middle ages key terms

- **middle ages** - The period of time between the fall of the Roman Empire and the Protestant Reformation; approximately between the years 500 A.D. and 1500 A.D.

- **feudalism** - A system based on giving land in exchange for loyalty and military services (also called feudal system or manorial system)

- **onarch** - A single ruler of an area; a king or queen

- **noble** - A person who protects the land given to him by a monarch

- **manor** - The home of a noble; usually made up of a castle and land around it

- **knight** - A professional soldier who would fight for the land when needed

- **peasants** - Poor farmers who worked for land owners

- **serfs** - Poor people who were bound to the land and could not leave without getting permission from the land owner; slaves

- **barter** - Trade