

# Medieval Knights



What do you think of  you hear the term  
Medieval Knight?

**Collaborate!**

**What do you think of when you hear the term Medieval Knight?**



Video

## Medieval Knight

# What was a Knight

A knight in full plate armor riding a dark horse, holding a lance and a shield with a lion rampant emblem. The knight is in the center of the frame, facing right. The background is a hazy, overcast sky. The overall tone is historical and dramatic.

- There were three main types of soldiers during the Middle Ages: foot soldiers, archers, and knights.
- The knights were heavily armored soldiers who rode on horseback.
- Only the wealthiest nobles could afford to be a knight. They needed very expensive armor, weapons, and a powerful war horse.

# Knights and Heavy Cavalry

- 👤 Charles Martel started using heavily armored men and horses in combat in the 700s.
- 👤 This required the use of stirrups (*invented in Asia ~200 BCE*).
- 👤 A charging knight could knock over or scare soldiers on foot. (*infantry*).
- 👤 Knights were expected to fight 40 days each year to earn their fief.

# Chivalry

## **The code of conduct for Medieval knights:**

- *Fight bravely for their lord.*
- *Devoted himself to his lord, lady, and G-d.*
- *Protect the weak and poor.*
- *Most knights failed.*



# A Knight's life



**At the age of 7**, boys would be sent to live in the castle with the lord, where he was a waiter and practiced fighting skills.



**At 14**, he could become a squire, and begin attending and learning from a knight.



**At 21**, he could become a knight himself, and travel around for a few years fighting in tournaments and local battles to improve his skills.

# Slideshow



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## How Knights Work Basic Armor Components

Plate armor has many parts, and each part protects a specific area.



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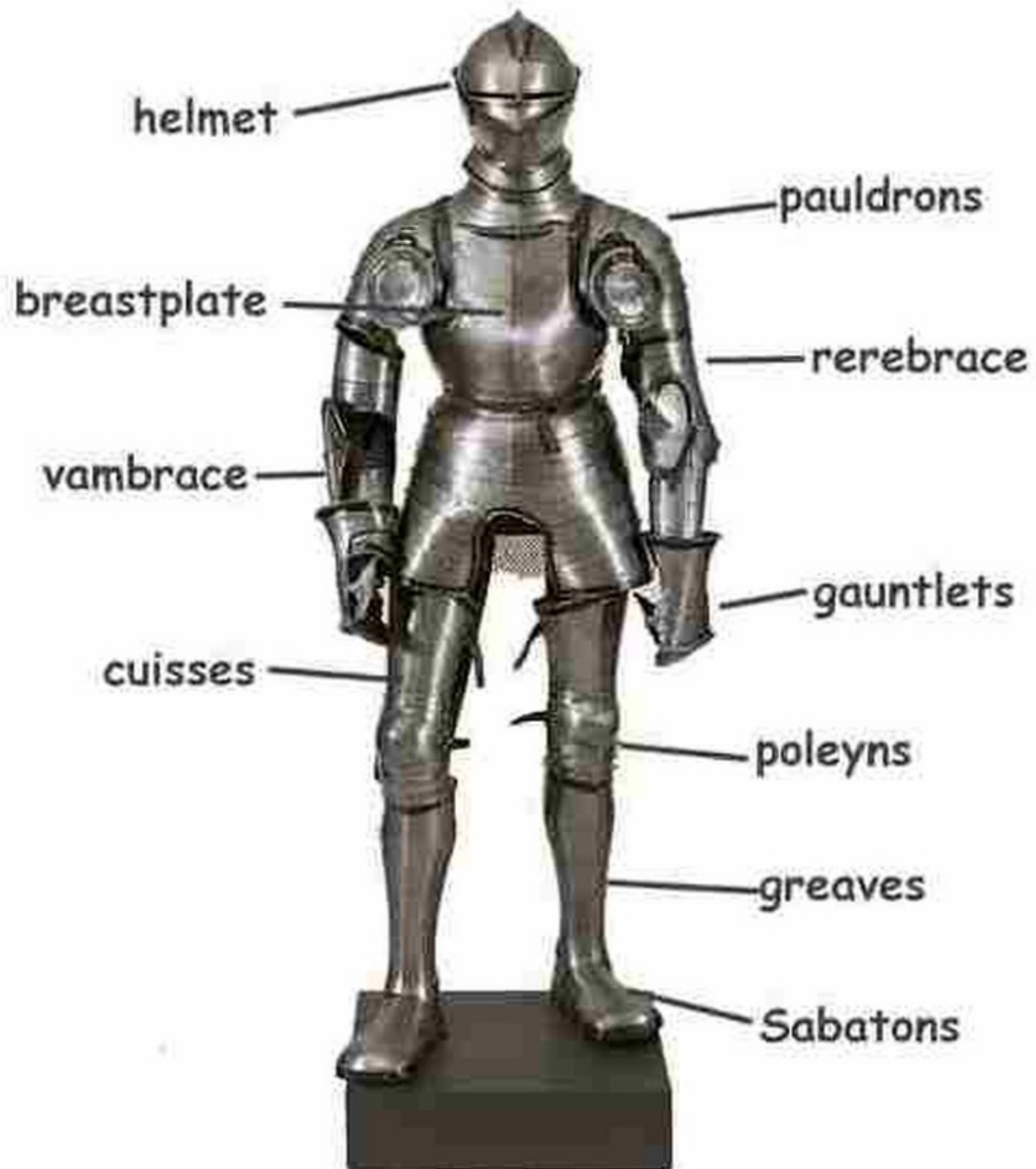
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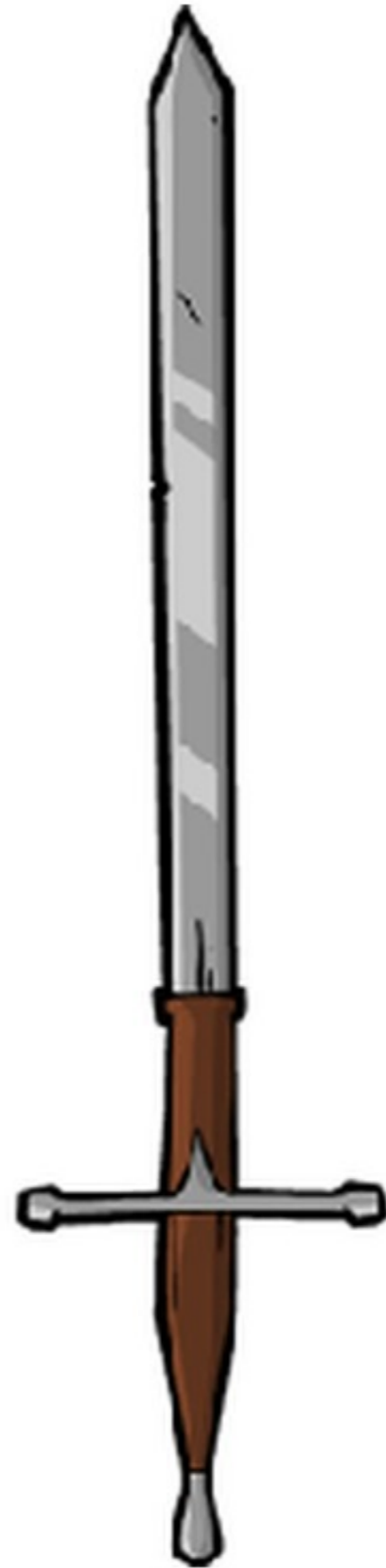
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# Poll

