The cultural, intellectual and scientific movement of the Renaissance. Humanists argued that the study of human nature was as important as the study of god and religion. They studied ancient Greek and Roman texts, which helped them to see the world in a new way.

**Inquisition** A group of Catholics, commanded by the Pope, who searched out heretics, arresting, torturing and sometimes killing them.

**Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)** An Italian artist and scientist, who was fascinated by nature. His most famous work of art is the portrait of Mona Lisa.

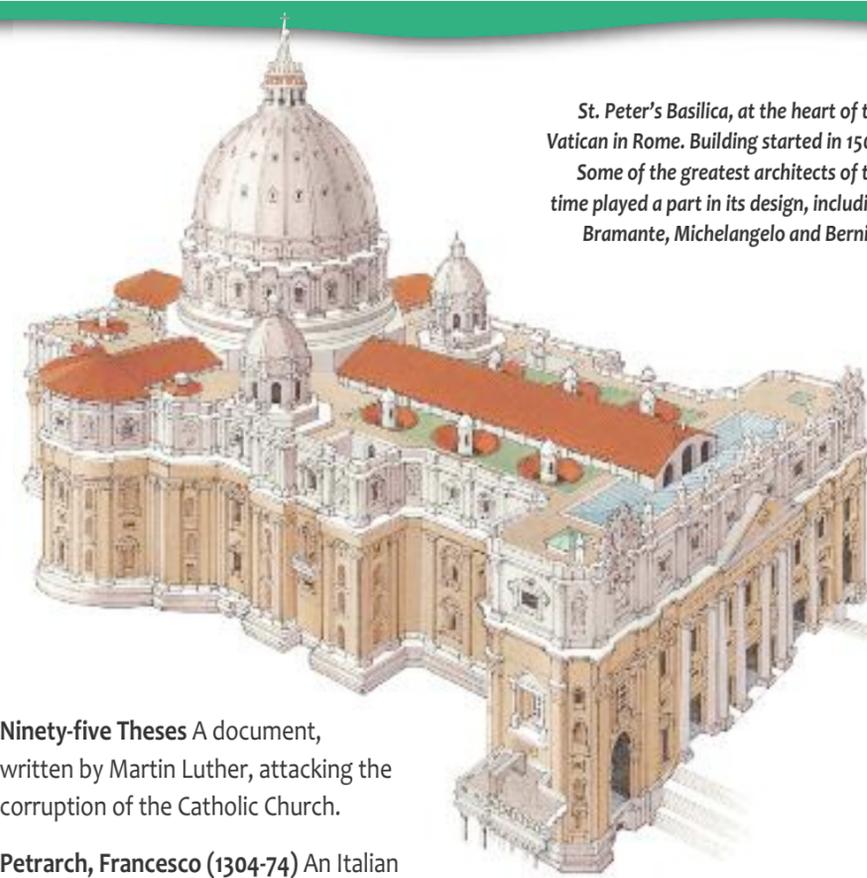
**Luther, Martin (1483-1546)** The German monk who wrote the Ninety-five Theses, attacking the Catholic Church. On 31st October 1517, he nailed the document to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, sparking the Reformation.



Galileo Galilei

**Medici family** A wealthy Italian family that rose to power in Florence in the 1400s. They made Florence a centre for the Renaissance, encouraging artists by supporting them financially.

**Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)** Italian artist, architect, poet and engineer. He is best known for his statue *David* and for painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome.



St. Peter's Basilica, at the heart of the Vatican in Rome. Building started in 1506. Some of the greatest architects of the time played a part in its design, including Bramante, Michelangelo and Bernini.

**Ninety-five Theses** A document, written by Martin Luther, attacking the corruption of the Catholic Church.

**Petrarch, Francesco (1304-74)** An Italian poet and humanist writer famous for creating a type of poem called the sonnet.

**Protestantism** A branch of Christianity that broke away from the Pope and the Catholic Church. The term Protestant was first used in the 16th century to describe those “protesting” against Catholicism.

**Raphael Sanzio (1483-1520)** An Italian painter and architect, best known for his paintings of Madonna and the Christ child.

**St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre** An event in 1572 when thousands of French Huguenots were murdered by Catholics.

**Thirty Years' War** A conflict between Protestant and Catholic states in Europe between 1618 and 1648. It started as a religious fight between German Catholics and Protestants but grew into a battle for land between the Habsburg rulers of Austria and the kings of France.

**Zwingli, Huldrych (1484-1531)** Leader of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland. Like Luther, he regarded the Catholic Church as corrupt. He spread the Reformation through his sermons.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 1450-1600 Period in Western Europe known as the Renaissance.
- ★ 1438 Johannes Gutenberg creates the first printing press.
- ★ 1517 Martin Luther writes the “Ninety-five Theses”, starting the Reformation.
- ★ 1521 Martin Luther is excommunicated (expelled from the Catholic Church) by Pope Leo X.
- ★ 1534 King Henry VIII of England breaks with Catholic Church and forms the Anglican Church.
- ★ 1545 The Council of Trent begins the Counter-Reformation.
- ★ 1555 King Charles V of Spain signs the Treaty of Augsburg.
- ★ 1572 St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.
- ★ 1618-48 Thirty Years' War in Europe.

A soldier in the Thirty Years' War between Protestant and Catholic states in Europe.



