

WORKSHEET 4

A. Look at these two paintings of a medieval market and answer the questions:

- Where does the market take place?
- What products can you see that are on sale?



English medieval market during Henry III's reign

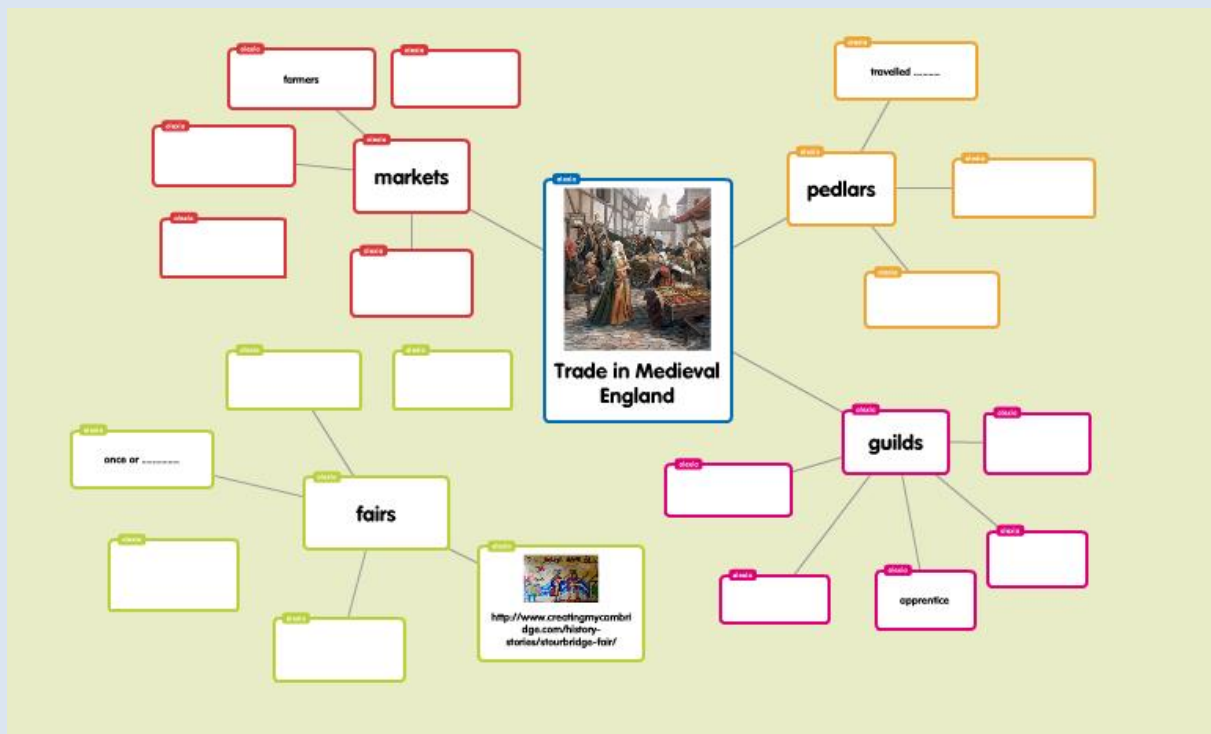
Source: <http://www.museumofthecity.org/project/city-market-places/>



Follower of Joachim Beuckelaer, Ecce Homo in a Market-place

Source: <http://rembrandttoreynolds.blogspot.gr/2015/01/>

B. Read the text below about trade in the Middle Ages in England and complete the mind map below. The map can also be found here:
<http://popplet.com/app/#/4646937>



Medieval Markets and Fairs in England

Markets

In pre-19th century England, the majority of the population made their living through agriculture and livestock farming. Market towns* often grew close to castles to enjoy their protection. Weekly markets and fairs were the main way in which medieval people bought and sold goods. Farmers and craftsmen from the countryside would take their goods into the towns to sell at the markets.

Shopkeepers in the towns had to shut their own shops on market days and sell from the stalls. Villagers from outside the towns would go to the markets and fairs to buy goods they could not get locally.

Fairs

Once or twice a year huge fairs were held in the bigger towns. These fairs could last for days and even weeks. The range of goods available was much larger than the local markets and included goods from other countries. Due to the Crusades, which opened new routes via Italy, there was much more interest in foreign goods and merchants from the East were welcomed to sell fine clothes, wines, spices, food, raw materials, furs, cloth, glass, jewels and lace. One of the largest fairs in England was the Stourbridge** fair held near Cambridge after the September harvest and could last for five weeks.

Pedlars

Pedlars travelled from village to village, selling goods from their carts and were a source of news.

Guilds

A Merchant Guild was an association of traders who were very important members of the medieval town community. The master of his trade owned a shop and had an apprentice whom he trained. Mastering a trade could take seven years or more and the apprentice would live with the master and his family while he learnt. Once the apprentice was sufficiently skilled he could join the guild and become journeyman. The journeyman travelled from village to village and from town to town and got paid for working on a daily basis. If a journeyman earned enough money he could buy or rent a shop of his own but most could not afford it, so they remained travellers. Shops not only sold the goods but could be the places where the goods were made. This allowed buyers to see the goods being crafted.

From: <http://www.timeref.com/life/trading.htm>

**Market town or market right is a legal term, originating in the medieval period, for a European settlement that has the right to host markets, distinguishing it from a village and city.*

*** You can find more about the largest medieval fair in England here: <http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/history-stories/stourbridge-fair/>*

C. Sort the words below and place them in one of the categories of WS3.

farmers, craftsmen, shopkeepers, merchants, wines, spices, furs, traders, jewels, lace, pedlars, apprentice, buyers



D. Compare a medieval street market with a modern street market. Complete the Venn diagram below.

