

Knights Level One

1. Read the packet and answer the attached questions IN FULL SENTENCES. SKIP LINES BETWEEN ANSWERS.

1. What 5 things did that knight have to provide for himself?
2. Why did knights usually come from wealthy families?
3. At what age did you become a page? What was the purpose of physical activity?
4. Name six areas of training for the squire.
5. What is a quintain and how did it help the knight with the lance?
6. What were the duties of a body squire?
7. How did you know a squire was an armiger?
8. What were the parts of the ceremony to be knighted?
9. Armor was used up to what century? Why did they stop using it?
10. What was the job of the heralds in warfare?
11. Name two ways a siege on an enemy's castle was won?
12. What weapon could a priest use? Why?
13. What are quillons?
14. How long was the knight's lance? What type of wood was it made of?
15. What term is used to put silver or gold decoration on a sword?
16. What two weapons were not used by the knights because they thought they were not chivalrous?

2. Use page Code of Behaviors to make a code a chivalry for today's teenagers. – You must have 7 statements

3. Learn the parts of the simple armor. You must be able to arrange the parts of the armor on the knight and identify the parts of that armor from memory. Use the back of the armor page to practice.

Becoming a Knight

A knight was required to furnish his own equipment: a war horse, his armor, a shield, a lance, and a sword. He was also expected to provide a retinue of soldiers to accompany him in battle. All of this was extremely expensive! Because the knight had to pay for all of this from the profits from his estates, he usually came from a wealthy family.

It took many years of training to become a knight. If a boy was expected to become a knight, he would probably be sent to live with a noble family—often his father's lord—when he was about seven years old. There he would serve as a **page**, along with other young boys. Not only would he run errands and act as a servant, but he would also learn good manners and social skills and be taught to read and to write. The physical activities enjoyed by him and the other pages were intended to strengthen and toughen them in order to help prepare them for knighthood.

When the boy reached about thirteen or fourteen, he was made a **squire**, and his training intensified. He spent more and more time riding and caring for the horses, studying the arts of hunting and falconry, and handling weapons. Archery was an important activity. Another was tilting at a quintain.