# EUROPEAN EXPANSION

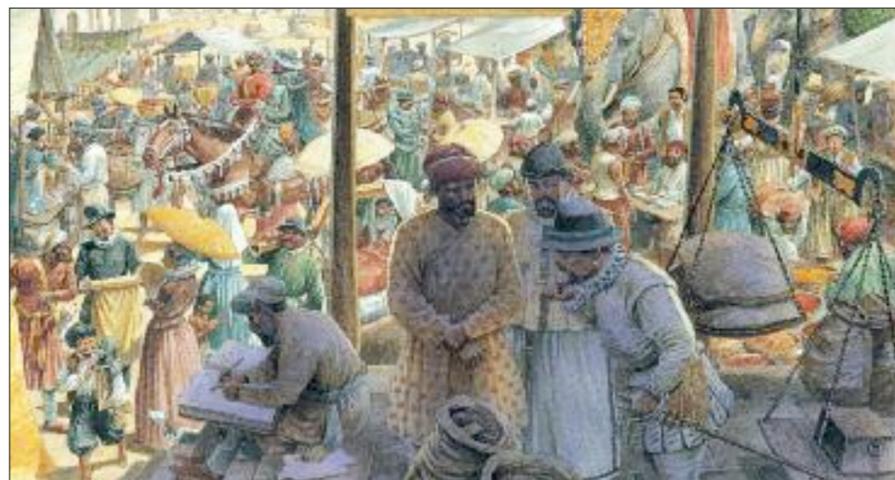
The voyages of exploration of the 15th and 16th centuries opened up new lands to conquer for some European powers, such as Spain, Portugal, England, France and the Netherlands. They began to establish colonies and trading ports in the lands discovered by their sailors. In the early 1500s the first captives were brought from Africa to the Americas to work as slaves. In the 19th century, Europeans started to explore the interior of Africa.

**Amundsen, Roald (1872-1928)** A Norwegian explorer. In 1911, he became the first man to reach the South Pole.

**Balboa, Vasco Núñez de (1475-1519)** A Spanish explorer. In 1513 he became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean.

**British Empire** The overseas colonies ruled by Britain from the 1600s to the 20th century. It built up to become the largest empire ever seen. At its peak in the 1920s, Britain had colonies in every continent.

**Cabot, John (c.1450-1499)** An Italian explorer who led an English expedition to North America in 1497.



Columbus's fleet



**Caillié, René (1799-1838)** A French explorer. Disguised as an Arab, he was the first European to safely return from the African trading town of Timbuktu.

**Cartier, Jacques (1491-1557)** A French explorer. Between 1534 and 1542 he made three voyages to America and claimed modern-day Canada for France.

**Columbus, Christopher (1451-1506)** An Italian sailor and explorer. In 1492 he sailed to America while searching for a sea route to Asia. Before this, Europeans had been unaware of the American continent.

**Colony** An area controlled by another country in a different part of the world.

**Conquistadors** The Spanish invaders, or conquerors, of the Americas. Two famous conquistadors were **Hernán Cortés (1485-1547)**, who conquered the Aztec Empire and **Francisco Pizarro (1475-1541)** who defeated the Inca Empire.

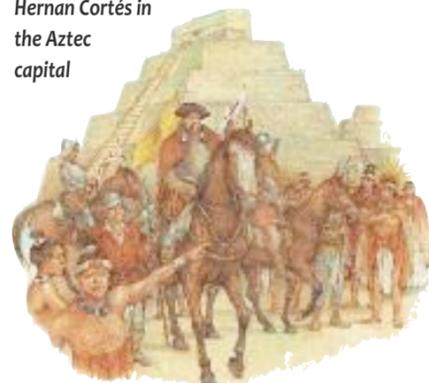
16th century merchants in the Indian port of Goa.

**Cook, James (1728-1779)** A British sea captain who was the first European to sail to the east coast of Australia. He also sailed further south than anyone had before.

**Da Gama, Vasco (c.1460-1524)** A Portuguese sailor. In 1498, he led the first ships to sail from Europe to India around the southern tip of Africa.

**De Soto, Hernando (c.1496-1542)** A Spanish explorer. In 1539, he led an expedition to Florida in search of gold and became the first European to see the Mississippi River.

Hernan Cortés in the Aztec capital



**Dias, Bartholomeu (c.1451-1500)** A Portuguese explorer who was the first European to sail around the Cape of Good Hope at Africa's southernmost tip.

**East India Company** A British company set up in 1600 to trade with colonies in Asia. It also governed India from 1757 to 1858.

**Henry the Navigator (1394-1460)** A Portuguese prince who funded many expeditions. He set up a school of map-making, navigation, and astronomy for sailors to learn the skills they needed at sea.



René Caillié

**Imperialism** The policy of extending a nation's rule and creating an empire.

**Kingsley, Mary (1862-1900)** English explorer who travelled through Africa, where she met cannibals and collected specimens for the British Museum.

**Livingstone, David (1813-1873)** Scottish missionary and explorer. He was the first European to see the Victoria Falls and to cross Africa from east to west.

**Magellan, Ferdinand (c.1480-1521)** Spanish explorer whose fleet of ships were the first to sail around the world.

**Missionary** Someone who sets out to convert people to their religion. During the 18th and 19th centuries, hundreds of Christian missionaries journeyed to the European colonies to convert local people to Christianity and a European lifestyle.

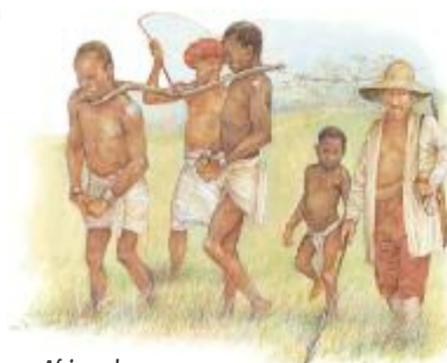
**Nansen, Fridtjof (1861-1930)** A Norwegian explorer. In 1888 he led the first team to cross the interior of Greenland and, in 1893, he travelled farther north than anyone had before but failed to reach the North Pole.

**Panama Canal** A canal that cuts across the narrow strip of land joining North and South America. It opened in 1915 and greatly aided international shipping trade.

**Peary, Robert (1856-1920)** An American explorer who claimed, in 1909, to be the first person to reach the North Pole.

**Raj** The British rule over India between 1857 and 1947. The word *raj* comes from the Hindu word for "reign".

**Scramble for Africa** The rush for European nations to lay claim to African land. In 1884, a conference was held in Berlin to decide how Africa was to be divided up. By 1900, Europe had colonised all of Africa except for Ethiopia and Liberia.



