

## Episode



# 6 ITALY



### GAMES IN THE MIDDLE AGES

**SPEAKER 1:** 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!

**SPEAKER 2:** Today's topic is... games in the Middle Ages! Did you know that some of them still exist today?

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

**SPEAKER 4:** 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!

**SPEAKER 5:** 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!

**SPEAKER 1:** And watch out for the queen! At first, she could only move one square! How boring!



Luckily, during the Renaissance they changed the rules and made her super powerful!

**SPEAKER 4:** 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!

**SPEAKER 2:** Noble children had less freedom. They had to stay almost all the time inside the castle walls... if they went out, it was dangerous!

**SPEAKER 3:** 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!

**SPEAKER 5:** 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!

**SPEAKER 1:** The most important thing is that they played with scarce materials! No toy shops!

**SPEAKER 2:** 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-peek in the fields
- Sack races! Legendary!

**SPEAKER 3:** They also had fun pretending to be farmers or warriors in the woods—just like their parents!

**SPEAKER 4:** Even adult peasants played dice, backgammon, and a game called "The Four Seasons," always with simple materials!

**SPEAKER 5:** But there was one board game played by everyone, rich and poor! The most famous strategy game of the Middle Ages: Fox and Geese!

**SPEAKER 1:** 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!

**SPEAKER 2:** 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!

**SPEAKER 3 (cheerful voice):** So, we discovered that some games, like hide-and-peek or blind man's



buff, have existed for a very long time! Both nobles and peasants played them!

**SPEAKER 4 (captain's voice):** Wow! What an amazing journey! We travelled through tournaments, loaded dice, and rag balls! Piece by piece, we rebuilt history!

**SPEAKER 5:** Now you can unfasten your time belts! See you in the next episode of Podcastle!

**ALL TOGETHER, SHOUTING:** Goodbye everyone!