

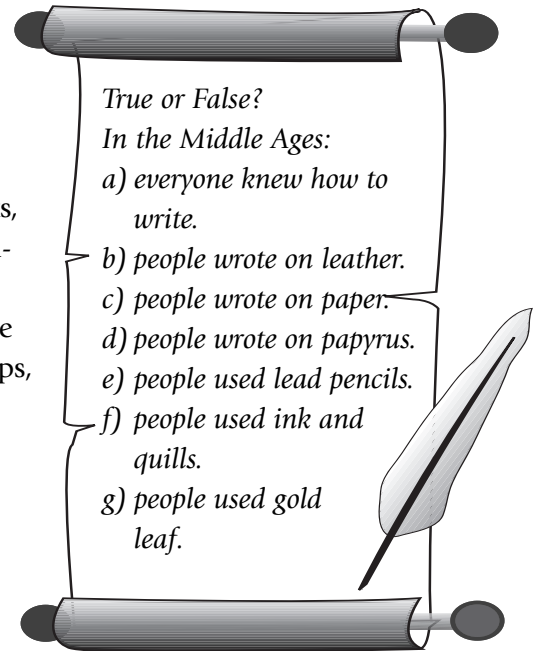


- Listen to Gregorian chant as you build a contemplative area in your classroom.
- List the charities you know and describe ideas to make money for them.

### Visual Arts: Illuminated Manuscripts

Imagine a time when almost nobody could read or write! Using toxic lead pencils, quill pens, colored inks, and bits of silver or gold leaf, monks wrote and illuminated manuscripts on parchment, a kind of leather. It took until 1453 for Gutenberg's printing press to move hand-copying from the monastery to the printer's shops, and into the hands of the newly literate public.

- Begin an art class by photocopying or showing your class the Celtic medieval images on the next page. Supply paper, quills, pens, ink and gold paint so students can:
  - Decorate the first letter of their name in the medieval manner.
  - Choose or write a passage of poetry or prose to illuminate. Decorate initial letters, create Celtic borders and even incorporate a typically medieval image into the design.



### Animals — A Medieval Bestiary

Do you believe in the powers of animals? Perhaps because people were so vulnerable to natural forces, the medieval imagination teamed with exotic creatures. Christianity adopted many of these motifs: a lion's door knocker guards the entrance to Durham Cathedral. Carved mice scurry over Romanesque arches. Illuminated manuscripts depicted whole bestiaries of real and fictitious animals. To the medieval imagination, dragons and unicorns were as real as deer or foxes. Here are some questions and activities for your class on the theme of animals in *Song of the Unicorn*:

- What birds have we met so far? Are they good or bad? [Answer: the owl and the swan are good, representing Merlin and the mother; the raven is more ominous, representing death]
- Notice that medieval images often combine the limbs of several animals. Make a composite drawing of the animals mentioned so far.

### Cathedral Architecture

Bring in a book or view the Enhanced CD to help students appreciate these magnificent buildings. Rising more than four stories high and stretching longer than a block, cathedrals often took 200 years to build — eight generations! Here are some class activities and questions:

- Color the picture of Wells Cathedral on page 12 (there are more on the Enhanced CD and at the Classical Kids website).
- Looking at the architectural details, discuss which craftspeople were needed to build cathedrals. [Answer: stained glass artists, sculptors, architects, stone masons, tile layers, wood workers]