African slaves

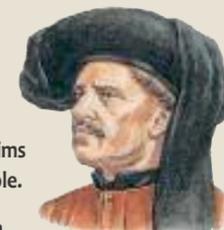
**Slave trade** The capture, transport and sale of slaves. In the early 1500s, the first slaves were brought from Africa to the West Indies to work on the Spanish sugar, coffee and tea plantations. The trade was a great source of European wealth, but many slaves died on the way to America or on the plantations.

Roald Amundsen on his journey to the South Pole.



## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 1488 Dias rounds the Cape of Good Hope.
- ★ 1492 Columbus sails across the Atlantic.
- ★ 1497-98 Vasco da Gama sails to India.
- ★ 1513 Balboa sees the Pacific Ocean.
- ★ 1521 Cortes conquers the Aztecs.
- ★ 1519-22 Magellan sails around the world.
- ★ 1532 Pizarro arrives in the Inca Empire.
- ★ 1768 Cook reaches the Pacific Ocean.
- ★ 1853-56 Livingstone crosses Africa east to west.
- ★ 1909 Peary claims to reach North Pole.
- ★ 1911 Amundsen reaches South Pole.



Henry the Navigator

**Stanley, Henry (1841-1904)** An American journalist who went to Africa to seek fame—which he did when he “found” the explorer David Livingstone in 1871.

**Suez Canal** A canal that created a shortcut between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. It opened in 1869 and provided a huge boost for world trade.

**Vespucci, Amerigo (1454-1512)** An Italian explorer who reached South America in 1499. It is thought that a version of his name, written on an early map of the continent, gave us the name “America”.

**West Indies** The Caribbean Islands, so-called because Columbus believed he had reached Asia (the Indies) when he landed there.

# THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

In the second half of the 18th century two major revolutions took place. The first was in North America, and led to the birth of the United States of America. During the American Revolutionary War, the European colonists rebelled against the British, who had ruled the country since the 16th century. The second revolution happened in France, when the discontented French people overthrew their hated monarchy.

**American Revolutionary War** The struggle against the British government in America between 1775 and 1783, also known as the **American War of Independence**. The war was triggered by growing anger that colonists had no say in how they were governed but were still heavily taxed. After declaring their independence in 1776, the American army defeated the British in 1783.

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*The American army firing on the British during the American Revolutionary War.*

**Bastille** The royal prison in Paris. On 14th July 1789 a mob stormed the prison. This seriously weakened the authority of the French king and marked the beginning of the French Revolution.

**Boston Tea Party** A protest against British tea taxation, where colonists, dressed as Native Americans, boarded ships in Boston harbour and threw chests of tea into the sea. This increased support among colonists for a revolution against the British.

**Continental Congress** An assembly of representatives from the 13 colonies in North America. They organized the colonies during the American Revolutionary War and issued the Declaration of Independence.

## Declaration of the Rights of Man

A document drawn up by French revolutionary leader Marquis de Lafayette in 1789. It stated that all citizens had the same basic rights, including liberty and equality.

## Declaration of Independence

A document which asserted the independence of the American colonies from Britain. It was drawn up by Thomas Jefferson in July 1776 but was not recognized by Britain until its defeat in 1783.

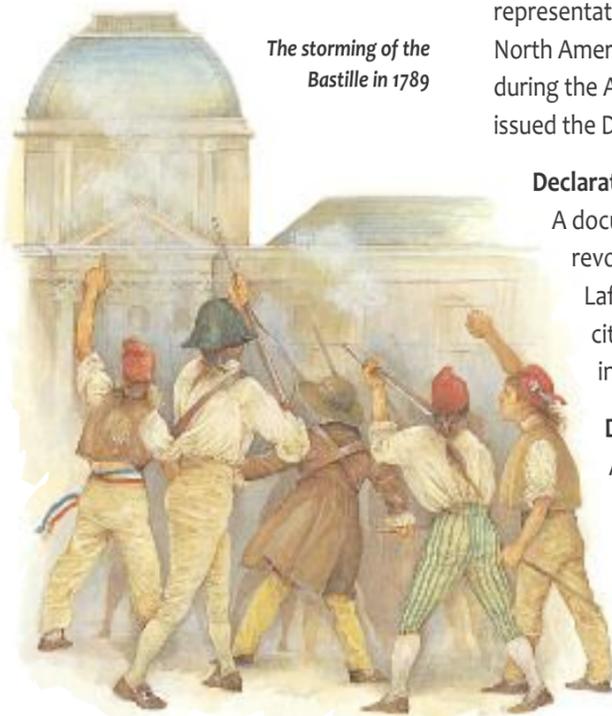
**French Revolution** The rebellion that took place in France between 1789 and 1799. It was largely fuelled by discontent about taxation: noble families did not pay taxes, but peasants were forced to. A bad harvest in 1788 brought many close to starvation. When the king refused to help his people, he was overthrown and executed and France became a republic.



*Marie Antoinette*

**Guillotine** An upright frame with a weighted blade, used to decapitate people (cut off their heads). It was the main method of execution during the French Revolution.

**Lexington** The town where the first battle of the American Revolution was fought on 19th April 1775. Fighting broke out when a group of British soldiers were caught trying to steal American military supplies.



