

# What kinds of relationships did African nations have with Europeans in the Middle Ages?

What kinds of sources can we use for the Middle Ages?

Lesson 1



## Learning Intentions

To investigate the relationships that African nations had with Europeans in the Middle Ages.

## Success Criteria

I can:

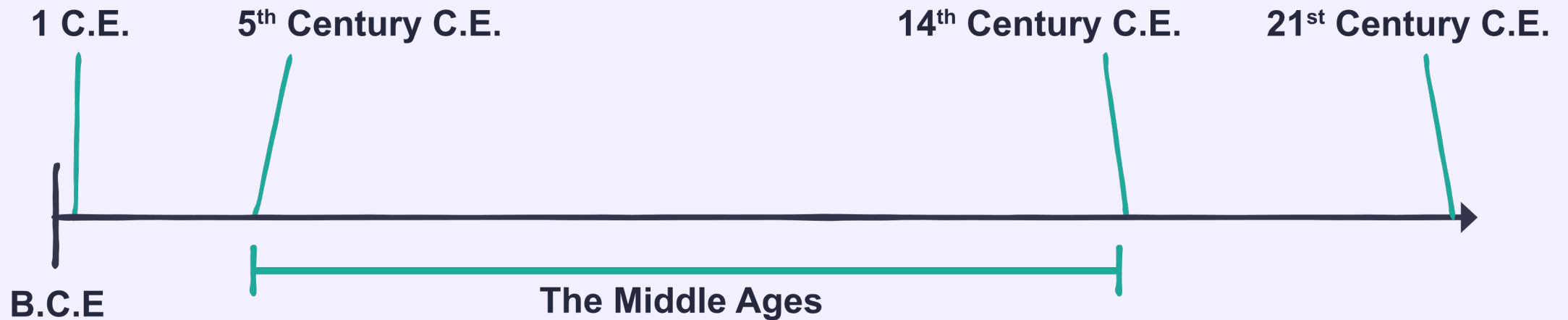
- State when the Middle Ages were
- Describe at least two things that African nations traded with Europeans at this time
- Explain how Europeans viewed some African nations at this time, making at least 2 points.

# When was the 'Middle Ages'?

The term 'Middle Ages' refers to the period after the fall of the Roman Empire until the 14th century.

We can describe this period as Medieval.

# Timeline



**The Middle Ages lasted for nearly  
1000 years**

# Which of these events happened in the Middle Ages?

**Battle of Hastings  
(1066)**

**Joan of Arc leads  
French Armies in the  
Siege of Orleans (1429)**

**Battle of Bannockburn  
(1314)**

**Battle of Culloden  
(1746)**

**Da Vinci paints the  
Mona Lisa (1503)**

**Boudica leads Celtic  
armies against the  
Roman Empire (60)**



Discuss

# Africa in the Middle Ages

1. How much would Europeans have known about Africa in the Middle Ages?
2. How can we find out more about this?

*Note down your ideas*





**At the closest point  
Africa and Europe  
are only 8 miles  
(13 kilometers)  
apart.**

**North Africa and  
Southern Europe  
are separated by the  
Mediterranean Sea  
– a trade route for  
millennia.**





# **Source Activity**



## Source A



## Source A

Where might this sculpture be from?

What do you think it is made from?

What time period do you think it comes from?

What can it tell us about the past?



Discuss

Source B

## Source B

Where might this sculpture be from?

What do you think it is made from?

What time period do you think it comes from?

What can it tell us about the past?



## Source A



## Source A

African sculpture, from modern day Nigeria  
From the late 13th / early 14th century  
Made with copper mined in France.

**What might this tell us about relationships between countries in Europe and West Africa at this time?**



# Source B

Religious carving from Northern France

Date – c. 1250

Made of ivory

**What might these two sculptures tell us about relationships between countries in Europe and West Africa?**

Source B



# Source Work: Artifacts

**Copper** was an important metal. The fact that copper mined in France was used in African societies to make sculptures tells us that valuable European goods were being traded to Africans.

**Ivory** is a very valuable material. European nations wanted to purchase this to make sculptures and ornaments particularly in religious settings.

**This suggests that European and African societies traded valuable resources as equal partners during the Middle Ages.**







# Discuss



## Map A

What does this map show us?

Where do you think it was made?

What can it tell us about Africa and Europe at the time?





**Enlarged images of African rulers from the Queen Mary Atlas (Map A)**





## Discuss



# Map B

What does this picture show us?

Where do you think it was made?

What can it tell us about Africa and Europe at the time?

# Source Work: Maps (A & B)

These maps show that European rulers were interested in Africa and wanted to know more about it. There was a knowledge of the nations on the coast but less known about places further inland.

African kings are shown as rich, with gold and expensive clothes, and castles.

This tells us that Europeans at this time believed African kingdoms to be wealthy and important.





# What kinds of relationships did African nations have with Europeans in the Middle Ages?

Based on this lesson, write a **paragraph summarising** some of the **relationships between African nations and Europeans.**

You might want to consider:

- How much Europeans might have known about African nations
- What Europeans might have thought about these nations
- What sort of goods went between Africa and Europe





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