

name: _____

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The Cloister's Role in the Middle Ages



In the _____, monastic life was at the heart of European culture. Monks dedicated their lives to _____ growth and learning. At the center of this life was the _____, an open courtyard surrounded by covered walkways. It was in these walkways that monks would engage in _____ and silent prayer. Each cloister was part of a larger _____, which often included a church, living quarters, and sometimes a library.

The architecture of a cloister was not just functional, but also _____. Its open square represented the universe, and the _____ layout symbolized Christianity. In England, these cloisters were often beautifully decorated with _____ and intricate stonework, reflecting the artistic skills of the time.

The daily life of a monk was regimented and _____. They followed the Rule of St. _____, which prescribed times for prayer, work, and study. Work was a key part of life; monks were often involved in _____, brewing, or copying manuscripts. This labor was not only for sustenance but also a form of _____ exercise.

Monasteries were also centers of _____ and knowledge. Many monks were skilled in reading and writing, which was rare in medieval society. They played a crucial role in preserving _____ and knowledge from the ancient world. Moreover, monasteries often served as places of _____ for travelers, reflecting the monks' commitment to charity and service.

The decline of monasticism in England began with the Dissolution of the _____ under Henry VIII. This marked the end of an era, but the legacy of these cloisters in culture, architecture, and _____ remains significant even today.

sculptures

Monasteries

hospitality

spiritual

symbolic

contemplation

disciplined

texts

cloister

Benedict

farming

history

education

cross-shaped

Middle Ages

spiritual

monastery