*The storming of the Bastille in 1789*

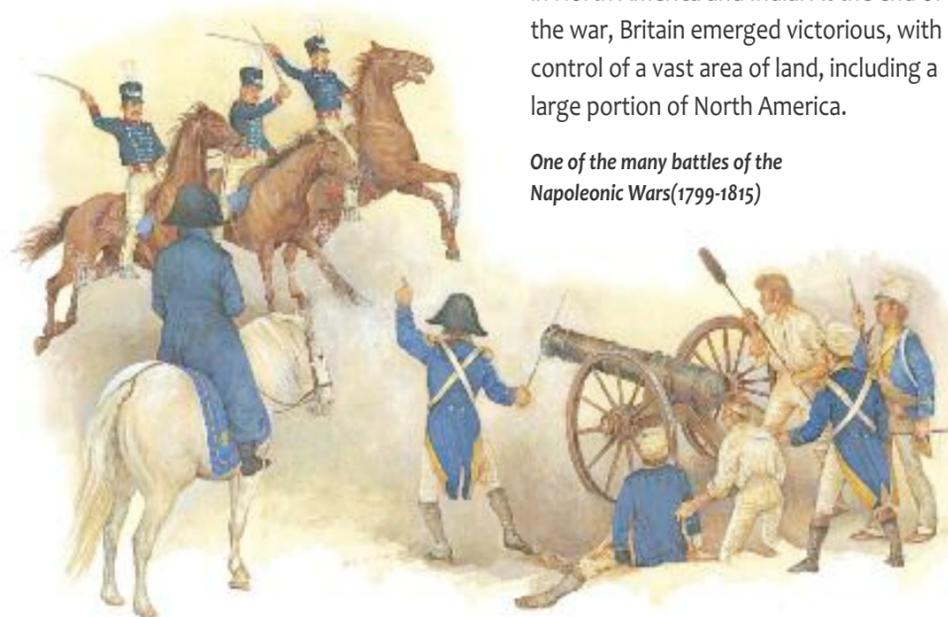
**Louis XVI (1754-1793)** King of France from 1774 to 1793. His extravagant lifestyle bankrupted the country, and his refusal to listen to his people triggered the Revolution. Louis was arrested in 1792 and tried for high treason. He was executed by the guillotine in January 1793.

**Marie Antoinette (1755-1793)** Wife of the French king Louis XVI. She was intensely disliked by the French people and was executed by guillotine in October 1793.

**Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)** A general who seized power in France in 1799, after the French Revolution. He was declared emperor in 1804. By 1812, Napoleon had built up a large empire and his influence stretched across most of Europe. In 1812 he tried to invade Russia but was forced to retreat. After his defeat at Waterloo in 1815 he was exiled to the Atlantic island of St. Helena where he died six years later.

**Napoleonic Wars** The series of wars fought between Napoleon's empire and other European states between 1799 and 1815.

**Reign of Terror** The years 1793 to 1794 of the French Revolution. During this time, thousands of people suspected of plotting against the Republic were executed.



*One of the many battles of the Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815)*

**Republic** A form of government in which the head of the country is an elected president, rather than a monarch. France became a Republic during the Revolution.

**Robespierre, Maximilien (1758-1794)** A French revolutionary leader. He was in charge of the Reign of Terror. In 1794 a group of revolutionaries turned against him and had him executed.

**Seven Years' War** A series of battles that lasted from 1756 to 1763. In Europe, Austria and her allies fought against Prussia and Britain to reclaim former Austrian land. At the same time, Britain and France battled over colonial territory in North America and India. At the end of the war, Britain emerged victorious, with control of a vast area of land, including a large portion of North America.



*The Continental Congress*

**Washington, George (1732-1799)** The first President of the United States of America. He led American troops against the British colonial army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Waterloo, Battle of** The battle of June 1815 in which Napoleon was defeated by the British and Prussians. This defeat finally marked the end of Napoleon's rule.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 1756-63 Seven Years' War.
- ★ 1773 Boston Tea Party.
- ★ 1775-83 American Revolution.
- ★ 1776 Declaration of Independence written in America by Thomas Jefferson.
- ★ 1789 The storming of the Bastille in Paris marks the start of the French Revolution.
- ★ 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man written in France by the Marquis de Lafayette.
- ★ 1793 King Louis XVI executed in France.
- ★ 1793-94 Robespierre's Reign of Terror.
- ★ 1799 Napoleon seizes power in France.
- ★ 1799-1815 Napoleonic Wars.
- ★ 1805 Battle of Trafalgar.
- ★ 1815 Battle of Waterloo.

*The guillotine*



23

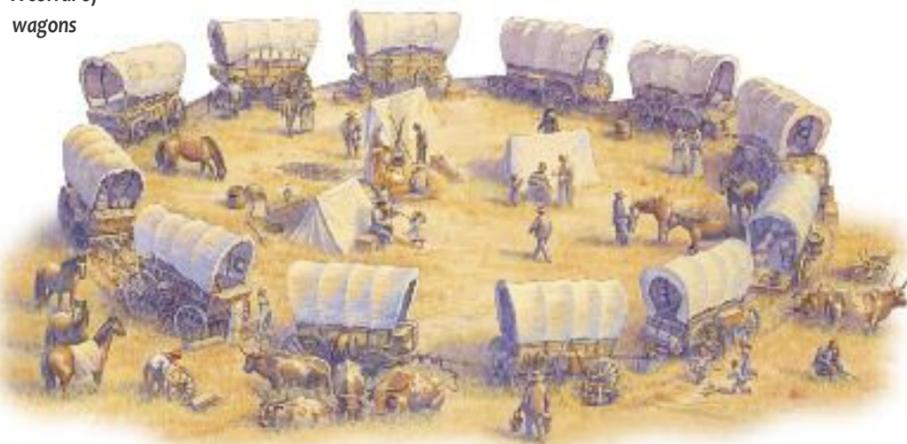
# GROWTH OF AMERICA

European settlers first came to North America in the 16th century. During the 19th century, their numbers increased rapidly, and settlements expanded west. This spelt disaster for the Native Americans. They were forced to move from their homes to the land the settlers did not want. By the 1870s, railways stretched all the way across the continent. Busy towns grew up close to the railways and developed into bustling cities.

**American Civil War** The war fought between northern and southern states of America between 1861 and 1865. The main dispute behind the fighting was slavery, which the south depended on but the northern states wanted to end. Gradually the southern states withdrew from the United States (Union), forming their own union called the Confederacy which fought for southern independence. In 1865 the Union army defeated the Confederates.

**Battle of Little Bighorn** The battle of 1876 in which the Sioux tribe of Native Americans defeated the American government army, led by **General Custer (1839-76)**.

