

What is it about the medieval time period that seems to capture a child's imagination?

Knights & Nobles will help you stir that imagination and immerse your children in the age of castles, kings and queens, knights and nobles, lords and ladies

AND...  
medieval feasting!

Knights & Nobles is broken up into four weeks:

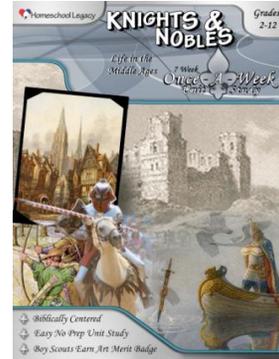
Week 1 - Castles

Week 2 - Kings & Queens

Week 3 - Knights

Week 4 - Life on the Manor

(With an optional medieval feast thrown in for good measure!)



The following is a sample of what you will be doing in Week 1 as you begin Knights & Nobles. Red lettering is added here for further explanation.

## **Week 1 Library Reading/Video Choices**

### **Focus: Castles**

An \* denotes that it or an equivalent of same subject matter is necessary in order to complete an assignment.

J 623.1 C Castles

J 623.194 M Castle/ David Macaulay\*

J 726M Cathedral: the Story of its Construction/ David Macaulay\*

J 728.8 C Man-Made Wonders: Castle

J 728.8 E Life in a Castle/ Kay Eastwood

J 728.81 C Ms. Frizzle's Adventures, Medieval Castle/ Joanna Cole

J 728.81 T Castles/ Stephanie Turnbull

J 793 G The Treasury of Family Games/ Jim Glenn\*

J 794.1 B Chess for Kids/ Michael Basman\*

J 940.1 P Castle (a DK Experience book)/ Richard Platt

J 940.1 S I Wonder Why Castles Had Moats & other questions about long ago/ Steele

J 944 T Palace of Versailles/ Linda Tagliaferro

J DEA The Door in the Wall/ Marguerite De Angeli\*

J THU Many Moons/ James Thurber

748.5028 R Stained Glass from its Origins to the Present? Virginia Chieffo Raguin

975.688 B Biltmore Estate/ Ellen Erwin Rickman\*

DVD 914.2 V Visions of England/ Sam Topperoff

(Spectacular aerial tour of England complete with castles, abbeys, and cathedrals)

Netflix:

David Macaulay: Castle\*  
David Macaulay: Cathedral\*

*Each Once-a-Week Unit Study provides a weekly library list that includes a variety of books for that week's focus.*

*As you can see, I have alphabetically and numerically arranged each call letter in order for you to quickly and easily gather your library books.*

*I include books of different reading levels, have chosen books of superior quality, and have carefully screened books for objectionable material.*

*Your children are not meant to read all of the books listed. They pick and choose books to read throughout the week which most interest them. Reading is the only activity they will continue daily throughout the week.*

*Only books noted with an asterisk (or an equivalent of same subject matter) are necessary in order to complete a specific assignment.*

*What if you cannot find the exact book? No problem. Just pick another from that same library section and focus.*

*In addition to books, your list will also include documentaries/movies for you to pick up at the library or get from Netflix.*

Supplies:

Chess Board  
3-ring binder with a plastic sleeve cover  
Loose-leaf paper

*Each Once-a-Week Unit Study provides you with a supply list for that week's assignments. Most will be items you already have in your home. Others will be inexpensive items you can pick up at a discount, craft, or hardware store.*

**Daily Activities**



Independent Reading: Week 1 Library Choices

*This week's main reading focus will be on castles and cathedrals.*

Family Read-Aloud: The Door in the Wall

*Each week's family read-aloud introduces your family to great literature while staying focused on that week's topic. It will most often be a classic, Caldecott/Newbery Award winner, or other noteworthy literary piece. This week's quality read-aloud is Marguerite De Angeli's award winning novel, *The Door in the Wall*.*

### Once-a-Week Activities



#### Family Devotional:

Jesus is often referred to in Scripture as both the capstone and the cornerstone. Cornerstones and capstones are essential in the building of stone structures.

The capstone or coping stone consists of the capping or covering of a wall; the top stone of a structure or wall: the crowning achievement or final stroke.

The cornerstone is the stone at the corner of an edifice uniting two intersecting walls. It is the first stone laid in the building process from which all other angles and measurements are taken. It takes a perfectly hewn stone, square and straight, to serve as the reference point for a firm and solid foundation.

