

# Stuck in the Middle Ages

**Grade Level or Special Area:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Written by:** T.J. Olmsted, Bromley East Charter School, Brighton, Colorado

**Length of Unit:** 23 lessons (approximately six weeks, one day = 45-60 minutes)

## I. ABSTRACT

This unit will cover virtually all of the requirements in the *Core Knowledge Sequence* for Europe in the Middle Ages. It is designed to supplement the Pearson Learning Core Knowledge History and Geography book. The worksheets and activities that have originally been included with the book are insufficient and boring. This unit has lessons and activities that are very thorough and entertaining for students. Each lesson is full of information about the Middle Ages and will keep your students interested from beginning to end.

## II. OVERVIEW

### A. Concept Objectives

1. Students understand the chronological organization of history and know how to organize events and people into major eras to identify and explain historical relationships. (Adapted from *Colorado Model Content Standards* for History, Standard 1, Fourth Grade)
2. Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time. (Adapted from *Colorado Model Content Standards* for History, Standard 3, Fourth Grade)
3. Students understand how science, technology, and economic activity have developed, changed, and affected societies throughout history. (Adapted from *Colorado Model Content Standards* for History, Standard 4, Fourth Grade)
4. Students understand political institutions and theories that have developed and changed over time. (Adapted from *Colorado Model Content Standards* for History, Standard 5, Fourth Grade)
5. Students know that religious and philosophical ideas have been powerful forces throughout history. (Adapted from *Colorado Model Content Standards* for History, Standard 6, Fourth Grade)

### B. Content from the *Core Knowledge Sequence*

1. Fourth Grade History and Geography: World History and Geography (pp. 91-92)
  - a. Background
    - i. Beginning about A.D. 200, nomadic, warlike tribes began moving into Western Europe, attacking the western Roman Empire; city of Rome sacked by Visigoths in A.D. 410
      - a) The Huns: Attila the Hun
    - ii. Peoples settling in old Roman Empire included Vandals (cf. English word "vandalism"), Franks in Gaul (now France), Angles (in England: cf. "Angle-land") and Saxons.
    - iii. The "Middle Ages" are generally dated from about 450 to 1400. Approximately the first three centuries after the fall of Rome (A.D. 476) are sometimes called the "Dark Ages."
  - b. Developments in History of the Christian Church
    - i. Growing power of the Pope (Bishop of Rome)
    - ii. Arguments among Christians: split into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Church
    - iii. Conversion of many Germanic people to Christianity
    - iv. Charlemagne