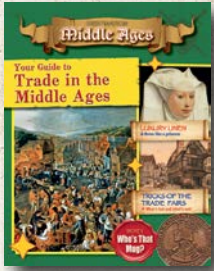
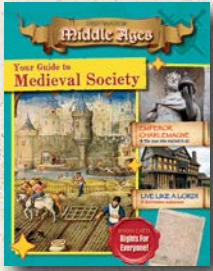
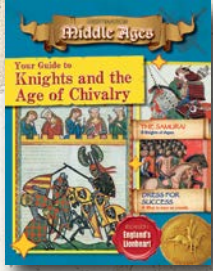
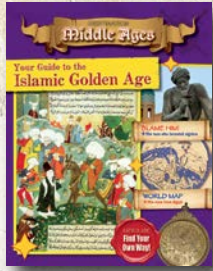
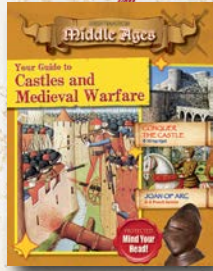
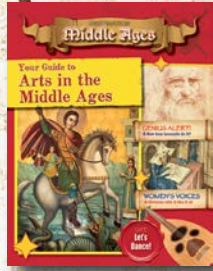


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 Interest Level: Grades 5-8+
 32 pages, 8½ x 10¾", full color
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- Highly motivating, integrated writing prompts encourage readers to respond using evidence from the text

From Your Guide to Trade in the Middle Ages

A Little Bit of History

During the Middle Ages, trade was affected by events ranging from new inventions to natural disasters. The impact of such events was key to the development of medieval trade.

Golden Money
 In the 1200s, the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II began a fashion for using gold to make coins.

GROWTH OF TOWNS
 Urban spread speeds change
 In the 1000s, inventions such as the horse collar, the windmill, and the heavy plow made farming easier. Fewer workers could produce more crops. People began to move to find work in towns, and cities became centers of trade as a result. Across Europe, towns drove advances in technology and new forms of business, such as banking.

MARCO POLO
 Polo works for Chinese emperor
 Writes a European bestseller
 In around 1300 a merchant from Venice (right) named Marco Polo wrote *Book of the Marvels of the World* after his travels to China.

BLACK DEATH
 History's deadliest disease
 In 1347 the Black Death reached Europe from Asia. The disease appeared in Italy, then spread to France, Spain, and England. By 1350 it had reached Germany and Scandinavia. The plague killed around half of all Europeans. There were not enough people left to farm the land. Workers who survived were in demand and could demand more pay from employers. Many quit the land where their families had lived for centuries and moved to find new jobs.

WHAT'S NEW?
 If you're a fan of sailing, listen out for exciting developments in southwestern Europe. Sailors in Spain and Portugal were constantly improving their vessels. They have come up with sturdy new ships for ocean crossings that are stable enough to carry valuable cargo. It looks as though these caravels and carracks will allow them to explore sea routes around Africa and across the Atlantic by the 1500s.

FAIRS IN CHAMPAGNE
 Let's all go to the fair...
 In the 1100s and 1200s, the heart of European trade lay in the Champagne region of northeast France. Towns held trading fairs six times a year. Merchants arrived with their goods, which they stored in huge warehouses. After setting up their stalls, they traded with other merchants. Payment was collected at the end of the fair.



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