Medieval Knight Weapons Flip Book

Instructions:

You will make a flip book of 6 medieval weapons used by knights and soldiers. You must include 4 Weapons that Knights used. Then, you must include 2 Siege Weapons. The last page (page 8) will discuss 3 of the 6 “Other siege tactics” used to bring down a castle. Each page in your flip book must include a hand drawing of the image, a description of the weapon and its use. Your flip book should have a nice cover on the front flip page (A title for your flip book, an image, and your name). Your tabs at the bottom should have the label of the weapon on it.

Knights Weapons

The Weapons of the Medieval Knight
Over the centuries the weapons that Medieval Knights wielded changed dramatically. These changes were mostly due to improvements in the technologies of blacksmithing and metalworking.

The Primary weapon of the Knight throughout the centuries of knighthood was without a doubt the sword. There were many weapons at the disposal of the knight but the sword was the weapon that held the most prestige and honor to wield and master. And the sword, like the other weapons changed dramatically over the centuries as technology changed.

The History of the Sword
The first swords were made of bronze over two thousand years ago. They were rather short and predominantly used as stabbing weapons. Around the 13th century the Iron Age began and sword-making changed. Now swords could be made stronger and longer. They became slicing and stabbing weapons and they could be made at a reasonable cost so armies could be equipped with basic weapons.

The Late Middle Ages
After the 13th century as armor made advances in its ability to protect so the sword also made advances in its ability to thwart the defenses. Some of the advances during this time are the longer handle which allowed for two handed use and a variety of specialized swords that could cut and thrust; seeking out weaknesses in armor.

War Hammers
This weapon was a natural extension of the blacksmith hammer. It had a hammer on one end which could deliver a shocking blow and on the other end it often had a pick like point that could be used to penetrate the armor of an opponent.

The Mace
This was the basic weapon of a knight and it was very popular in the early middle ages because it was easy to build, often it was made of wood with no metal or with spikes sticking out of the head. It was used to deliver massive blows to the enemy. The one shown here is called a flanged mace and it had small flanged that came to a point that could pierce armor. When a mace had a ball on the end of it and long spikes like nails it was called a morning star mace.
**The Flail**

The flail was a very effective weapon but it was not very popular among knights. The effectiveness of the flail was that it could be swung and the chain and ball could wrap itself up and around an opponent’s shield to find its target. Swinging a flail could generate a tremendous force, much more than that of a mace. The flail shown here is a morning star flail because of the morning stars at the end of the chain.

**Jousting and Mounted Weapons**

One of the most important sets of weapons that a knight used were the polearm weapons that were wielded while on horseback. These weapons were longer than the normal weapon and usually anywhere from six to twelve feet in length. You are probably familiar with the Lance. It was used to dismount other knights from their horses and the jousting version was hollow and blunted so as not to seriously injure the opponent. Other polearm weapons that a knight used were the Poleaxe, the Spear, and the Halberd.

**The Dagger**, was a small knife-like sword weapon used to kill someone when they did not expect it. This was not a popular weapon because it was considered to be sneaky and for assassins. In later centuries the dagger regained some of its esteem as a ceremonial and dress weapon for show and display.

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**Axe** - The Axe was a fearsome weapon. It combined many different tactics into one weapon. The Main blade of course was something to be feared but there were other aspects that made it a formidable weapon. The Medieval axe often had a pick like weapon opposite the blade as in this example. Sometimes it had a second blade or even a hammer. It was a feared close combat weapon. Many of them also had some kind of tool at the bottom of the handle. This could be used to pierce and puncture.

**Halberd** - This was a polearm weapon that was often six feet long or more. It was an effective weapon in that it often had a slicing blade like an axe, a pointed end for stabbing and a hook for pulling at the opponent.

**Bows**

Bows are a type of weapon that has been used for hundreds, possibly thousands of years. They have seen use in many different cultures across the entire planet and come in many variations. The typical idea of a bow is to bend a length of wood by connecting its two ends with a string. This would bow the wood and cause the string to be very tense. A projectile (arrow) could then be pulled against the string and fired.

