

## Famous Men of the Middle Ages

**Alaric the Visigoth** king 394-410 A.D. Head of the western Goths, he defeated Honorius, sat on a throne in finery while his men sacked Rome.

**Attila the Hun** 434-453 A.D. Called “the Scourge of God” for his invasions, he was halted at the gates of Rome by Pope Leo, and died one day after marrying.

**Genseric the Vandal** 427-477 A.D. Tricked into leaving Spain by Boniface, he captured Rome after the emperor tried to flee and was killed by the Romans; he eventually conquered much of the Mediterranean.

**Theodoric the Ostrogoth** 475-526 A.D. As a child he lived as a hostage in Constantinople; saved by his mother in battle, he finally defeated Odoacer in Ravenna.

**Clovis** 481-511 A.D. The first king of all the Franks (France), he was converted by his Christian wife, Clotilde. After his win against the Alemanni (Germans), declared the Frankish kingdom Christian.

**Justinian the Great** 527-565 A.D. A former shepherd, this emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire built the cathedral of St. Sophia and was famous for reforming Roman law.

**Mohammed** 570-632 A.D. This man dictated the Koran, proclaimed himself to be the prophet of God, thought it proper to spread his religion by force.

**Charles Martel** 714-741 A.D. **and Pepin** 741-768 A.D. Father and son, they were mayors of the palace, won a victory over the Saracen forces at Tours, thus preventing a Muslim takeover of France. The son eventually became king of France.

**Charlemagne** 768-814 A.D. This kind of the Franks lost his friend Roland in a battle in the Pyrenees, was crowned emperor of the Franks and Roman Empire in 800.

**Harun-Al-Rashid** 786-809 A.D. He was a muslim caliph, scholar, poet who corresponded with Charlemagne.

**Egbert the Saxon** 802-837 A.D. The first to rule all England, he gave England its name.

**Rollo the Viking** 931 A.D. A Viking leader who laid siege to Paris, but failed, eventually granted land in what is now the Normandy portion of France.

**Alfred the Great** 871-901 A.D. King of the English who kept the Danes from conquering England, established learning centers, and translated Latin texts into Saxon.

**Henry the Fowler** 919-936 A.D. Duke of Saxony who united Germans; his son Otto was the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

**Canute the Great** 1014-1035 This Dane invaded England from Denmark, won, yet coruled with a Saxon because he understood the limitations of a ruler.

**The Cid** Respected by Christians and Saracens alike, this knight was kind to lepers and called himself the “Prince of Valencia”.

**Edward the Confessor** 1042-1066 Known for his just laws, this king rebuilt Westminster Abbey, and visited William of Normandy.

**William the Conqueror** 1066-1087 Having bargained for right to be king of England, this French nobleman invaded and defeated Harold at the Battle of Hastings.

**Peter the Hermit** 1050-1115 This preacher inspired and led the first crusade.

**Frederick Barbarossa** 1152-1190 A red-bearded crusader beloved by his people, this German emperor died when he couldn't wait to cross a river.

**Henry the Second** 1154-1189 **and His Sons** 1189-1216  
this English king wished for -- and got -- the death of the uncooperative Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket, Richard the Lion-hearted, his son; his other son John was the reason for the Magna Carta.

**Louis the Ninth** 1226-1270 A king of France, he was a devout crusader.

**Robert Bruce** 1306-1329 As king of Scotland, he won independence from England.

**Marco Polo** 1254-1324 Son of a Venetian trader, Polo served as a governor of a Chinese city; he stayed away from home so long he was seen as a stranger when he finally returned.

**Edward the Black Prince** 1330-1376 As a 16 year old, he led an army against France.

**William Tell** This Swiss archer refused to bow to an Austrian tyrant's cap.

**Tamerlane** 1333-1405 This conqueror briefly controlled a large part of Asia, ruling from his palace in Samarkand.

**Henry V** 1413-1422 A king of England who conquered France, the Battle of Agincourt was his most famous.

**Joan of Arc** 1412-1431 A simple peasant girl, she led the French army against the English, who eventually burned her at the stake.

**Gutenberg** 1400-1468 This German printer invented moveable lead type; he was able to print the Bible.

**Warwick the Kingmaker** 1428-1471 This English nobleman was central to England's bloody War of the Roses.