

Episode



6

ITALY



GAMES IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Hello everyone and welcome to Podcastle! We are here, the super adventurous fifth-grade class, and today we are taking you on a journey through time!

Today's topic is... games in the Middle Ages! Did you know that some of them still exist today?

Our journey is divided into 3 fantastic parts: nobles, peasants, and games for everyone! Get ready—we are starting right now!

Let's begin with the nobles! They were rich, so they had more luxurious games. And most importantly, games were used to train to become warriors or to think strategically!

Like chess! Such a super strategic game! There was the king, the queen, the rooks, the knights, the bishops... the whole castle on the board!

And watch out for the queen! At first, she could only move one square! How boring! Luckily, during



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



the Renaissance they changed the rules and made her super powerful!

Exactly! And then there was backgammon! Many of you know it, but in the Middle Ages it had many different names! It was a board game with triangles and dice. You had to move your pieces all around the board. If you landed on your opponent's space, you had to start over. So stressful!

Noble children had less freedom. They had to stay almost all the time inside the castle walls... if they went out, it was dangerous!

But they played very "training" games:

- Wooden horses! Kind of like spinning toys!
- Mock war tournaments to learn how to fight, like the Quintana tournaments! You had to hit a target with a lance while riding a horse. Wow!

Now let's move on to the peasants! They had much more freedom! They could play in the woods and go on great adventures, even if there was a risk of getting hurt!

The most important thing is that they played with scarce materials! No toy shops!

But they had incredible imagination! Listen to what they played with:

- Rag balls (balls made from old clothes)
- Marbles made of stones or nuts
- Hide-and-seek in the fields
- Sack races! Legendary!

They also had fun pretending to be farmers or warriors in the woods—just like their parents!

Even adult peasants played dice, backgammon, and a game called "The Four Seasons," always with simple materials!

But there was one board game played by everyone, rich and poor! The most famous strategy game of the Middle Ages: Fox and Geese!

The rules were a bit tricky, but if you played smart, you could win!

- The fox was only one and stayed in the centre
- The geese were about 13
- The fox's goal: eat all the geese!
- The geese's goal: surround the fox so it couldn't move anymore! So cool!

Hey, let's talk about gambling games! Adults, especially, played dice! They called it "the devil's temptation"! And guess what (not nice at all!): sometimes they used loaded dice to win! Definitely something NOT to do!



So, we discovered that some games, like hide-and-seek or blind man's buff, have existed for a very long time! Both nobles and peasants played them!

Wow! What an amazing journey! We travelled through tournaments, loaded dice, and rag balls! Piece by piece, we rebuilt history!

Now you can unfasten your time belts! See you in the next episode of Podcastle!

Goodbye everyone!