Study Guide for Chapter 4

Life in Medieval Towns

**Content Standards**

7.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe.

7.6.1 Study the geography of Europe and the Eurasian land mass, including their location, topography, waterways, vegetation, and climate and their relationship to ways of life in Medieval Europe.

7.6.3 Understand the development of feudalism, its role in the medieval European economy, the way in which it was influenced by physical geography (the role of the manor and the growth of towns), and how feudal relationships provided the foundation of political order.

7.6.5 Know the significance of developments in medieval English legal and constitutional practices and their importance in the rise of modern democratic thought and representative institutions (e.g., Magna Carta, parliament, development of habeas corpus, an independent judiciary in England).

**Terms** Locate as many of the following terms as you can in your Reading or Activity Notes and highlight them. For each term not already in your notes, define and explain its significance on a separate sheet of paper.

- charter (p. 44)
- guild (p. 45)
- apprentice (p. 45)
- journeyman (p. 45)
- commerce (p. 46)
- leprosy (p. 48)
- bubonic plague (p. 48)
- common law (p. 49)
- minstrel (p. 50)

**Essential Questions** Consult your Reading Notes and, when necessary, *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*. For each question below, record notes that prepare you to answer it.

1. Where did medieval towns develop? What did these towns look like? (7.6.1, 7.6.3)
2. What factors led to the growth of towns during the High Middle Ages? What role did the geography of Europe play in the development of and ways of life in these towns? (7.6.1, 7.6.3)
3. Describe the role of guilds in the trade and production of goods. How did trade and commerce grow during the Middle Ages? (7.6)
4. Did everyone prosper during the Middle Ages? Explain. (7.6)
5. Describe the daily lives of medieval Europeans, including their homes, occupations, education, and leisure activities. (7.6)
6. What problems did medieval towns face? How did medieval Europeans attempt to deal with those problems? How did an independent judiciary and common law in England help to protect individual rights? (7.6.5)

**Timeline** Label and illustrate a timeline with the events listed below. For each event, draw a creative and appropriate symbol near its proper place on the timeline. Write the date the event occurred and an appropriate headline for each event.

- Beginning of Late Middle Ages
- End of Late Middle Ages
- Emergence of English court system