OFFER MUST END BY THE EARLY 1500's
How important was religion and the Church in the Middle Ages?
Learning Outcomes

✓ Understand **what role** the church and religion played in medieval peoples’ lives
✓ **Analyze the message and purpose** of “doom paintings”
✓ Evaluate **how** important the Church was in Medieval Europe
What do these churches tell you about religion in the Middle Ages?
Catholic (Christianity) was the only religion
Everyone went to church
Services were in Latin
Paintings and Statues were important, because they helped people understand the messages
People believed that going to church would get them into heaven
The alternatives to heaven were purgatory (“in between”) or hell
Churches were usually the places that looked after the poor and gave help to people that were sick. Hospitals were often attached to churches, and could be run by Nuns and Monks (people who had pledged their lives to God).

Ordinary people who farmed the land or reared animals had to give the priest one tenth of all the food they produced every year. This was called a tithe and was a kind of tax.
How was the Church structured?

- **Pope.** Representative of God on Earth. Based in Rome.
- **Archbishops and bishops.** Often rich and powerful and owned a lot of land. King’s advisers.
- **Parish priests.** Poor and led all of the people in church.
- **Nuns and Monks.** Live and work in monasteries, dedicating their lives to God.
Many were unable to read or write – they learnt the Latin services off by heart.

Spent a lot of time helping villagers, holding ceremonies and looking after sick.
Can you name any of the seven deadly sins?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sin</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Punishment in hell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pride</td>
<td>Tied to a wheel on a heavy cart which is rolled around</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Envy</td>
<td>Being jealous</td>
<td>Pit into freezing water until your limbs snap off</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greed</td>
<td>Wanting to many possessions</td>
<td>Put into boiling water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lust</td>
<td>Loving others too much</td>
<td>Coated in fire and brimstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>Being cruel and harsh</td>
<td>Ripped apart limb from limb while still alive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gluttony</td>
<td>Eating and drinking too much</td>
<td>Forced to eat raw rats, toads and snakes while they are alive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloth</td>
<td>Being lazy</td>
<td>Thrown into a pit of poisonous man-eating snakes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Doom paintings like these appeared in churches across Europe.
• There were many like the images you just saw; they were called **doom paintings**.

• Doom paintings were made to make people **fear** going to hell so they should be good in their lives.
In pairs:

1) Label some of things that you can see.
2) We will put them up around the classroom
3) Gallery Walk
4) Answer questions (individually)

TASK: Analyze Doom Painting
Murderers being boiled in a pot.

Demons pulling people off the ladder.

A bridge of spikes.

Christ defeating the devil.
**Task:** You are to record information about the four routes to Heaven as you walk around the room.

You should record 3 pieces of information for each of the routes.
Task: Design a guidance poster for people in the medieval ages.

Either for all 4 routes

OR

Just 1 route.
Which routes do you recommend?

1) A peasant and his wife, poor hardworking peasants.

2) A rich merchant who travels around a lot.

3) The wife of a nobleman who died in the Crusades.

4) A tradesmen and his wife. Whilst not rich they have a little money to spare.
• Not many people believed in God in the medieval period.

• People used religion to explain things they didn’t understand.

• People believed that heaven and hell were very real places.

• The villagers didn’t have to pay anything to the church.