

Objectives

- Explain the emergence of universities and their importance to medieval life.
- Understand how newly translated writings from the past and from other regions influenced medieval thought.
- Describe the literature, architecture, and art of the High and late Middle Ages.



Terms and People

- **scholasticism** – in medieval Europe, the school of thought that used logic and reason to support Christian beliefs
- **Thomas Aquinas** – a famous scholastic who wrote the *Summa theologica* and concluded that faith and reason exist in harmony
- **vernacular** – the everyday language of ordinary people
- **Dante Alighieri** – Italian poet who wrote the *Divine Comedy*



Terms and People (continued)

- **Geoffrey Chaucer** – English writer of *The Canterbury Tales*
- **Gothic style** – a style of architecture that used flying buttresses to support higher, thinner walls and left space for stained-glass windows
- **flying buttresses** – stone supports that stood outside the church
- **illumination** – the artistic decoration of books





What achievements in learning, literature, and the arts characterized the High and late Middle Ages?

Universities began springing up in Europe in the 1100s. They brought prestige and profit to their cities.

As economic and political conditions improved, learning and culture began to flourish.



By the 1100s, the European food supply had grown more reliable, and trade had increased.



Royals needed literate, educated men to run their growing bureaucracies.

To supply them, **schools appeared**, and some became universities.



The earliest universities were founded at Salerno and Bologna in Italy, in Paris, and at Oxford.

Student's lives were far from comfortable. They rose early and worked hard to memorize Latin texts.

5:00 A.M.	Prayers, then five hours of class
10:00 A.M.	First meal, then seven hours of class
5:00 P.M.	Light supper, study until bed





A typical program of study included arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, music, grammar, rhetoric, and logic.

Women were not allowed to attend university. Some received education in convents.



One exception to this was Christine de Pisan, a woman writer who lived from about 1364 to 1403.

- She received an excellent education from her family and supported herself through writing.
- She promoted women's rights and accomplishments.

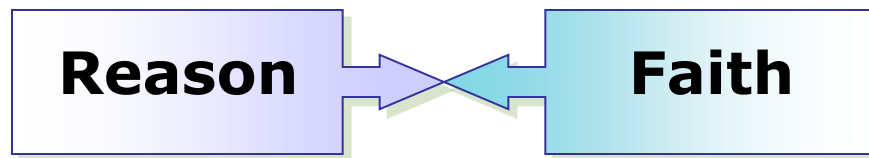


Prior to the 1100s, Muslim scholars had translated and spread the work of Aristotle and other Greeks.

- These were eventually translated into Latin and reached Western Europe.
- The ancient texts challenged Christian scholars, because **they championed reason.**



To resolve the conflict between reason and faith, Christian scholars developed a method called **scholasticism**, which used reason to support Christian beliefs.



The most famous scholastic was **Thomas Aquinas**, who wrote the *Summa theologiae*.

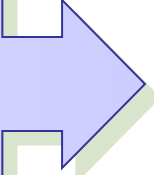


Scientific works from ancient Greece and Rome also reached Europe at this time.

- **Europeans adopted Hindu-Arabic numerals** to replace Roman numerals.
- **Science made little progress**, however, because people believed knowledge had to fit with Christian teachings.



New writings began to appear in the vernacular language.



Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy* takes readers on a journey through hell, purgatory, and heaven.

Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* describes a group of pilgrims traveling to St. Thomas's tomb.





Builders developed the **Gothic style** of architecture in the **1100s**.

Flying buttresses allowed for thinner walls and large windows.

Gothic cathedrals, such as Notre Dame in Paris, contain beautiful stained-glass windows.



Other arts flourished during this time.

- Gothic style applied to the decoration of books, known as **illumination**.
- Artists also created woven wall hangings called **tapestries to keep the cold out of castles**.
- Gothic religious paintings in churches and in wealthy homes were not realistic but **symbolized religious ideas**.



Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