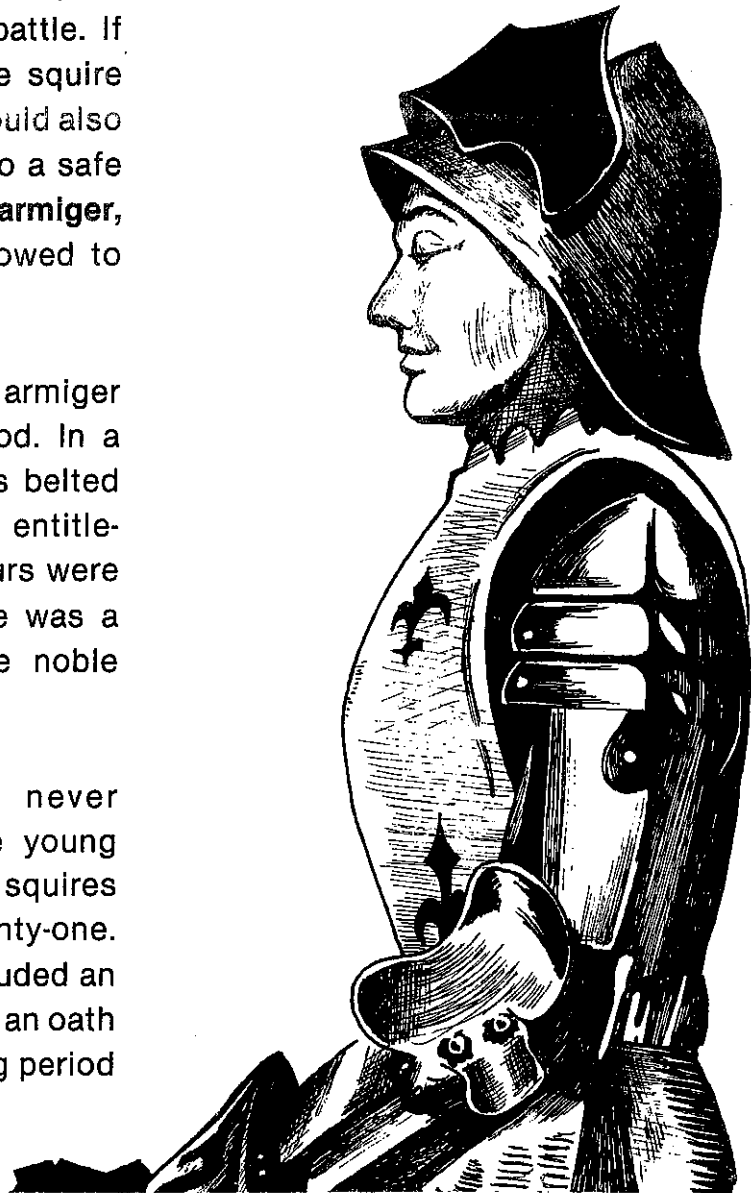


Because the lance was the basic weapon of the mounted soldier, it was crucial that the squire become skilled in the use of that weapon. The quintain was a device created for that purpose. It was a post that had two revolving arms. With his lance braced against his side, the squire rode at the quintain and attempted to hit it squarely. If his aim was less than perfect, the target would swing around and—unless he was very quick at dodging it—would hit him squarely!

In time the squire would be given more specific tasks. He might be assigned to serving at the table; he might become a squire of the stables; or he might become a body squire, or personal attendant. The body squire would follow his master into battle. If his master