The Role of the Church in Medieval Europe

Standards

7.6.2, 7.6.4, 7.6.8

Objectives

Students will:

- **Describe** the structure and role of the Roman Catholic Church in medieval Europe and the influence of the church on art, architecture, and education.
- **Summarize** the conflict between Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV.
- **Compare and Contrast** the role of monks and friars in medieval society.
- **Research and Organize** ideas clearly, demonstrating an understanding of grammar, structure, and the forms and genres of writing.

Materials

- History Alive! Textbook
- Interactive student workbooks
- Transparencies 3A and 3B
- Placards 3A – 3I (2 copies of 3G-3I)
- Station setup 3A-3F (minus 3E)
- Station Directions A-F (minus E)
- Station A Materials:
  - Description Cards (see attached)
  - Object Cards (see attached)
  - scissors
- Station B Materials
  - 1 copy of each of the 10 materials (see attached)
- Station C Materials
  - 1 copy of role cards
  - 11 copies of design for a new cathedral
  - 11 copies of stained glass window outline
  - Colored markers/pencils, blue and purple construction paper, scissors and a ruler
  - 11 one-inch cubes of clay
  - 2 craft sticks
- Station D Materials
  - 31 copies of ‘Arguments of Thomas Aquinas’
  - 3 copies of Latin dictionary
- Station F Materials
  - 3 copies of ‘How to Make an Illuminated Letter’
Colored Pencils/Markers  
Scrap Paper  
- Student Handout 3  
- 10 one-inch cubes of clay and 4 craft sticks  
- Colored pencils, glue, and scissors, blue and purple construction paper, 12 one-gallon plastic bags, 2 rulers, masking tape.

**Procedure:**

2 ½-50 Minute Periods

**Before Class:** Teacher set up 5 stations, 7 desks in each.

**Phase 1:** Explain to students that they will be taking a “walking tour” of six sites in medieval Europe, and be learning more about the Roman Catholic Church’s influence on life in the Middle Ages.

Have students read section 3.2 in their textbooks, and complete the Reading Notes for this section in their Workbooks.

Project Transparency 3A, ask students what they see, what the names on the map represent, in what regions are the cities located, and what does this say about the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the Middle Ages?

Explain to students that they will follow the directions at each of the stations. Give brief overview of each.

Instructor place students in mixed-ability groups of three, and have them begin their tour. When each group finishes a station, have them raise their hands to have their workbook checked before moving on to the next station.

**Phase 2:** Students return to regular desk configuration, and use their reading notes that they have completed to create an illuminated poem about the Roman Catholic Church in medieval Europe.

**Assessment:**

Students will be informally assessed by their participation and completion of all of the stations. They will be formally assessed by their completed Reading Notes section of their workbook, illuminated poems, and their quiz on Friday.

**Reflection:**
Station A Directions

The Site: You are at St. Pantaleon, a church in Cologne, Germany. (During the Middle Ages, Cologne was part of the Holy Roman Empire.)

1. Examine Placard 3A. Discuss the question on it.

2. Read Section 3.3 in your textbook. Complete the Reading Notes 3 for this section in your workbook.

3. Read this paragraph to learn why you are at St. Pantaleon:

   You have been learning about sacraments and salvation. Pretend that you have a friend who lives near St. Pantaleon. He has devised an activity to help you remember the seven sacraments that the church administered. Your friend says, “By matching descriptions of the sacraments with objects used to administer them, you will better understand why the church is an important part of our lives.”

4. With your group, participate in the activity created by your friend at St. Pantaleon. Follow these steps:
   a. One person begins the activity by turning over two cards. If one card describes a sacrament and the other shows an object used to administer that sacrament, the person keeps the two cards and takes another turn.
   b. If the person turns over two cards that do not match, he or she returns the cards to their facedown positions, and it becomes another person’s turn.
   c. Continue until all of the cards have been collected.

5. Return the station to the condition in which you found it.

6. Have the teacher check your work.
Station B Directions

The Site: You are at Canterbury Cathedral in England. This cathedral is a major destination for many religious pilgrims.

1. Examine Placard 3B. Discuss the question on it.

2. Read Section 3.4 in your textbook. Complete Reading Notes 3 for this section in your workbook.

3. Read this paragraph to learn why you are at Canterbury Cathedral:

   You have been learning about pilgrimages in medieval Europe. Canterbury Cathedral was a major destination of pilgrims during the Middle Ages. In 1170, Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, died in Canterbury Cathedral. Becket was buried in a crypt, and a simple stone altar was erected at the cathedral. Today only a candle marks the site where the altar stood. You are here to learn from some of those pilgrims about the unique circumstances surrounding Becket’s death. You also hope to find a reliquary casket, which contains relics (mementos) of Becket and illustrates how he died.

4. Find the physician and “listen” to what he has to say about Thomas Becket. Continue “interviewing” pilgrims until you meet the parson, who will show you the reliquary casket.

5. Return the station to the condition in which you found it. Be sure to turn off the projector.

6. Have the teacher check your work.
Station C Directions

The Site: You are at Chartres Cathedral, about 50 miles southwest of Paris. It is one of the most famous cathedrals in France and is widely praised for its sculpture and stained glass windows.

1. Examine Placard 3C. Discuss the question on it.

2. Read section 3.5 in your textbook. Complete Reading Notes 3 for this section in your workbook.

3. Read this paragraph to learn why you are at Chartres Cathedral:

   You have been learning about how the Roman Catholic Church influenced art and architecture during the middle Ages. Pretend you are a medieval artist who has come to Chartres to study its art and architecture.

4. Have each student take a role card and follow the directions on it.

5. Return the station to the condition in which you found it.

6. Have the teacher check your work.
Station D Directions

The Site: You are at a library in the University of Bologna in Italy. The library is filled with works by ancient and medieval writers.

1. Examine Placard 3D. Discuss the question on it.

2. Read Section 3.6 in your textbook, and complete the reading notes for this section in your workbook.

3. Read this paragraph to learn why you are at the University of Bologna:

   You have been learning about how the Roman Catholic Church influenced education during the Middle Ages. Pretend you are a scholar who has come to Bologna to study some of Thomas Aquinas’ arguments about the existence of God.

4. Have each student take a copy of Arguments of Thomas Aquinas. Use the Latin Dictionary to finish the translation of Aquinas’ arguments from Latin to English. Then answer the two questions about his arguments.

5. Return the station to the condition in which you found it.

6. Have the teacher check your work.
Station F Directions

The Site: You are at Iona Abbey, a monastery in Scotland. Iona was founded in 563 by a group of monks who wanted to bring Christianity to Scotland.

1. Examine Placard F. Discuss the question on it.

2. Read Section 3.8 in your textbook, and complete the Reading Notes in your workbook.

3. Read this paragraph to learn why you are at Iona Abbey:
   
   You have been learning about monasticism and religious orders in medieval Europe. Pretend that, after arriving in Iona, one of the monks has escorted you to the scriptorium, where monks create manuscripts. The monk has offered to allow you to work on part of manuscript by making the illuminated letter. An illuminated letter is the first letter on the page of a manuscript, and it is usually drawn especially large and with decorative details.
   
4. In respect for the other monks in the scriptorium, maintain complete silence while working at this station. On a piece of scrap paper, illuminate the first letter of the Latin proverb, “Moderatio in omnibus rebus” (“Moderation in all things”). Use the sample illuminated letter on How to Make an Illuminated Letter as a guide. You may copy the sample directly or create your own design for the letter M.

5. Have the teacher check your work.