



Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program is a TEKS-aligned language arts curriculum designed to support Texas learners in the classroom, at home, or wherever learning takes place. Built on the science of teaching reading, the program combines systematic foundational skills with content knowledge—so that learning to read and reading to learn develop together.

Welcome to Grade 4, Unit 1, *Empires in the Middle Ages, Part 1*! Here is what your student will be learning about over the next few weeks.

Empires in the Middle Ages covers the Middle Ages in Europe and the Islamic Medieval Empires. Students will explore these two separate regions and their medieval history and will analyze the impact they have had on the modern world.

Your student will continue to develop their background knowledge to help them comprehend the variety of complex texts they will be reading. They will be engaging in deep conversations with their peers to further develop their understanding of the world around them.

There are numerous writing opportunities your student will have throughout this unit. These opportunities will be directly related to what they are reading in their Student Readers. Students will review the stages of the writing process by taking notes on the information presented in their Reader. They will use this information to form an opinion and draft a persuasive paragraph in response to what they have read.

While your student engages in the rich content and lessons throughout the unit, here are a few conversation starters you can use to promote discussion and continued learning.

- What is the Middle Ages?
 - Follow up: Why is it called that?
- What do you think were some of the positive things about living in towns during the Middle Ages?
 - Follow up: What were some negative things?
- You learned about the word *rival* (i.e., competing). Can you tell me what *rival* means by using it in a sentence?

- Follow up: What is an antonym (opposite meaning) of *rival*? And a synonym (same meaning)?
- How did an aspiring knight prepare for knighthood?
 - Follow up: What do you think would have been the hardest thing about that preparation?
- What type of craftsmen existed in the Middle Ages?
 - Follow up: What type of craftsman would you have wanted to be?