

I-SEARCH INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Medieval Europe

1. **PARADOXES:**
"In order to make peace, we must prepare for war." How does preparing for war make peace? Write an illustrated diary of a knight's preparations for war.
- *2. **ATTRIBUTES:**
Medieval castles have many attributes such as towers, walls, windows, moats, etc. Cathedrals have bell towers, domes, and are shaped like Latin crosses. Build a model of a castle or cathedral and label the various parts. (No Legos or kits.)
3. **ANALOGIES:**
The knights of the Middle Ages had many differences and similarities to today's soldiers. Draw a Venn Diagram showing these traits. (armor, technology, chivalry)
- *4. **DISCREPANCIES:**
The Black Death killed up to 1/3 of the population of Europe during the Middle Ages. This was due to overpopulation, and a lack of hygiene and medicine. Create a television interview asking a peasant that experienced the Black Death how they felt, what the symptoms were, and how could they have prevented the illness.
5. **PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS:**
During the Crusades, European technology was inferior to the Chinese and the Muslims. It was these Crusades that "saved" Europe by bringing this technology back. Create a museum exhibit showing a number of items brought back by the Crusaders.
6. **EXAMPLES OF CHANGE:**
Cathedrals in the Middle Ages were all very much the same. Make a poster of an upcoming cathedral grand opening with a modern twist, such as parking lots, stained glass, and bright colors. (Don't forget the Latin cross, bell towers, and baptistry.)
7. **EXAMPLES OF HABIT:**
Women could not become knights because they were thought to be inferior to men. Create a play in which the men and the women switch roles. Remember that certain roles cannot be switched such as childbirth.
8. **ORGANIZED RANDOM SEARCH:**
Make miniature replicas of the tools and weapons of this time period, and then make an improved version of the same items.
9. **SKILLS OF SEARCH:**
Research the clothing of middle ages, nobles and peasants, men and women. Then do a fashion show or a slide show showing the way they might act and dress.
10. **TOLERANCE FOR AMBIGUITY:**
Make a riddle book based on an average English Faire Day. (Include the food, entertainment, sports, and activities that typically would have been a part of the English Faire Day.)

PRODUCTS

A Dance/A Letter/ A Lesson	Oral Defense
Advertisement	Oral Report
Animated Movie	Painting Pamphlet
Annotated	Pantomime
Bibliography	Papier Mache
Art Gallery	Petition
Block Picture Story	Photo Essay
Bulletin Board	Pictures
Bumper Sticker	Picture Story for Children
Chart	Plaster of Paris Model
Choral Reading	Play
Clay Sculpture	Poetry
Code	Political Cartoon
Collage	Pop-Up Book
Collection	Postage Stamp,
Comic Strip	Commemoratives
Computer Program	Press Conference
Costumes	Project Cube
Crossword Puzzle	Prototype
Database	Puppet
Debate	Puppet Show
Demonstration	Puzzle
Detailed Illustration	Rap
Diorama	Radio Program
Diary	Rebus Story
Display	Recipe
Edibles	Riddle
Editorial Essay	Role Play
Etching	Science Fiction Story
Experiment	Sculpture
Fact Tile	Skit
Fairy Tale	Slide Show
Family Tree	Slogan
Fiction Story	Soliloquy
Film	Song
Filmstrip	Sound
Flip Book	Story Telling-Tall
Game	Tales
Graph	Survey
Hidden Picture	Tapes-Audio-Video
Illustrated Story	Television Program
Interview	Timeline
Jingle	Transparencies
Joke Book	Travel Brochure
Journal	Venn Diagram
Labeled Diagram	Web Home Page
Large Scale	Working Hypothesis
Drawing	Write a new law
Learning Center	Video Film
Letter to the Editor	
Map with Legend	
Mazes	
Mural	
Museum Exhibit	
Musical Instruments	
Needlework	
Newspaper Story	
Non-Fiction	