

CHAPTER
8
SECTION 4

Note Taking Study Guide

LEARNING AND CULTURE FLOURISH

Focus Question: What achievements in learning, literature, and the arts characterized the High Middle Ages?

As you read this section in your textbook, fill in the flowchart to recognize the multiple causes of the cultural and intellectual flowering of the Middle Ages.

The Arts	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> </div>	
Literature	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> </div>	
Scholarship	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> </div>	
Universities	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100%;"></div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">→</div> <div style="text-align: center;">→</div> <div style="text-align: center;">→</div> <div style="text-align: center;">→</div> </div>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 100%;"> Learning and Culture Flourish </div>		

CHAPTER

8

SECTION 4

Section Summary

LEARNING AND CULTURE FLOURISH

Europe in the High Middle Ages experienced a blossoming of education, literature, and the arts. This was influenced by increased prosperity, contact with other cultures, and the rediscovery of ancient learning.

Education gained importance. By the 1100s, schools sprang up near cathedrals, some evolving into the first universities. Muslim scholars had translated the works of Aristotle and other Greeks into Arabic. In Muslim Spain, they were translated into Latin, the language of European scholars. In the 1100s, the new translations initiated a revolution in learning. The Greek philosophers had used reason to discover truth; Christians believed that the Church was the final authority. Christian scholars struggled with this reason-based, rather than faith-based, approach. To resolve the conflict, they began to use reason to support Christian beliefs. This method is known as **scholasticism**. The most famous scholastic was **Thomas Aquinas**. He wrote *Summa theologiae* to prove that faith and reason exist in harmony.

Scientific learning also reached Europe, including translations of Hippocrates on medicine and Euclid on geometry. Europeans adopted the more streamlined Hindu-Arabic numerals over cumbersome Roman numerals, allowing later scientists and mathematicians to make great strides.

Latin remained the language of Europe's scholars and churchmen. However, new literature emerged in the **vernacular**, or everyday languages of ordinary people. This change brought a flowering of literary works, including the *Song of Roland*, a French epic poem of chivalry; *Divine Comedy*, the Italian classic poem of heaven, hell, and purgatory by **Dante Alighieri**; and a portrait of English medieval life, the *Canterbury Tales*, by **Geoffrey Chaucer**.

Architecture and the arts also flourished. Fortress-like Romanesque churches gave way to the **Gothic style**. Its key feature was **flying buttresses**—exterior stone supports that permitted thinner, higher walls and massive windows, bringing light and height to cathedrals. Other arts during the period include stained glass, religious paintings, and woven wall hangings. A famous example is the Bayeux Tapestry, an embroidered illustration of the Norman Conquest of England. The Gothic style was also applied to the decoration of books, known as **illumination**.

Review Questions

1. How did Europeans become aware of Greek thinking?

2. How were Gothic cathedrals different from Romanesque churches?

READING CHECK

Who was Thomas Aquinas?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *initiated* mean in the underlined sentence? It comes from a Latin word that means "to begin." Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *initiated*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Multiple Causes

Why did Europe in the High Middle Ages experience a blossoming in education, literature, and the arts?