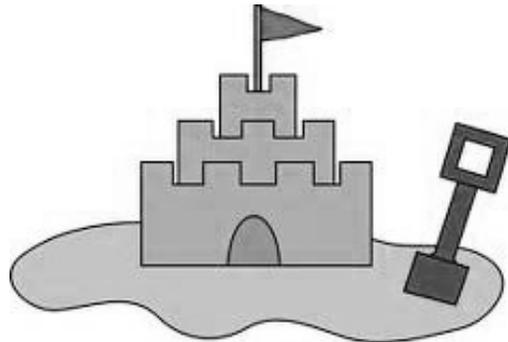
Think about each of these aspects while reading the following Scriptures:

Read 1 Peter 2:4-7 and Psalm 71: 3.



#### Arts & Crafts:

- With your parent's supervision, go to <http://hoernersburg.net>, and get inspired by one homeschool family's AMAZING LEGO castle and town tour!



- Now go build your own castle using sand, LEGOS, or a cardboard box.



#### Research/History/Language:

The word medieval comes from Latin meaning middle age. Research and write a composition on why we call this time period The Middle Ages, and why it is often referred to as The Dark Ages.

*We believe in teaching children how to learn and how to retrieve information on their own from an early age. This prepares them for a life of learning and better equips them for higher education and future careers. That is why you will notice research assignments sprinkled throughout Once-a-Week Unit Studies.*



## History:

A timeline helps you more clearly connect the dots of historic time periods, events and the people who played a role in them.

- Start a history timeline notebook using the following instructions:

*Simple instructions for a timeline notebook are included in your unit study. Your children will compile and continue to add to their timeline notebook for the duration of this unit study. They can continue to add to it as they go on to study other exciting time periods. By doing so, they will begin to "connect the dots" of history.*



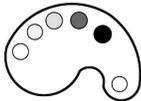
## Math:

Approximately how long did the Middle Ages last?



## Documentary:

Watch David Macaulay's Castle and Cathedral videos (this will eliminate the need for those two reading options).



## Field Trip/Art

### Option 1:

George Vanderbilt aimed to build a home reminiscent of a European castle. He did exactly that, and it just so happens to be the biggest home in America!

If you are from or live near Western North Carolina, take a tour of the Biltmore House.

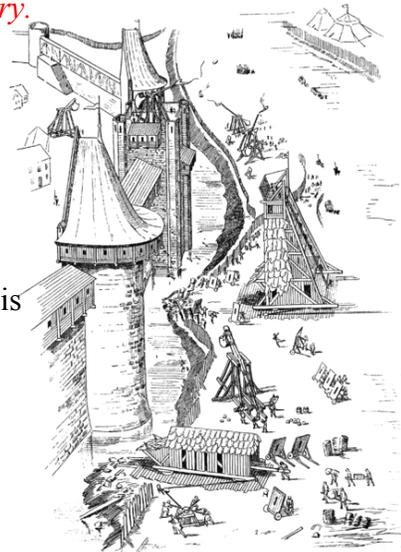
If not, do one of the following options.

### Option 2:

If you are unable to visit the Biltmore Estate, have fun doing the next best thing: page through the book Biltmore Estate together.

### Option 3 & 4:

Stained glass as an art reached its peak during the Middle Ages, as a way of depicting biblical images and narratives to an illiterate society.



- Visit a local stained glass artist. (BSA Req. 4)
- Visit some local churches to examine and admire their stained glass windows. (Check with your counselor to see if he will accept this for BSA Req. 4.)

*Once-a-Week Unit Studies are written for ALL homeschool families to enjoy, but Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls receive the added benefit of earning merit badge requirements while completing the same unit study assignments as the rest of their non-scout siblings.*

*While completing Knights & Nobles with the rest of their family, Boy Scouts will earn the majority of their Art merit badge.\**

*Boys Scouts will be able to easily identify those assignments by a fleur-de-lis icon.*

*The requirements fulfilled will be noted in parentheses at the end of the assignment.*

*\*At this time American Heritage Girls do not earn badge requirements when completing Knights & Nobles.*



### Family Game Night:

Did you know that some of the games we play today were passed down to us from the Middle Ages?

Learn to play some medieval games:

Chess - notice the names of each of the playing pieces. Do certain pieces have more rank and power than others? How would that translate to the class society of the middle ages?

Marbles, backgammon, “draughts,” pronounced “drafts” (Known to us as checkers), and billiards are some others you might try.



*Field trips and family nights are designed to be enjoyed on a different day of the week from your unit study day.*

### **! Stump Your Dad Trivia:**

Q: How were outer castle walls constructed?

A: Two walls were built parallel to each other and filled with rubble (small rocks and stone and mortar fragments). The walls once complete were 7'- 25' thick and 30' high.

*Kids just love to discover they know something Dad doesn't...because Dad knows everything, right? We include Stump Your Dad Trivia as a fun way to involve Dad and alert him to what your children are learning in their studies. It also makes for great dinner conversation...if the kids can wait that long to stump him, that is!*