

## The Influence of the Medieval Church Questions

## KEY

1. Who or what was the most powerful force in the medieval world?  
*The Church*
2. What caused the Roman emperor Constantine to convert to Christianity?  
*The sign of the cross appearing in the sky as he rode into battle*
3. How did the Church adopt pagan fertility symbols into church holidays? Give examples.  
*Easter eggs, evergreen Christmas trees, and the Easter bunny*
4. The Roman Empire fell, but it had already given birth to what, which ruled in its stead?  
*The Church*
5. According to the medieval Church, who formed the “head” of society and who were the “feet”?  
*The Church formed the head, and the commoners were the feet.*
6. Who was the most powerful man in the world during this time?  
*The Pope*
7. What was the official language of the Church?  
*Latin*
8. What are the few duties that the Church performed that a government would perform in modern times?  
*Trying civil and criminal cases, caring for the needy, and education*
9. How was the Church organized like a government?  
*It had a hierarchy of ranks and titles.*
10. Respond: Is the separation of church and state a good idea? Explain.  
*Answers will vary.*
11. Who were the privileged few who knew the secrets of reading and writing?  
*Members of the clergy and educated nobles*
12. Respond: How do we treat the “secret” of reading and writing differently in modern countries?  
*Answers will vary.*
13. How were the common people separated from what the Bible actually said?  
*They could not read what it said.*
14. In the Medieval Church what was the only way sins could be forgiven?  
*If they were ritualistically confessed to a clergyman*
15. What are the Seven Deadly Sins?  
*Greed, Pride, Lust, Gluttony, Wrath, Sloth, Envy*

16. Who is the Madonna?  
*Mary, the mother of Jesus*
17. According to the Medieval Church, what happened to unbaptized infants?  
*They went to Hell.*
18. What is *excommunication* and who had this power?  
*Kicking people out of the Church; the Pope*
19. What is *Limbo*?  
*An area on the outskirts of Hell, where virtuous souls who didn't know of Christian salvation lived*
20. What was "The Harrowing of Hell"?  
*When Jesus Christ descended into Hell and saved heroes of the Old Testament out of Limbo*
21. What is *Purgatory*?  
*An intermediary afterlife where souls are purified from sin before entering Heaven*
22. Who were the saints of the Church?  
*Men and women who did great deeds and/or died for the cause of Christianity*
23. Who was St. Christopher?  
*A large man who helped Jesus across a river according to legend; protector of travelers*
24. St. Patrick was a missionary to what group of people?  
*The Irish*
25. According to legend, what was a miraculous feat he performed?  
*He drove the snakes out of Ireland.*
26. How did St. Benedict try to reform the Church?  
*He established a new order of monks dedicated to a simple, hardworking lifestyle.*
27. How did monks deny themselves some of the basic comforts of life?  
*Lived simply, wore uncomfortable clothing*
28. What are monasteries and nunneries?  
*Monasteries = where monks lived; nunneries = where nuns lived*
29. Did all monks and nuns join the clergy because of a devotion to God? Explain.  
*Many of them had no choice and some joined to avoid destitution.*
30. What was a holy relic?  
*A holy artifact associated with a Biblical person or a saint*
31. Respond: From the list of holy relics from the Middle Ages, which one seems most interesting to you? Explain.  
*Answers will vary.*

32. How did the Church become a “money business” in the Middle Ages?

*Sins were forgiven for a fee.*

33. Vicious rumors of vampirism were spread about what group of people?

*Jews*

34. According to superstition, how did warlocks and witches get their power?

*Mating with demons*

35. What were some powers associated with witches?

*Impotence in men, barrenness in women, and sickness in cattle*

36. Did the Church conduct widespread witch trials? Explain.

*The church did not conduct widespread witch trials; one Pope even outlawed them.*

37. Were there church “denominations” in the Middle Ages? Explain.

*There was only one Catholic “Universal” Christian church.*

38. What is *heresy*?

*Going against the teachings of the Church*

39. What was *inquisition*?

*The Church’s efforts to root out and punish heresy*

40. How did St. Francis try to undo the corruption of the Church?

*Renounced his rich lifestyle and lived a simple life of good deeds; this led to the Franciscan Order.*

41. Respond with 4-5 sentences (5 points): What do you find most interesting or shocking about the Church in the medieval time period?

*Answers will vary.*