

Name: _____

Date: _____

BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN

In AD 476, warriors attacked the city of Rome and ended more than 800 years of glory for the "Eternal City." Historians mark the fall of Rome as the end of ancient history. The next one thousand years were called the Middle Ages. The Latin term for Middle Ages is "medieval."

The beginning of the Middle Ages is often called the "Dark Ages" because the great civilizations of Greece and Rome had fallen. Life in Western Europe during the Middle Ages was very hard. Very few people could read or write and nobody expected conditions to improve. The only hope for most people during the Middle Ages was their strong belief in Christianity, and the hope that

life in heaven would be better than life on earth.

The Dark Ages were anything but dark in other parts of the world. The Muslims in the Middle East and North Africa studied and improved on the works of the ancient Greeks while civilization flourished in sub-Saharan Africa, China, India, and the Americas.

Europe began to experience great change by about 1450. Within one hundred years, Columbus had sailed to America, literacy spread, scientists made great discoveries, and artists created work that still inspires us today. Historians call the next period of European history the "Renaissance," or the "rebirth." The Renaissance is the beginning of modern history.

Fill in the Blanks

The Middle Ages is the period between a _____ and m_____ history. The early period of the Middle Ages is known as the "D_____ Ages" because the great c_____ of G_____ and R_____ had fallen. Life during this *e_a was *d_f_c_l_ and few people expected conditions to i_____.

Civilization *f_o_r_sh_d in other parts of the world during the M_____ Ages. M_____ in the Middle East and North A_____ studied and improved upon the works of the G_____. Other civilizations prospered in sub-Saharan Africa, C_____, India, and the A_____.

The M_____ Ages ended about one *t_____ years after they began. Within the next c_n_u_y, Europeans would learn of a "New World" across the *A_____ Ocean, l_____ would spread, and s_____ and a_____ would advance our culture. Historians refer to the next period of *E_____ history as the "R_____" or the r_____ of E_____. The Renaissance was considered the b_____ of m_____ history.

Answer in complete sentences

1. Why are the early Middle Ages called the "Dark Ages?"

*2. How did the destruction of Rome cause life to become more difficult throughout Europe?