were unhorsed, the squire would help him re-mount. He could also help rescue him and get him to a safe spot. Until he was made an **armiger**, however, a squire was not allowed to fight in a battle.

Although still a squire, an armiger represented entry into manhood. In a simple ceremony, a sword was belted on the squire, symbolizing his entitlement to partake in combat. Spurs were fastened to his heels. Now he was a warrior and a member of the noble class.

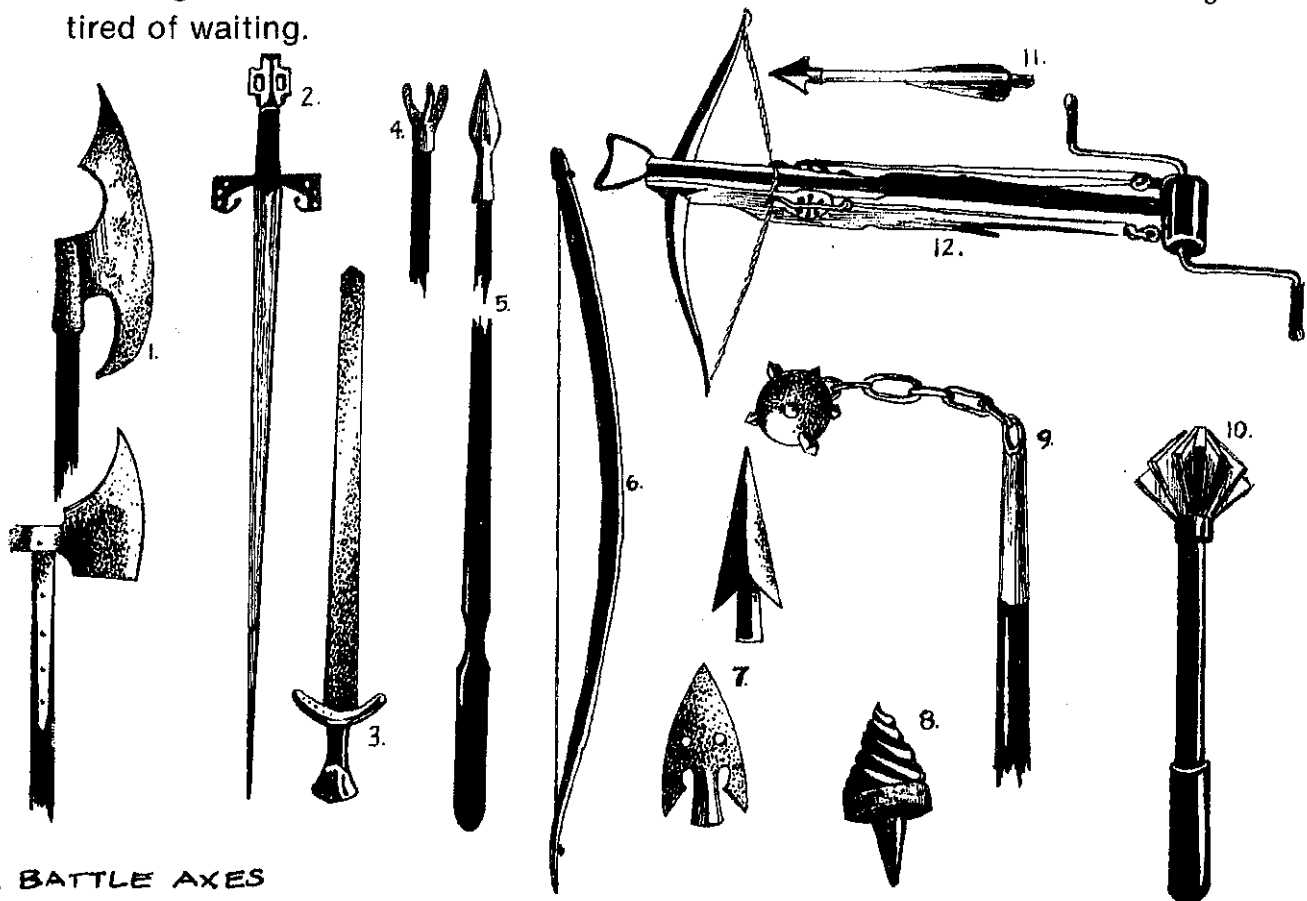
Although some squires never became knights, many of the young men who trained as pages and squires were knighted at about age twenty-one. A special ceremony, which included an overnight vigil, a ritual bath, and an oath of loyalty, was held. The training period was over!



