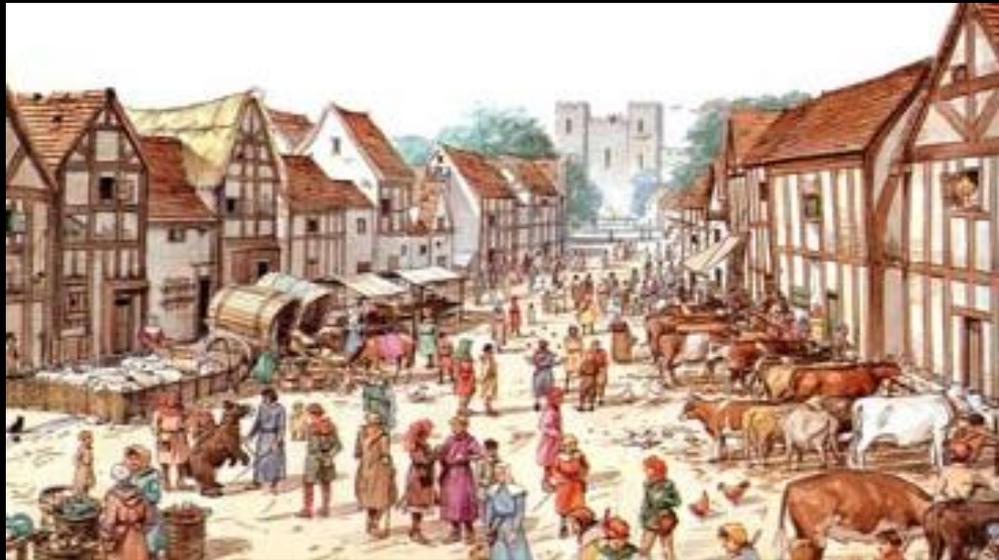


# MEDIEVAL CITY LIFE

BY CREATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER.COM



# LIVING CONDITIONS

- Cities grew larger and increasingly important throughout the Middle Ages
- Houses were very crowded in the city; if there *was* a bed in a house, six people would commonly sleep in it.
- Everyone slept in the nude, and clothes were seldom changed.
- Most poor people slept in a wooden box lined with hay and used a pillow stuffed with straw.



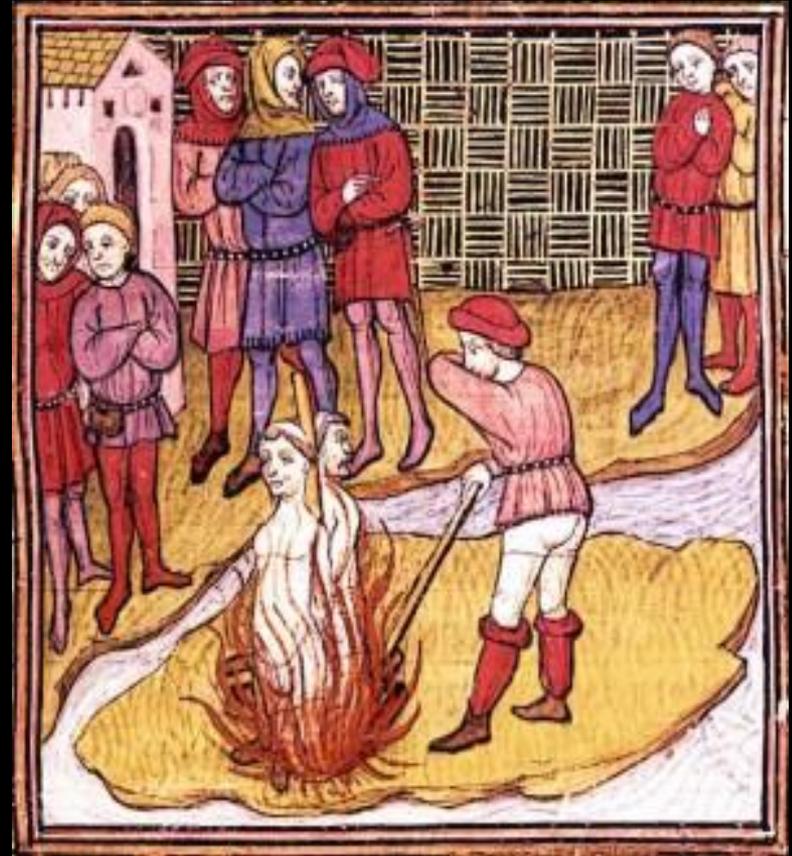
# SANITATION

- Waste was let into chamberpots indoors and then poured out directly into the streets.
- What about toilet paper? Straw was all there was.
- Trash was also thrown into the street, where dogs, pigs, and chickens freely roamed to eat it up.
- Lepers were forced to live outside the city and wear a bell or beat castanets to alert people that they were afflicted with the disease.



# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

- Medieval punishments were excessively cruel:
- Thievery = branded on the face
- Blasphemy = tongue gripped with iron pinchers and dragged through the streets by the tongue
- Poaching a deer = mutilation
- Murder = dragged through the streets behind a horse and then hanged
- Rebelling against city authorities = hands burned off, body torn into four pieces with one piece placed at each city gate



# HEALTH CARE

- Most doctors were charlatans, who knew next to nothing about the human body.
- The Church forbade anyone to cut open a dead body since they considered this desecration.
- Doctor examinations consisted of taking the patient's pulse and examining a urine sample.



# CHILDHOOD

- 1 in 3 babies died before the age of 5 years old.
- The #1 cause of infant death was suffocation from cramped beds.
- Witches were usually blamed for these infant deaths.
- When a baby grew deathly sick, a common belief was that the Devil had switched the healthy baby out for a sickly changeling (fairy child).



# CHILDHOOD

- Children played hide and seek and other games. After a pig was slaughtered, children blew up the bladder like a balloon.
- Work began as early as 8 years of age. Apprenticeships began at 10-12 years old. Children left their family to live with the tradesmen to whom they were apprenticed.
- Children were often kidnapped and sold as slaves.
- Saint Nicholas = patron saint of children

