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Trade and Cities

Increased trade led to the growth of towns, cities, new governments and the rise of guilds.

Trade and Cities

Lecture Focus (Essential Question): What effect would a new shopping mall have on your community?

Let us explore how the growth of trade and the rise of cities changed the way people lived and worked in medieval Europe.

Trade and Cities

When the Roman Empire collapsed, almost all trade in Western Europe came to an end.

Bridges and roads fell into disrepair…law and order vanished…money was no longer being used…it was chaotic.

Trade and Cities

Most people spent their entire lives in tiny villages where they were born and knew almost nothing about the outside world.

Trade and Cities

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By 1100, feudalism had made Europe safer and new technology enabled people to produce more food and goods.

Trade and Cities

Nobles repaired bridges and roads, arrested bandits and enforced the law.

As a result, trade resumed all over Europe.

Trade and Cities

As trade increased, towns grew larger and several cities became extremely wealthy from trade.

For example, the city of Venice, Italy built a fleet of trading ships and became a major trading center by 1000 C.E.

Trade and Cities

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Venice and other Italian cities began trading with the Byzantine Empire and soon Italy became the center of trade in the Mediterranean.

Trade and Cities

- Meanwhile, towns in Flanders, which today is part of Belgium became the center of trade for Northern Europe.

- This area was known for its woolen cloth.

Trade and Cities

- Merchants from England, Scandinavia, France and the holy Roman Empire met there to trade goods for wool.

- Flemish towns such as Bruges and Ghent became centers for making and trading cloth.

Trade and Cities

Bruges - Along with a few other canal cities, such as Amsterdam are extremly important, it is sometimes referred to as "The Venice of the North".

Bruges has a significant economic importance thanks to its port and at one time, it was the "chief commercial city" of the world.

Trade and Cities

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- **Ghent** – During the Middle Ages became one of the largest and richest cities of northern Europe.

- Today it is a busy city with a port and a university.

Trade and Cities

Trade and Cities

By 1100, Flanders and Italy were exchanging goods regularly.

To encourage this trade, the counts of Champagne in northern France began holding trade fairs.

Trade and Cities

Northern Europe merchants exchanged furs, tin, honey, wool and swords from northern Italy.

Silks, sugar and spices were also coming in these trade markets from Asia.

Trade and Cities

During the early Middle Ages, people **bartered**

Barter – the trading of goods for other goods.

Trade and Cities

As trade increased, demand for gold and silver coins rose.

Slowly, people began using money again to pay for goods.

Trade and Cities

Merchants set up trading companies and banks to manage the sale of goods and the use of money.

Trade and Cities

❧ **Questions**:

❧ 1) What are some of the cities that became trading centers during the Middle Ages in Europe?

❧ 2) What does the term barter mean?

❧ 3) What are some of the items that were being traded for during this time?

Trade and Cities

- **Questions**:

- 1) What are some of the cities that became trading centers during the Middle Ages in Europe?

  - **Venice , Bruges, Ghent and Champagne**

- 2) What does the term barter mean?

  - **To trade goods for goods…no money needed.**

- 3) What are some of the items that were being traded for during this time?

  - **Spice, sugar, silk, furs, honey, wool…**

Trade and Cities

✍ Towns were often located on land owned by lords.

✍ This meant the towns were under their control.

How Were Cities Governed?

However, townspeople needed freedom to trade…

Townspeople wanted to make their own laws and were willing to pay for the right to actually make them.

How Were Cities Governed?

In exchange for paying taxes, people in towns were granted certain basic rights by their lords.

These rights included the right to buy and sell property and the freedom from having to serve in the military.

How Were Cities Governed?

Over time, medieval towns set up their own governments.

Only males who had been born in the city or who had lived there for as certain length of time were considered citizens.

How Were Cities Governed?

In many cities , these citizens elected the members of the city council.

The council served as judges, city officials and law makers.

How Were Cities Governed?

❧ Candidates from the wealthiest and most powerful families were usually able to control the elections so that only they were elected...

How Were Cities Governed?

❧ **Questions**:

❧ 1) Who owned the land that towns were located on?

❧ 2) Who were considered citizens in medieval towns?

How Were Cities Governed?