Warfare

Warfare in medieval times was a contradictory blend of savagery and chivalry. Mostly, it consisted of hand-to-hand combat between groups of armed knights. Heralds were sent to the opposing side to formally challenge the enemy. Then one leader would choose his ground, and the other would attack. Sometimes the battle stopped while individual knights challenged each other. Mixed in with these acts of chivalry, however, were acts of real brutality. While the knights were often ransomed rather than killed, the foot-soldiers, who were commoners, were often slaughtered. In some cases all the inhabitants of a town were massacred—even children.

Sometimes a lord called for a siege of his enemy's castle. He and his army surrounded the castle. They tried to break in, but this was a difficult feat. Often the siege ended when either the defenders ran out of food or the attackers got tired of waiting.



1. BATTLE AXES

2. GERMAN SWORD

3. ENGLISH SWORD

4. JOUSTING LANCE HEAD

5. WAR LANCE HEAD

6. LONG BOW

7. BARBED ARROWS

8. SCREW ARROW HEAD

9. MILITARY FLAIL

10. ENGLISH MACE

11. WAR CROSS BOLT

12. CROSSBOW WITH WINDLASS

SIEGE WEAPONS

A variety of weapons were used in attempts to capture a castle. Among them were the trebuchet, the mangonel, and the ballista. Although designed to hurl rocks, they were often adapted to throw boiling tar, burning oil, and other materials to make them into fire bombs.

The Trebuchet

The trebuchet was a huge catapult. It threw heavy stones.

The Mangonel

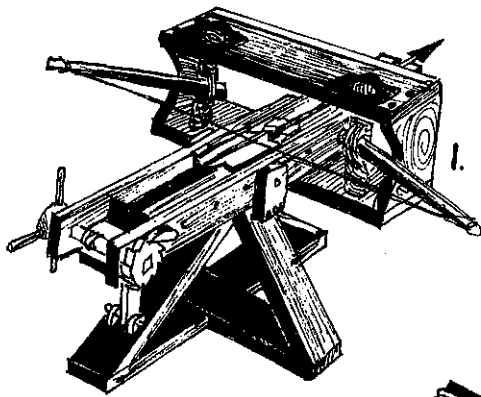
This was also used to hurl stones, but it was smaller than the trebuchet and, therefore, could be wheeled around the battlefield.