A corral of wagons



Native Americans used horses to help them hunt herds of buffalo on the Great Plains.

**Buffalo** Large horned animals that once grazed the plains of North America in vast numbers. The Native Americans hunted them for food and for their skins. Europeans hunted them close to extinction in the 19th century, destroying the Native Americans' old way of life.

**Confederacy** The alliance formed by the 11 southern states that left the Union in the Civil War. It lasted from 1861 to 1865, under its president, **Jefferson Davis (1808-85)**.

**Corral** A pen for cattle. It is also the name for a protective circle of wagons made by the pioneers as they travelled west. This was for safety in case of Native American attack. Tents were pitched inside the corral.

**Cowboys** Men who herded cattle from their pastures to the towns. Ranchers hired cowboys to move cattle to the railroads, from where they were transported to markets in the East.

**Emigrate** To move permanently to another country. Millions of Europeans emigrated to the United States between 1840 and 1930. They included Irish, Germans, Italians and Jews fleeing famine, poverty or persecution.



Lewis and Clark fighting off a grizzly bear on their perilous journey across America.

**Gold Rush** The rush of people to the west of America to look for gold in the 19th century. In 1848 James Marshall discovered gold in California. By 1849 over 90,000 men had flocked to the area hoping to make their fortune. Very few of them made any money.

**Homestead Act** A law passed in 1862, encouraging people to move to the Great Plains—the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. The Act allowed the head of a family to obtain 0.65 square km of free land if he would improve it over five years.

**Indian Removal Act** A law passed in 1830 that allowed the government to move Native Americans from their homelands on the plains to land that the Europeans did not want. Many Native Americans fought bitterly against attempts to move them.

**Lewis and Clark expedition** An expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana in 1803. They reached the west coast of America in 1805.



An outlaw holds up a bank in the Wild West

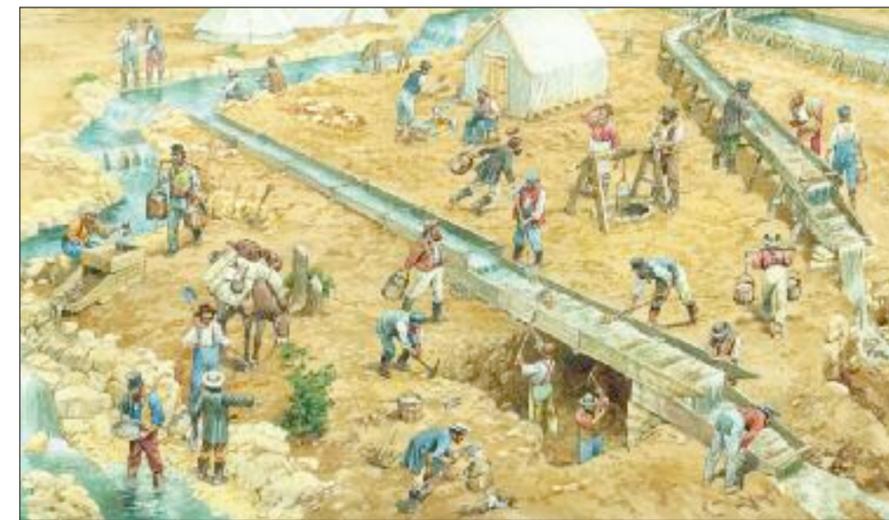
**Lincoln, Abraham (1809-1865)** President of the United States from 1861 to 1865. He became president when the country stood on the brink of civil war but led the Union army to victory and kept the United States together. He also helped to end to slavery. He was assassinated in April 1865.

**Louisiana Purchase** President Jefferson's purchase, in 1803, of the French territory of Louisiana, a vast area that stretched from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains.

**Marshal** An officer of the law, responsible for bringing justice to people accused of serious crimes.

**Native Americans** The people that lived in North America before European settlers arrived. Following the arrival of Europeans, imported diseases spread rapidly, killing millions. Others were killed in land disputes.

**Outlaw** Someone who led a life of crime. Outlaw gangs roamed the American west in the second half of the 19th century. Trains and banks were frequent targets.



Gold Rush miners: some miners dig for gold while others look for gold in the mud of the river bed,

**Oregon Trail** A route west from the Missouri River to the Willamette Valley. During the 19th century, many settlers, farmers and miners followed the Trail west looking for free land. The journey was hazardous, and many travellers died.

**Pioneers** The European settlers who journeyed west across America in the 19th century. They carried their belongings in wooden wagons pulled by teams of oxen.

**Reservation** An area of land where Native Americans were forced to live by the U.S. government.

**Sheriff** A law officer appointed by a county. He acted as a local policeman.



European refugees arrive in New York by ship.

**Sitting Bull** The Sioux chief at the Battle of Little Bighorn. He wore an eagle-feather headdress as a sign of his bravery. Sitting Bull was killed by American troops in 1890.

**Trail of Tears** The long walk that many Native Americans were forced to make from their home on the great plains to reservations in the west. This was a result of the Indian Removal Act. Thousands died on the difficult journey.

**Wild West** The name given to western America in the second half of the 19th century. It was called this because there was little law and order. Fights and robberies were very common.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 1803 President Jefferson completes the Louisiana Purchase.
- ★ 1803-5 Lewis and Clark lead expedition to the west coast of America.
- ★ 1830 Indian Removal Act passed forcing Native Americans from their homelands.
- ★ 1848 Discovery of gold in California leads to the Gold Rush.
- ★ 1861-65 American Civil War.
- ★ 1865 Slavery abolished
- ★ 1862 Homestead Act encourages settlers to move to the Midwest.
- ★ 1869 Completion of first railway line to cross the USA from Atlantic to Pacific coasts.

# NINETEENTH CENTURY

**D**uring the nineteenth century, industrialization spread across Europe from England, soon reaching Belgium, France and Germany. It arrived in the United States in the mid-1800s, and countries such as Japan later in the century. Large cities developed around busy factories and the development of the railways made transport quicker and easier than ever. As people flocked to the cities to work in the factories, poverty, over-crowding and poor sanitation became serious problems.

