

Medieval Pilgrimage Lesson: Teacher Notes

Please read these notes in conjunction with the lesson plan and resources. They explain the underlying principles of the lesson and suggest approaches to teaching the material.

This is a lesson which looks at medieval pilgrimage and the reasons for why medieval people would carry out these journeys. The lesson should ideally be taught in a scheme of learning after lessons taught on Thomas Becket and Henry II which would focus on the power of the Church.

A point of general interest to start us off! It was easier for public house landlords to get licenses to open a pub on church land. This meant that there were (and still are) numerous pubs in the vicinity of a church/cathedral -- e.g. Canterbury has numerous pubs near Canterbury Cathedral.

Key concepts: pilgrimage, purgatory, heaven, hell, indulgence, church, tithe

Element	Activity	Evidence of Learning
PPT 1: Bell work	Students are introduced to three images and asked to think about the common The three images show prayer, a tithe barn for storing the donations to the church (tithes) and a village fete at the local church. The link between these images is the Church.	Quick starter activity to convey that the Church was fundamental to people's lives in the medieval period. Q2 is to clarify any potential misconceptions that students might have about e.g. sheep/farming being the most important thing in people's lives. Instead, students should understand that the Church was central in every single person's life, rich or poor. (This can be connected to previous topics such as Thomas Becket/the power of the Church if previously studied).
PPT 2-3: Intro	Teacher introduce students to the enquiry question.	
PPT 4: Teacher talk – Purgatory	Teacher talk on purgatory. The key point to make here is that purgatory was believed to be a 'purging' stage for the soul before heaven/hell, and	This gives students the contextual background needed for the next activity (the Doom painting). Introduce and explain key concepts

	<p>it was thought almost everyone would go to purgatory before they (hopefully) got into heaven. This was to cleanse them of their sins - the 'bad things' they had done in their lives.</p>	<p>which will be needed for analysing the Doom painting.</p>
<p>PPT 5: Main Activity 1 - Doom painting</p>	<p>Students annotate copy of the Doom painting, picking out ideas of heaven and hell, devils, angels, red colour used. The ladder (Jacob's Ladder) in the middle: what could this suggest? Practise words learnt previously, such as purgatory. Also pull out experiences in heaven, hell and purgatory according to this image. No handout option: do exercise as whole class with image/questions on the slide.</p> <p>Stretch: where would these sorts of paintings be found?</p>	<p>The core take home is that heaven would be wonderful, and hell would be the worst place to be in. The passage into heaven and hell is visualised here as a ladder.</p> <p>Explain to students that these paintings were visual prompts for devotion to Christ, Mary, and the saints and gave a pictorial understanding of heaven, hell and purgatory, for the largely illiterate population. They would be painted onto walls in churches. (This painting is on the inside wall of St Peter and Paul in Chaldon, Surrey, and dates to the 12th century.)</p>
<p>PPT 6: Progress Check</p>	<p>Students write a summary in 40 words or less, of what medieval people believed would happen after they died.</p>	<p>This is a check that the previous section has been understood. Use key words on slide – this will give teacher opportunity for AFL. Getting students to read their answers out will highlight whether students have understood the key concept of purgatory.</p>
<p>PPT 7: Teacher talk – indulgences and purgatory</p>	<p>Teacher talk on how to shorten time spent in purgatory. There is more information on indulgences in the '10 Things' guide to the medieval church (and also to</p>	<p>This is a simple explanation of indulgences, and is to reinforce how purgatory is not a permanent place to remain. Remind students of people climbing up the ladder in the Doom painting.</p>

	medieval pilgrimage) in Further Resources if needed.	
PPT 8: Think-Pair-Share – What do you think pilgrimage is?	Students discuss ideas of what a pilgrimage is in pairs and make a few comparisons between modern day and medieval pilgrimages. Use the '10 Things' guide to medieval pilgrimage and the 'Pilgrims' Accounts' in Further Resources for more on pilgrimage and medieval /modern day comparisons.	The definition of pilgrimage pops up afterwards. The key features of students' answers should be that it is a journey to a holy place, and they are going for a spiritual reason.
PPT 9-19: Main Activity 2: Why did medieval people go on pilgrimage?	Hand out check sheets to students and show the next slides (10-19) one by one. Students are looking for the listed reasons why people went on pilgrimage in the images on the slides.	Students should find evidence for all these reasons from across the sources. Suggested answers are below, but students may convincingly argue for signs of different motives across the images. Encourage students to justify their answers through the learning.
PPT 20: Plenary - introduce homework	Introduce students to Roger and Mary, distribute handouts of the characters and York and Canterbury. Homework task is to write a short paragraph for each character explaining their reasons for going on pilgrimage and suggesting why they would go to York/Canterbury.	The purpose of this task is to remind students not to assume that all reasons for pilgrimage apply to every person. The varied reasons for both Mary and Roger going on pilgrimage are heavily suggested in the text. Students should suggest that Roger would be likely to go to York as he has less money and time and is in Yorkshire. It is his local major shrine. Mary will follow her Lady and could go to either place on pilgrimage.
PPT 21-22: Quiz	Students take true/false quiz, as pairs/groups/individuals.	To support retention of the learning from the lesson.

Suggested answers for Main Activity 2: Why did medieval people go on pilgrimage?

Why did medieval people go on pilgrimage?	Source:
To travel and have an adventure	Slides 15 and 19
To receive spiritual comfort	Slides 10, 11, 12
To reduce time in purgatory and avoid hell	Slides 11, 16 and 17
To gain support from others in similar situations	Slides 10, 13, 15
To see beautiful things	Slide 12
To give thanks	Slide 11, 12
The Church taught that it should be done	Slide 11
To give time and gifts to a shrine that showed wealth and status used well	Slide 18
To pray to a saint to ask God for healing from a sickness or disability (own, other people or animals), or for justice	Slides 10, 14