The Ballista

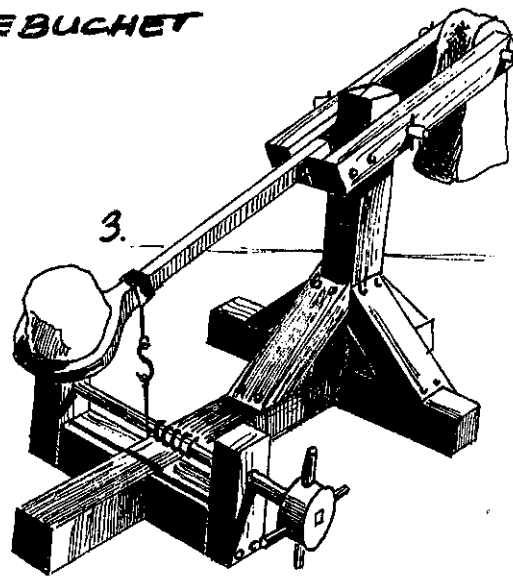
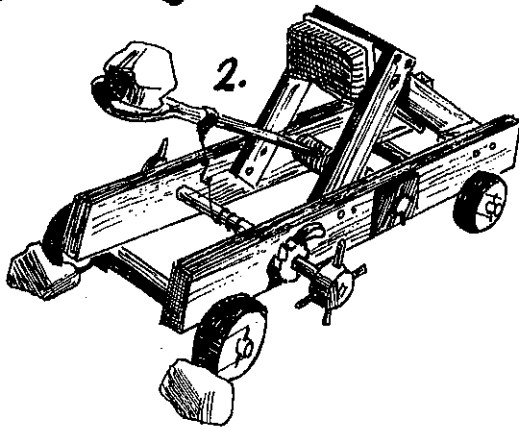
The ballista was even smaller than the mangonel. It was really just a huge crossbow.

In addition to siege weapons, attackers tried other means of infiltrating the castle. They tried to knock down walls by use of battering rams. Sometimes they mined the walls. Penthouses, which were sheds on wheels, were pushed up against the walls to protect the attackers as they dug under the castle's foundation.

Of course, the inhabitants of the castle did not just sit around and watch as all this occurred. They used their weapons to defend against the besiegers. Taking a great stone castle was not that easy!



1. BALLISTA
2. MANGONEL
3. TREBUCHET



Suit of Armor

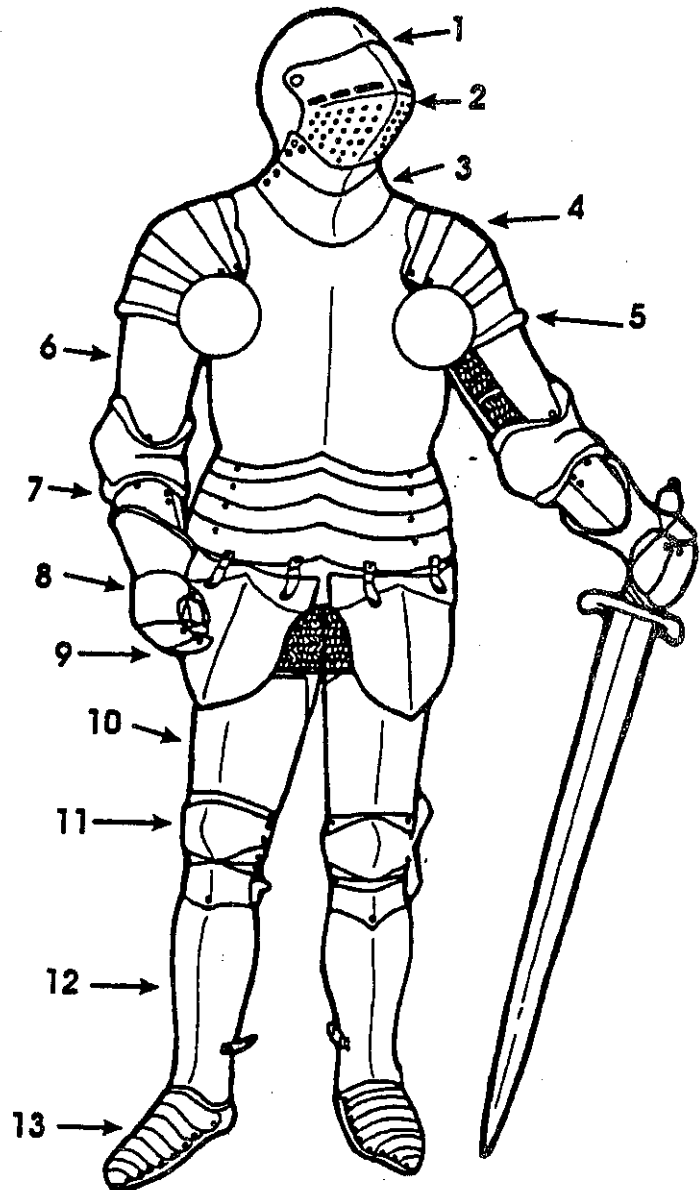
In the Middle Ages armor was very expensive. Common soldiers did not wear heavy armor. They wore steel caps and shirts of mail. Knights with horses were the only ones who could afford to wear a full body suit of armor. This armor was so complicated that it took two men to dress a knight. A full body suit was made up of an assortment of steel plates that were attached by hooks and buckles.