**Abolition** The end of the slave trade (21). Slavery was abolished across most of the British Empire in 1833 and by the US in 1865.

**Brunel, Isambard Kingdom (1806-59)** A British engineer, made famous by the creation of the Great Western Railway, several important tunnels and bridges and the steamship the *Great Britain*.

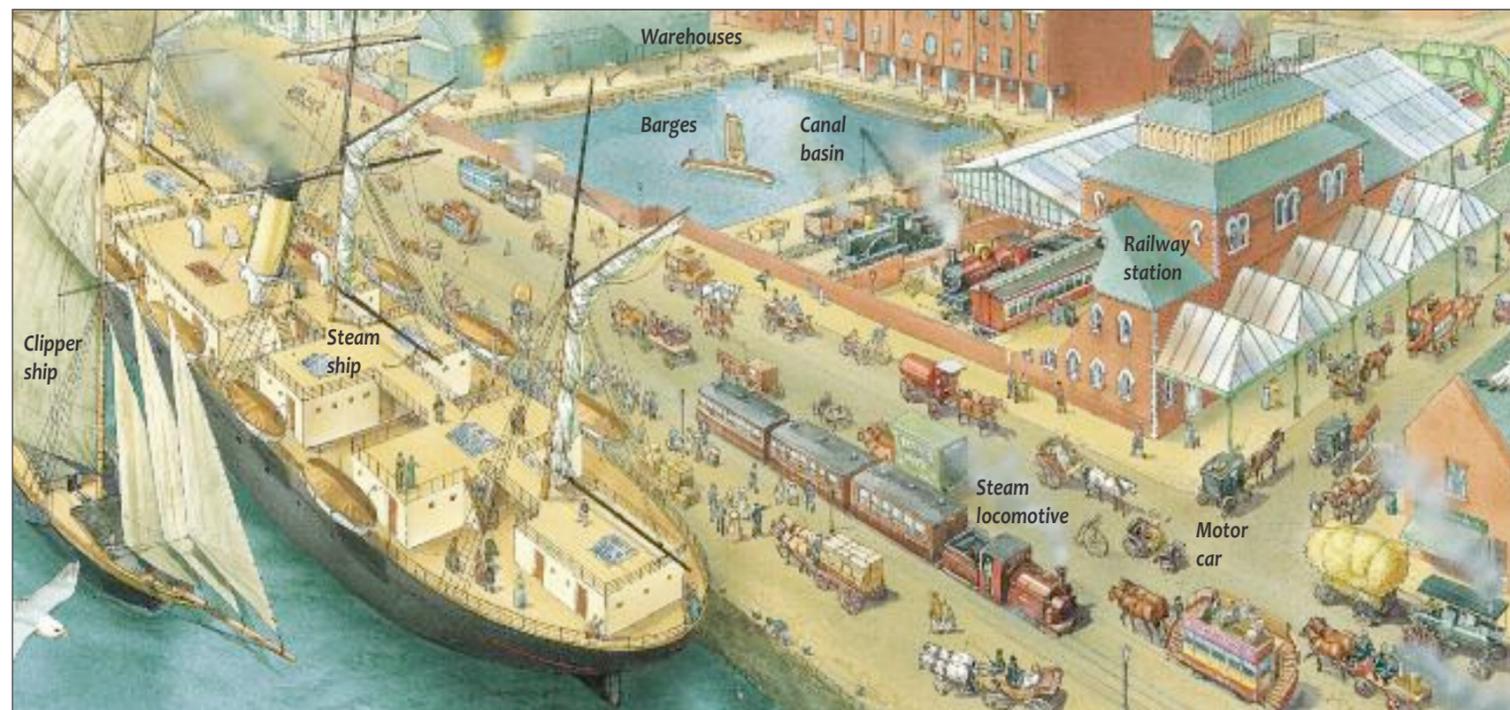
**Canal** A man-made waterway used to transport goods and people by boat. As industry grew, it was vital to transport goods from place to place. This led to a period of intense canal-building in Europe in the late 18th and early 19th century.

**Coal** A fuel dug out from the ground. In the 19th century, coal was used to heat furnaces where iron was produced and to provide fuel for steam engines. Coal mining became an important industry.

**Crimean War** The war fought from 1853 to 1856 between Russia on one side and Britain, France and the Ottoman Turks (9) on the other. It was fought to decide who should control Palestine and other territories within the Ottoman Empire. The Russians were defeated in 1856.

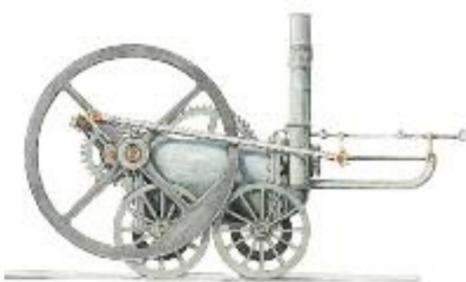
**Factory town** A town built around one or more factories to house workers and their families. Housing was built as quickly and cheaply as possible. Conditions were overcrowded and unsanitary, and diseases spread rapidly through the population.

*An industrial scene in the 19th century. Goods were transported to factories by canal and, after the late 1820s, by steam railway.*



*An industrial port in the late 19th century*

**Franco-Prussian War** The war fought from 1870 to 1871 between France and Prussia. It broke out when the French emperor Napoleon III declared war. France was defeated and Prussia united with the states around it to form the modern country of Germany.