❧ **Questions**:

❧ 1) Who owned the land that towns were located on?

   ❧ Lords

❧ 2) Who were considered citizens in medieval towns?

   ❧ Males

How Were Cities Governed?
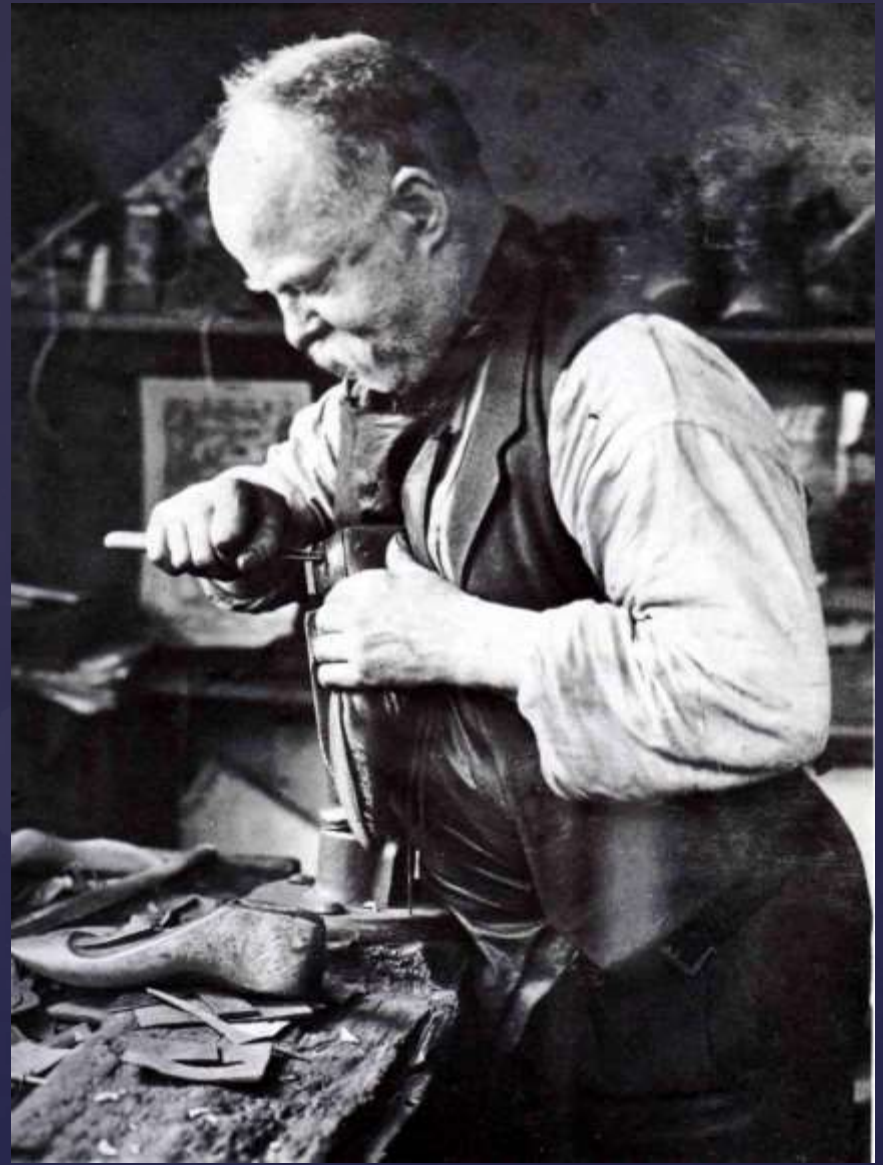
Trade encouraged manufacturing.

People produced cloth, metal work, shoes, leather and other goods right out of their own houses.

Crafts and Guilds

Crafts and Guilds

Cobbler…
Crafts and Guilds

Guild - is an association of artisans who control the practice of their craft in a particular town.

Crafts and Guilds

By 1200, tanners, carpenters, bakers and almost every other type of craftspeople had created guilds for their trades.

Crafts and Guilds

The rise of towns and guilds created a new middle class in medieval Europe.

People in the middle class were not Lords, vassals or serfs…they did not own land, but they did have some wealth and their own freedom.

