

The Merchant

Viewing Guide

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper as you watch the film. You do not need to write in complete sentences.

1. Who were medieval merchants, and what important role did they play in society?
2. How did these merchants make money?
3. Why was it so dangerous for merchants to travel during the Middle Ages?
4. Why were many medieval towns built?
5. Describe a typical medieval town.
6. What were some of the responsibilities of a merchant's wife?
7. How did someone learn a trade during the Middle Ages?
8. What were the guilds, and why were they so powerful in medieval society?
9. Describe how medieval towns were governed.
10. What is a cathedral? What did cathedrals have to do with merchants and guilds?

Critical Thinking Questions: After the film is complete, choose ONE of the following questions and answer in a short paragraph.

- A. Guilds played an important role during the Middle Ages, monitoring the work of individual trades. Generate a list of pros and cons of medieval guilds. How were these groups helpful to medieval craftsmen? How might they have interfered in the success of medieval businesses?
- B. Medieval merchants' wives were responsible for the maintenance and operation of the home, in addition to their husbands' businesses in their absence. Describe how the lives of these women were similar to and different from the lives of modern women.