*Trevithick's steam locomotive*

**Industrial Revolution** The period from the late 18th to 19th century when industry was transformed by the development of new machinery. Factories were built to accommodate the machinery. Towns grew up around the factories and many people moved to the towns looking for work

**Iron** A strong, heavy metal. In the 19th century, iron was used to make engines, machines, bridges and railways.

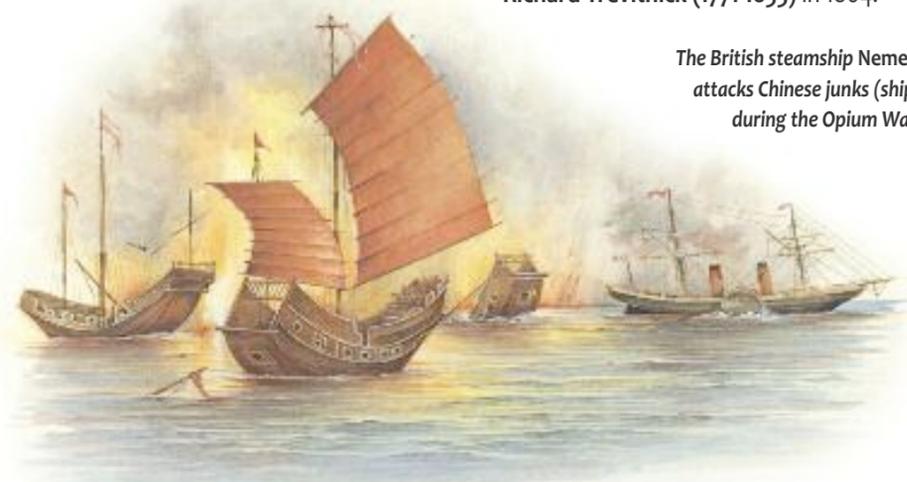
**Mining** The removal of precious materials, such as coal, tin, iron and gold, from under the ground. Early mining was very dangerous. There was constant risk of flooding, explosions, tunnel collapse and lethal gases. Children worked in the mines until laws put an end to the practice.

**Opium Wars** The battles fought between Britain and China from 1839 to 1860. British merchants, backed by their government, tried to bypass China's trading restrictions by illegally importing a drug called opium. The wars forced China to accept European trade within its territories.

**Railway Age** The period from the late 1820s to the early 20th century, during which extensive railway networks spread across Europe, America and the Far East. The railways enabled goods, raw materials and people to be moved quickly.

**Steam engine** An engine that uses pressurized steam from a boiler to operate its moving parts. The first steam engine was built in 1698 by **Thomas Savery (1650-1715)**. In the 1770s **James Watt (1736-1819)** made improvements to the original designs, which became popular for powering industrial machinery. The first steam-powered locomotive (train) was built by **Richard Trevithick (1771-1833)** in 1804.

*The British steamship Nemesis attacks Chinese junks (ships) during the Opium Wars.*



**Steamship** A boat powered by steam. Steamships with iron hulls and screw propellers were used to transport goods around the world. The first ship of this kind, the *Great Britain*, was launched in 1843.

**Trade union** An organization that campaigns for better pay and conditions for the workers it represents. The first trade unions appeared during the Industrial Revolution. Machinery meant that workers did not need to be skilled and could be easily replaced. Trade unions gave some power back to the workers.

**Victorian era** The time of Queen Victoria's reign of England, from 1837 to 1901. During Victoria's reign, Britain became the world's first industrial nation and acquired a huge empire (20).

**Workhouse** A building where people too poor or old to care for themselves were sent to live and work. Workhouses were built across Europe in the 19th century, though they were especially dominant in Britain. The workhouses had strict rules and were very tough places to live.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ **1804** The first railway locomotive is built by Richard Trevithick.
- ★ **1833** The slave trade is abolished across the British Empire.
- ★ **1837** Queen Victoria comes to the throne of England.
- ★ **1843** The steamship *Great Britain* is launched.
- ★ **1839-60** The Opium Wars.
- ★ **1853-56** The Crimean War.
- ★ **1870-71** The Franco-Prussian War.

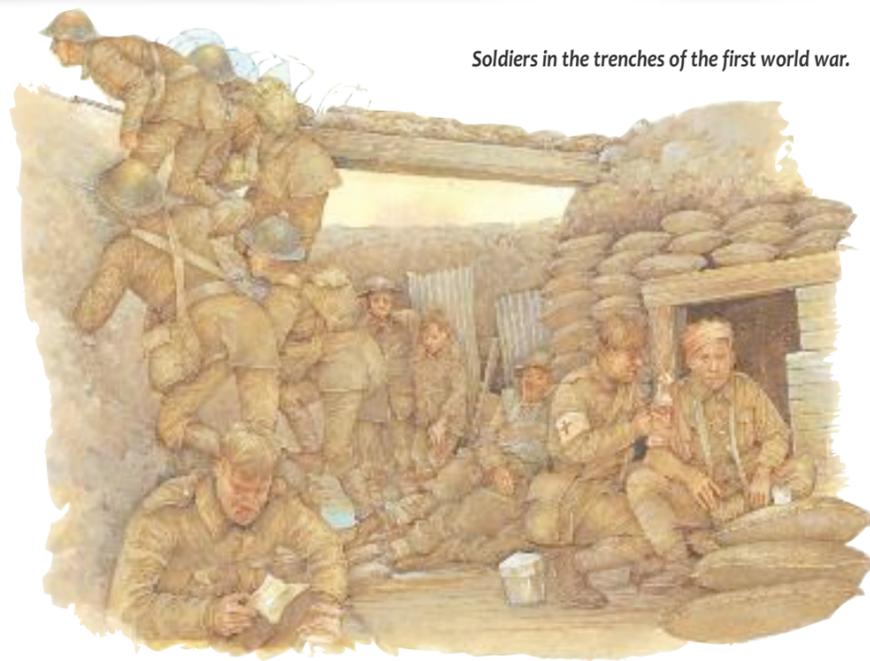
*An upper-middle class Victorian family*



# MODERN HISTORY

In the first half of the 20th century, the world was involved in two major conflicts, World War I and World War II. The second half of the century was dominated by the Cold War and by conflicts such as the Afghan War (1979-89), the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88), the Korean War (1950-53) and the Vietnam War (1965-75). Meanwhile, many colonies (20) gained independence and some people made advances in the struggle for equality.