**The methods used to train knights were most similar to which of these previous societies we have studied?**

- Athens
- Rome
- Sparta
- Sumer

# Medieval Warfare

- 👤 War in medieval times was especially brutal.
- 👤 Most fighting was done hand to hand in close quarters.
- 👤 Castles under siege might pour boiling oil or molten lead on attackers.
- 👤 There was an arms race between weapons makers and armor makers.
- 👤 Crossbows could shoot through plate armor, but were slow to reload, swords got bigger and heavier to crush rather than cut.



Video

## Full Metal Jousting - The Rules of the Joust | History

# Draw It

Write what you think is going through the minds of the knights and spectators as this tournament takes place.



# End of the Knight

A knight in full red plate armor, including a helmet with a visor, stands in a field. He holds a long spear in his right hand and a red shield with a gold emblem in his left. The background is a soft-focus landscape with tall grasses under a pale sky.

- By the end of the Middle Ages, the knight was no longer an important part of the army.
- This was for two main reasons. One reason was that many countries had formed their own standing armies. They paid soldiers to train and fight. They no longer needed lords to come fight as knights.
- The other reason was a change in warfare. Battle tactics and new weapons such as longbows and firearms made the heavy armor the knights wore cumbersome and useless. This made it much easier to arm a soldier and pay for a standing army.



# Quiz

## Chivalry Quiz



**What were knights given by their lords in exchange for their military service?**

- land
- social status
- money
- honor in the church

**A knight was expected to fight bravely for three masters, including which of the following?**

- the pope
- his father
- his squire
- his chosen lady

## What is chivalry?

- A code that controlled the behavior of noble women.
- A code that controlled the behavior of peasants.
- A code that controlled the behavior of knights.
- A code that required knights to fall in love with a lady and fight her.

## How did the invention of crossbows change warfare?

- Knights in heavy armor became slow moving targets for crossbowmen.
- All battles now happened at a distance, instead of hand to hand.
- Knights were forced to wear heavier armor
- Knights invented guns to shoot crossbowmen.



What did you learn about knights?

**Collaborate!**

**What did you learn about knights?**

# Memory Test