When we think of a Medieval Bow we generally think of the English Longbow. This was a very large bow used for warfare. It could be as tall as the man holding it and usually weighed around 1 1/2 to 2 pounds. And it could have a draw
weight up to around 180 pounds or even more which is an enormous amount of force. This type of bow was very popular in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The bow itself was an effective weapon for several hundred years because it had a good range and reasonable accuracy but the bow fell out of favor as technology changed. The crossbow was a weapon that far surpassed the longbow because it had a far superior range and could be learned in much less time. A good longbowman took a long time to learn how to use his weapon effectively but a crossbowman could use his weapon with very little training.

**The Polearm**

Medieval polearms are what they lead you to believe they are: weapons on a pole. This pole could be anywhere from 5 to 16 feet long. And the term "polearm" covers a lot of different weapons, and these weapons changed over the centuries. The predominant advantage to a polearm was its reach. With it you could attack your enemy from a distance. And if your enemy had shorter weapons this could be quite an advantage.

The Parts of a Polearm: There were a lot of variations in polearms and these variations were mostly in the type of weapon or head that was mounted on the end of the pole.

But here are some general similarities:

- They varied in size between 5 and 16 feet in length (Jousting Lances could reach as long as 20 feet but these were non combat)
- The handles were made of wood
- The Weapon head was made of metal
- The Weapon head was often attached to the wooden handle by means of something called Langets. Which were metal straps.

**Medieval Siege Weapons**

**Battering Rams:** They were large mechanical objects, often on wheels that were used to ram the walls and doors of a castle in an attempt to break them down. Often times battering rams were part of a siege tower. They have wooden structures around them to protect the operators of the ram.

One of the weaknesses of the battering ram was the fact that it had to be brought right up to the castle door or wall which made the attackers vulnerable. This was alleviated at first by siege towers which were heavily armored. In later years the battering ram was largely replaced by the weapons that could hurl objects at the castle. These were weapons like the catapult and the trebuchet.
Catapults

The Catapult was a large military machine that was used to hurl objects such as rocks and spears. These catapults could generate tremendous force and hurl large objects over long distances. The catapult was replaced by the more effective Trebuchet which could launch projectiles over even longer distances. The Trebuchet was also easier to build.

Trebuchet - Similar to the catapult in that it was designed to throw large objects but it was more efficient than a catapult because it could be built faster and at less cost. Yet it could throw heavier objects even further. The basic theory of the Trebuchet was like that of a see saw. One end had a heavy weight. The other end extended much longer and had a sling where the thrown object was put. When the trebuchet was activated the heavy weight would fall and the swinging of the see-saw would propel the object.

Other Siege Tactics

1. **Deception:** Spies were used to infiltrate the castle. They could, at night, open the castle gates or wreak havoc on the interior defenses of the castle. The most famous case of this tactic is the Trojan Horse.
2. **Treachery:** Someone trusted within the power structure of the castle could give misleading information that would bring down the castle. He could for example report that there were many more troops sieging the castle than there actually were. This would induce the castle residents to either revolt or surrender out of fear.
3. **Starvation:** This was a method used but it often meant many months, sometimes even a year or more. The sieging army would station itself around the castle and not allow any form of commerce. Eventually the inhabitants would surrender due to imminent starvation.
4. **Biological warfare:** Yep that's right. A sieging force could launch the remains of rotting corpses into the castle causing outbreaks of life-threatening illness.
5. **Simple storm:** The sieging force could carry on an all out attack at various points of the castle. This overwhelming would hopefully breakthrough in some places causing a collapse in defenses.
6. **Mining:** The sieging army would actually dig tunnels under the castle. The hope was not so much for an entry into the castle but for a way to collapse the castle defenses.
Creating the flip book

**Step 1:**
To create the flip book, first get 2 pieces of white, computer paper. Fold each sheet in half and cut along that crease.

**Step 2:**
You should now have 4 sheets of equal size paper.

**Step 3:**
Take the first sheet of paper and fold it almost in half leaving about ½” at the bottom.

**Step 4:**
Take your next long sheet of paper and lay it on the desk. Then place the folded sheet on top of it leaving about ½” on the bottom.

**Step 5:**
Fold this bottom sheet along the fold of the other sheet so that you end up with 4 tabs.

**Step 6:**
Continue that process with the other 2 long sheets of paper until you have all 8 of your tabs.

Put two staples at the top
Medieval
Knights
Weapons

Joe Knight
Per. 1

4 Knight Weapons

4 Knight Weapons

2 Siege Weapons

3 of the 6 Siege tactics

Sword
Pole Arm
Ax
Dagger
Catapult
Trebuchet
Other Siege Tactics