**Apartheid** A policy that separated white and black people in South Africa from 1948 to 1994. Apartheid ended in 1994, when free elections were held and Nelson Mandela became president.



Soldiers in the trenches of the first world war.

**Cold War** The period of tension between the Soviet Union and the USA after WWII. The Soviet wanted to extend communism but the USA opposed it. The two sides never fought directly but supported other conflicts. The Cold War ended in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed.

**Communism** A political and economic system, in which all property is shared. The Soviet Union was the first communist country, followed by countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and South America.

**European Union (EU)** A union of 27 European countries, formed in 1993 to strengthen the European economy.

**Fascism** A political system, in which the government exalts the state and its leader and may use violence to keep control. Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria and Greece all had fascist governments before or during WWII.

**Gandhi, Mohandas (1869-1948)** Leader of the Indian independence movement. He led non-violent protests against British rule. India became independent in 1947.

**Great Depression** An economic slump that started in 1929, when the New York Stock Exchange crashed. Thousands of people lost their savings and their jobs. The depression quickly spread to Europe.

**Hitler, Adolf (1889-1945)** Leader of the German Nazi party. He rose to power in the 1930s and became a dictator in 1934, leading Germany into WWII in 1939.

**Holocaust** The mass murder of Jews and other ethnic groups under the German Nazi government. Victims were sent to concentration camps, where many died from illness and starvation, or death camps where they were gassed to death.

**King, Dr Martin Luther (1929-68)** An important American Civil Rights leader. He spoke out against discrimination and organized many non-violent protest. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 but was assassinated in 1968.

**Korean War** The war between South Korea and communist North Korea fought from 1950 to 1953.



Adolf Hitler

**Lenin, Vladimir (1870-1924)** A revolutionary and politician who led the Russian Revolution of 1917 and became the first leader of the Soviet Union.

**Mandela, Nelson (1918-)** President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He spent 27 years in prison for criticizing apartheid. He was released in 1990 and elected president in 1994, ending apartheid in South Africa.

**Mao Zedong (1893-1976)** Leader of the Chinese communist party from 1949 to 1976. He improved Chinese economy by bringing industries under government control. However, many people were killed or exiled for criticizing him.



Mao Zedong

**NATO** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, formed in 1949. It is a military alliance of 28 different countries.

**Nazis** (National Socialist German Worker's Party) A fascist party started in Germany in the 1920s. Under Hitler, the party took control of Germany and started WWII.

**Nuclear weapon** A powerful explosive device. In August 1945, nuclear bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing thousands and forcing Japan to withdraw from WWII. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and USA developed new nuclear weapons, leading many to fear a nuclear war.



The attacks of 11th September 2001. Two aeroplanes flew into the World Trade Center in New York City.

**Russian Revolution** An uprising in Russia in 1917 that forced the czar (emperor) to give up his throne. Revolutionaries took control and formed a communist government.

**Soviet Union** Communist Russia and the territories under its rule from 1920 to 1991.

**Spanish Civil War** A war from 1936 to 1939 between political groups in Spain. At the end of the war General **Francisco Franco (1892-1975)** became a fascist dictator.

**Stalin, Joseph (1878-1953)** Leader of the Soviet Union from 1924 to 1953. He ruled as a dictator, killing anyone who opposed him. Under his rule, the Soviet Union became very powerful.

**Terrorism** The use of violence to achieve political, military or religious goals. One of the worst terrorist attacks ever occurred on 11th September 2001. Members of the al-Qaeda organization seized control of four aeroplanes and crashed three of them into buildings in America, killing 3000 civilians.

**United Nations** A union of countries that formed in 1945 to prevent future wars. There are now 192 countries in the UN.



The Berlin Wall is torn down in 1989.

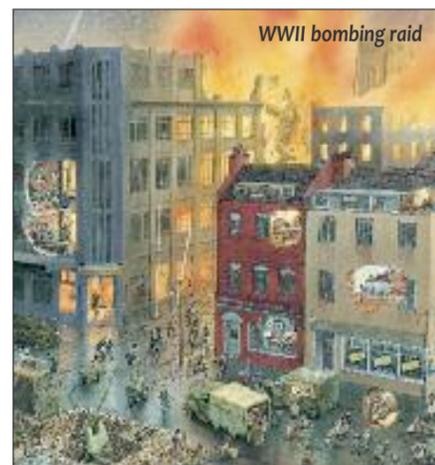
## A BRIEF HISTORY

- ★ 1914-18 World War I.
- ★ 1917 Russian Revolution.
- ★ 1929 Wall Street Crash starts Depression.
- ★ 1936-39 Spanish Civil War.
- ★ 1939-45 World War II.
- ★ 1937 India becomes independent.
- ★ 1949 Communists come to power in China.
- ★ 1950-53 Korean War.
- ★ 1955-75 Vietnam War.
- ★ 1979-89 Afghan War.
- ★ 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War.
- ★ 1990-91 Gulf War.
- ★ 1991 Collapse of the Soviet Union.
- ★ 1994 End of apartheid in South Africa.
- ★ 2001 Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks in USA.

**Vietnam War** The war from 1955 to 1975 between communist North Vietnam, supported by China and the Soviet Union, and anti-communist South Vietnam, supported by the USA and its allies.

**World War I (WWI)** The war from 1914 to 1918 fought between the **Allies** (Britain, France, Russia) and the **Central Powers** (Germany and her allies).

**World War II (WWII)** The war from 1939 to 1945 between the **Axis Powers** (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the **Allies** (Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA). 45 million people died in the war.



WWII bombing raid

**Berlin Wall** A wall built by the communist authorities of East Germany in 1961, to stop people moving from east to west Berlin. It was torn down in 1989 after uprisings weakened Soviet power in the region.

**Civil Rights Movement** The campaign of African Americans in the 1960s for all people to have the same basic rights. Racial discrimination was banned in 1964 when the US Civil Rights Act was passed.

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