Armor was used up to the seventeenth century. As military tactics changed, armor became more of a hinderance than a protection. Helmets and bulletproof vests are the modern version of the armor invented in our early military history.

Boys of noble birth went through many years of training before becoming knights. For seven years or more, a boy lived at the castle as a page, helping the ladies of the castle and training for warfare. Next, he became a squire, or devoted attendant to his lord. The squire, who was preparing for knighthood, polished armor, helped care for the horses, and carried shields and weapons for tournaments and into battle.

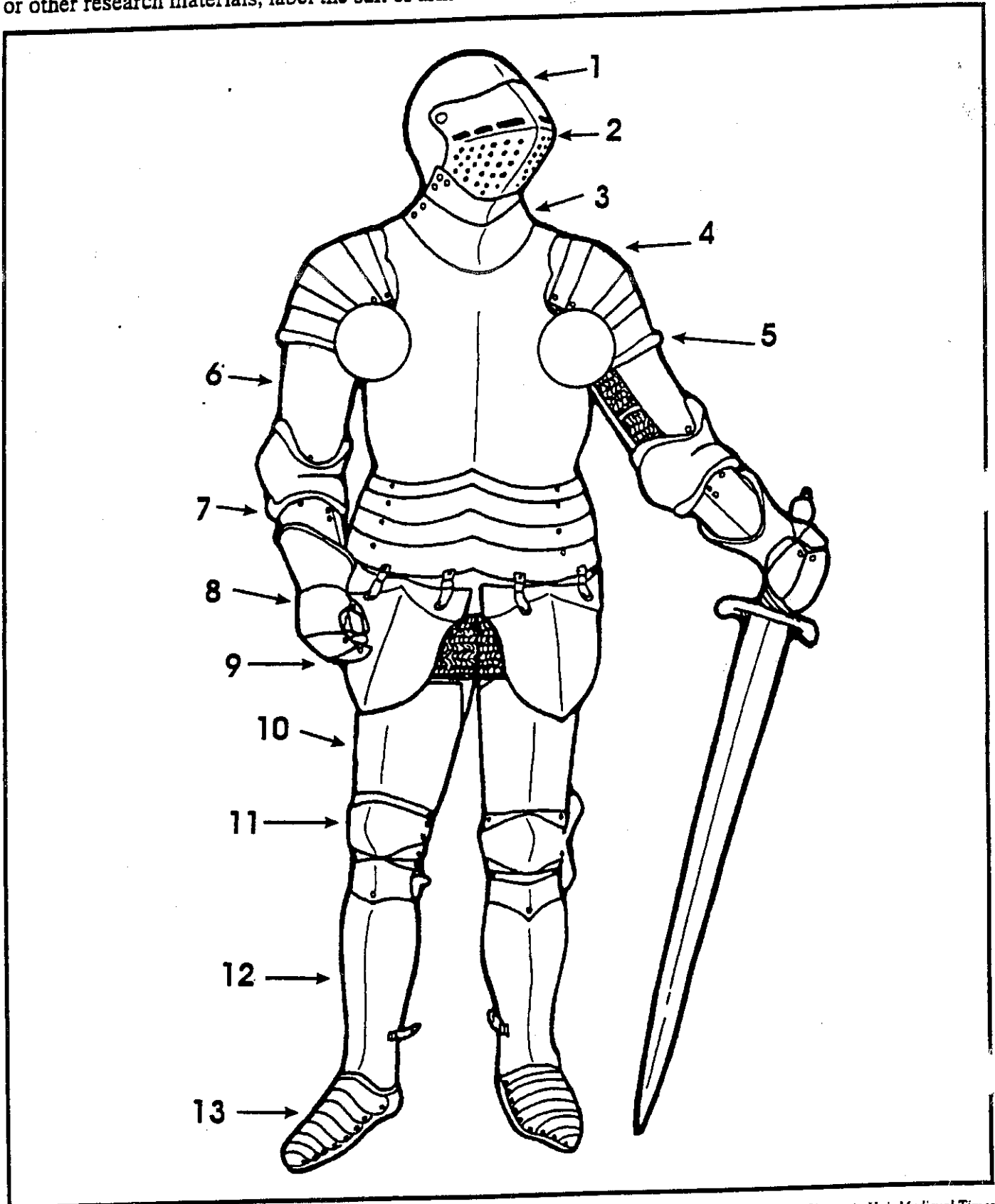
Parts of a suit of armor

1. **Helmet:** a head covering
2. **Visor:** the moveable part of the helmet in front of the eyes
3. **Gorget:** a collar of metal to protect the throat
4. **Shoulder Piece:** metal that covered the shoulders
5. **Cuirass:** a breast plate from the neck to the waist. The first model of the present day bullet proof vest
6. **Brassard:** armor that protects the arm
7. **Tasset:** overlapping plates that form a short skirt around the hips
8. **Gauntlet:** a glove
9. **Coat of Mail:** Mesh or net made of metal rings or links worn under the armor, chain mail
10. **Cuisse:** a piece of steel that covers the thigh
11. **Elbow Piece:** metal covering the knee and allowing for movement of the leg
12. **Greave:** armor from the ankle to the knee
13. **Sabaton:** armor that covers the foot



A Knight in Armor

Identify the parts and functions of each piece of armor. Using information from page 56, your teacher, or other research materials, label the suit of armor.



CHALLENGE

Codes of Behavior

○ The following list of instructions is from a diary of a squire who was learning the code of chivalry from his knight. Read the instructions. Then write a code of behavior, made up of five rules. The code should be appropriate for someone your age. Boy Scouts' and Girl Scouts' Codes of Honor are examples.

I must honor my parents.

I must obey my knight, for he is my teacher.

I must ever tell the truth, no matter the consequences.

I must be prompt in my appointments and perfect in my dress.

I must work until my job is completed, though I drop from weariness.

I must ever keep my knight's armor and horse ready: an unready knight is defeated.

I must be ever courteous to all women, and I must know the special courtesies of the knight's court.

I must come to the aid of those less fortunate than I.

Weapons of the Middle Ages

HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT

Medieval knights had two main weapons, the sword and the lance. They also had secondary weapons, such as the mace, the battle-axe, and the war-flail.

The Sword

A knight's sword was made of steel. Often the blade was damascened, or inlaid with gold and silver. The hilt, or handle, was protected by two guards called quillons. At the end of the hilt was a large knob called a pommel; this helped balance the blade. When not using his sword, the knight kept it in a scabbard.

The Lance

The knight's lance was made of wood, usually pine or ash. It was between eight and fifteen feet long. When a knight wanted to talk with his opponent, he grounded his lance.

The Mace

A mace was a club with spikes or flanged heads. Sometimes priests used this weapon in battle, to get around the fact that they were not to use swords.

The Battle-Axe

This heavy axe was a dreaded weapon.

The War-Flail

The frightening weapon consisted of a spiked iron ball on the end of a chain. The chain was connected to a handle. Like the mace, this weapon was used to bludgeon enemies.

The principal weapons of the foot-soldiers were the longbow and the crossbow. These were not used by knights, who considered them to be unchivalrous.

The Longbow

The longbow was a wooden, hand-drawn bow about five or six feet in length. The string was made of hemp. Arrows were about a yard long and were armed with metal heads—broad ones against foot-soldiers and thin ones against armored knights. English foot-soldiers earned a reputation as outstanding archers.

The Crossbow

The crossbow was a short bow mounted crosswise near the end of a wooden stock. Although slower to load than the longbow, it was more powerful and more accurate. The bows were made of wood or horn and shot short wooden or iron arrows. Eventually, a device called a windlass was added to wind back the string. The crossbow was so devastating that the church outlawed its use except against "the infidels."