

History in Depth

Craft Guilds

Craft guilds formed an important part of town life during the medieval period. They trained young people in a skilled job, regulated the quality of goods sold, and were major forces in community life.

Guild Services

To members:	To the community:
Set working conditions	Built almshouses for victims of misfortune
Covered members with a type of health insurance	Guaranteed quality work
Provided funeral expenses	Took turns policing the streets
Provided dowries for poor girls	Donated windows to the Church

Apprentice

- Parents paid for training
- Lived with a master and his family
- Required to obey the master
- Trained 2–7 years
- Was not allowed to marry during training
- When trained progressed to journeyman



Journeyman

- (Day Worker)
- Worked for a master to earn a salary
 - Worked 6 days a week
 - Needed to produce a masterpiece (his finest work) to become a master
 - Had to be accepted by the guild to become a master



Master

- Owned his own shop
- Worked with other masters to protect their trade
- Sometimes served in civic government



Critical Thinking

Analyze Effects How did craft guilds affect community life?

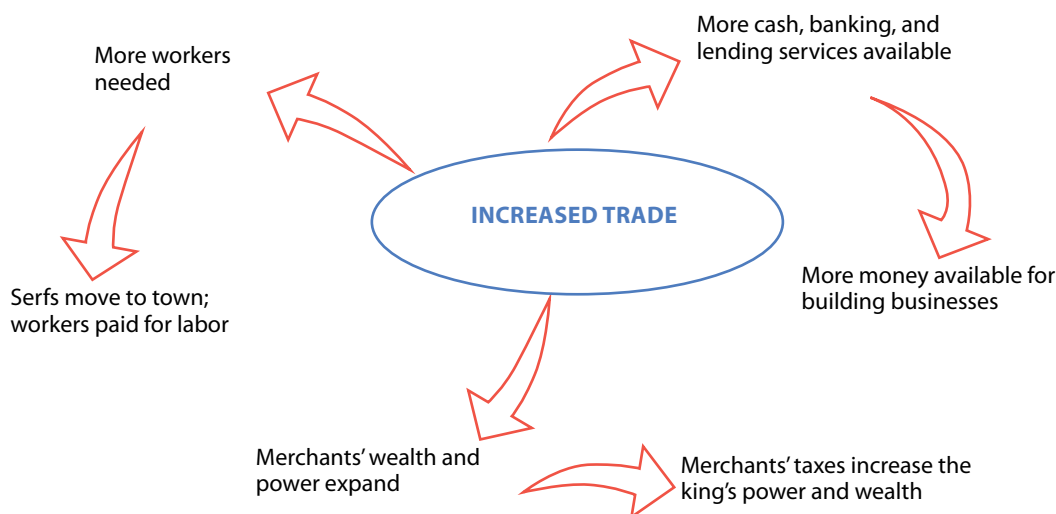
Commercial Revolution

Just as agriculture was expanding and craftsmanship changing, so were trade and finance. Increased availability of trade goods and new ways of doing business changed life in Europe. Taken together, this expansion of trade and business is called the **Commercial Revolution**.

Fairs and Trade Most trade took place in towns. Peasants from nearby manors traveled to town on fair days, hauling items to trade. Great fairs were held several times a year, usually during religious festivals, when many people would be in town. People visited the stalls set up by merchants from all parts of Europe.

Cloth was the most common trade item. Other items included bacon, salt, honey, cheese, wine, leather, dyes, knives, and ropes. Such local markets met all the needs of daily life for a small community. No longer was everything produced on a self-sufficient manor.

The Commercial Revolution



Interpret Graphics

- 1. Draw Conclusions** How did increased trade increase the power of the king?
- 2. Make Inferences** Why would workers now have to be paid?

Reading Check

Draw Conclusions
Why were changes in financial services necessary to expand trade?

Society Changes The changes brought about by the Commercial Revolution were slow, yet they had a major effect on the lives of Europeans. Increased trade brought many changes to aspects of society. Two of the most important changes involved what people did to earn a living and where they lived. As towns attracted workers, the towns grew into cities. Life in the cities was different from life in the sleepy villages or on manors.

Urban Life Flourishes

Scholars estimate that between 1000 and 1150, the population of western Europe rose from around 30 million to about 42 million. Towns grew and flourished. Compared to great cities like Constantinople, European towns were unsophisticated and tiny. Europe's largest city, Paris, probably had no more than 60,000 people by the year 1200. A typical town in medieval Europe had only about 1,500 to 2,500 people. Even so, these small communities became a powerful force for change in Europe.

Trade and Towns Grow Together By the later Middle Ages, trade was the very lifeblood of the new towns, which sprung up at ports and crossroads, on hilltops, and along rivers. As trade grew, towns all over Europe swelled with people. The excitement and bustle of towns drew many people. But there were some drawbacks to living in a medieval town. Streets were narrow, filled with animals and their waste. With no sewers, most people dumped household and human waste into the street in front of the house. Most people never bathed, and their houses lacked fresh air, light,