Crafts and Guilds

Craft Guilds set standards for quality in their own products.

They decided how goods were to be made and set the prices at which the finished goods were sold at.

Crafts and Guilds

Guilds also decided who could join a trade and the steps they had to follow in order to join…(Traditional wrought-iron guild sign of a glazier)

Crafts and Guilds

A person became an **Apprentice** around the age of 10.

An **Apprentice** learned a trade from a master craftsperson who provided them room and board, but no wages were paid.

Crafts and Guilds

After five to seven years of service, the **Apprentice** became a **Journeyman** and worked for wages.

In order for **a Journeyman** to become a **Master**, they had to produce a masterpiece…and outstanding example of their craft.

Crafts and Guilds

- **Questions**:

- 1) What was a Guild?

- 2) What types of Craftspeople joined or started their own guild?

- 3) What is an Apprentice?

- 4) What is a Journeyman?

- 5) What does a Journeyman have to do in order to become a Master?

Crafts and Guilds

❧ **Questions**:

❧ 1) What was a Guild?

 ❧ **A group of artisans who control the practice of their craft.**

❧ 2) What types of Craftspeople joined or started their own guild?

 ❧ **Tanners, Carpenters, Bankers, Cobblers…**

❧ 3) What is an Apprentice?

 ❧ **Learned a trade from a master for no wages.**

❧ 4) What is a Journeyman?

 ❧ **A person learning a trade from a master for wages.**

❧ 5) What does a Journeyman have to do in order to become a Master?

 ❧ **Create a masterpiece item.**

Crafts and Guilds

Medieval cities had narrow, winding streets.

Houses were crowded against one another and the second and third stories were built out over the streets.

What Was City Life Like?

Candles and fire places were used for light and heat.

During this time houses were constructed mostly out of wood…as a result, Medieval Cities could be destroyed rapidly once a fire started.

What Was City Life Like?

The cities were often dirty and smelly.

Wood fires in people's homes and shops filled the air with ashes and smoke.

What Was City Life Like?

Brewers, dyers and poor people who could not afford wood burned cheap coal, polluting the air even more.

What Was City Life Like?

Butchers and tanners dumped blood and other animal waste into the rivers.

Due to the pollution in the cities people did not use the rivers for drinking or cleaning, but used wells instead.

What Was City Life Like?

City women ran their households, prepared meals, raised their children and managed the families money.

Often women helped their husbands in their trades.

What Was City Life Like?

- Some women developed their own trades to earn extra money.

- Sometimes when a master craftsman died, his widow carried on his trade.

What Was City Life Like?

As a result, women living in medieval towns could lead independent lives.

In fact, many women became brewers, weavers and hatmakers.

What Was City Life Like?

☙ **Questions**:

☙ 1) What caused so much pollution in cities during the middle ages?

☙ 2) What materials were being burned for heat and fires?

☙ 3) Since many rivers were polluted what would people use for drinking water?

☙ 4) What types of jobs did women have during the middle ages?

What Was City Life Like?

- Questions:

- 1) What caused so much pollution in cities during the middle ages?

  - **Smoke and ash polluted the air in cities from fires.**

- 2) What materials were being burned for heat and fires?

  - **Wood and coal.**

- 3) Since many rivers were polluted what would people use for drinking water?

  - **Wells**

- 4) What types of jobs did women have during the middle ages?

  - **Took care of the house and children and sometimes were brewers, weavers and hatmakers.**

What Was City Life Like?

❧ **Analyze**:

❧ In a well-planned paragraph answer the following question?

❧ In what ways do you think the shift from a barter system to a money system changed medieval Europe?

What Was City Life Like?

- **Cause and Effect**:

- In a well-planned paragraph answer the following question?

- How did an increase in trade lead to the growth of towns and cities.

What Was City Life Like?

❧ **Conclude**:

❧ In a well-planned paragraph answer the following question?

❧ What were Guilds and why were they important?

What Was City Life Like?

℞ Creative Writing:

℞ Pretend that you are in charge of writing a sales advertisement for a Medieval Castel that is up for sale.

℞ Describe the castle's rooms and surroundings, including the manor and its residents.

What Was City Life Like?