

MIKE DUNAJEW
MEDIEVAL HISTORY EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Bringing History Alive

For Your Students

AN ENJOYABLE AND PARTICIPATIVE WAY TO LEARN MEDIEVAL HISTORY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENQUIRY.

This information pack is designed to give teachers and educators a more in-depth look at the services I can offer your school. It is by no means exhaustive, as I am very happy to custom design a presentation to meet your requirements.

Background

I have been involved in medieval re-enactment and living history for well over 20 years, focusing mainly on the dark ages, early medieval and high middle ages. I have been manufacturing authentic medieval armour for over 35 years and have built full scale medieval siege engines such as trebuchets. I am currently studying a double history major at the University of New England. I have worked in providing medieval history education for several years in Victoria, and after relocating back to my home town – Adelaide in 2010, I feel that I can offer similar services to South Australian schools.

As an alternative to classroom lecture based teaching, I offer a different approach to medieval history. This approach stems from my own curiosity as a child when I wanted to know what it would be like to wear chainmail armour, so I figured out how to make it and did exactly that. Since then I have continued to expand my own knowledge through, what is now called “practical archaeology”, making my own historical clothing, jewelry, equipment, arms and armour. This depth of knowledge and experience I offer to your students in a series of interactive presentations where the students are encouraged to join in, ask questions, and try for themselves. Many of these presentations are delivered “in character” to better bring the history alive for your students.

Why would you use my services?

It's something fun, different, interactive and memorable for the students.

Flexible bookings ranging from just single subjects, to full day medieval encampments and even multiple visits, allow you to tailor how you would like to deliver the content to your students.

I visit your school so you don't have the hassles and costs of organizing excursions.

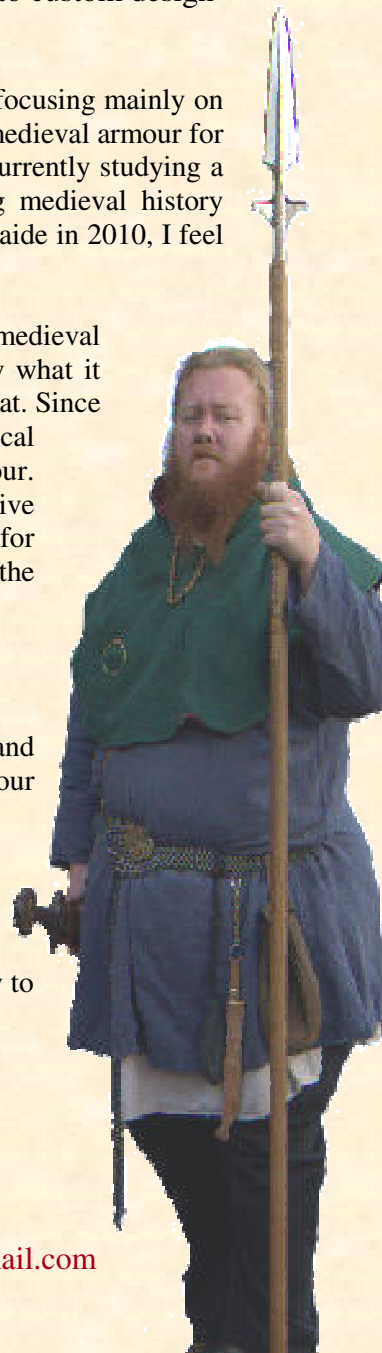
I am also happy to develop presentations based on subjects you suggest. If there is a topic you would like me to present to meet a particular curriculum requirement, I'm happy to put a presentation together for you.

Please phone or email me to discuss your requirements,

Mike Dunajew

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SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

MEDIEVAL ARMOUR

APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR

Students meet face-to-face with a real life medieval armourer. See how real, handmade armour actually works. See the benefits and limitations, what do different types of armour protect a person from? What are the positive and the negative effects of wearing armour? There's even an opportunity to get one of your teachers "Dressed up for battle" and show students how even a person who is *not* trained from childhood can actually do almost anything in armour. Students can handle real pieces of armour, helmets and shields and ask all the questions they like, busting more than a few of the horrible "Hollywood myths" along the way...



THE FEUDAL SOCIETY

45 – 60 MINUTES

Students explore the hierarchy of the medieval feudal system using the chess board as an example as we look at the roles of the King and Queen, the Clergy, the Knights, the Barons and their Castles, merchants, trades people, the peasants and serfs. Students can learn how the society of the feudal system was dependent on people at all levels, and how each had responsibilities to both those above them and those below.



WHO WERE THE VIKINGS?

30 – 45 MINUTES



Introduces Students to the Vikings! Were they just bloodthirsty raiders, intrepid explorers, or cunning traders? Where did they go and what did they achieve? An overview of the culture and times of one of the most misunderstood peoples. Meet a Viking and hear his native tongue. Learn about his life and folklore, find out how much our society owes medieval Scandinavia, and bust a few Hollywood myths about the "Northmen".

WEAPONS DISPLAY

45 – 60 MINUTES

Here students meet the tools of trade for the knight, soldier, viking, mercenary and archer in this live demonstration of what real medieval weapons are capable of. Students can see what a sword will do when it is used against an unruly pumpkin, or how effective a spear can be against a recalcitrant melon.



Strictly supervised for safety, this activity can, at the discretion of teachers, even allow student

participation so that students can appreciate the heft and weight of these weapons and understand the skill and training required to use them effectively on the medieval battlefield.

Best done outdoors on the school oval or similar space as it can get...messy!

VIKING SOCIETY

45 – 60 MINUTES

An in depth look at the hierarchy and structure of the Viking culture in early-medieval Scandinavia. Students are introduced to Viking ideas such as democracy and politics, laws and the legal system, religion and mythology, and the Norse class system. An ideal opportunity for students to ask questions and find out more about the people of Medieval Scandinavia.

MEDIEVAL GAMES

1 HOUR MINIMUM

OUT DOORS AND IN DOORS VERSIONS AVAILABLE



A fun activity for students as they enjoy the competitive medieval team game of Kubb - a truly addictive outdoor game which is still very popular in Scandinavia today! Kubb involves two teams who must work to thwart the advances of the opposing wooden army whilst advancing their own. Kubb uses an outdoors area, preferably grassed, approximately 6m x 10m and involves students eye/hand co-ordination, strategic skills and team work if either team is to achieve an outcome.

If indoors is a must then the traditional medieval board games are a must! Game boards were often carved into the seats on Viking ships, or into the tables in medieval taverns. The games presented include classic board games such as Nine Men's Morris, Fox and Geese, and Viking "Tafel" games which all employ students' ability to plan strategies, seek and utilize opportunities, and enjoy challenges in friendly competition.

Copies of the rules for Kubb and the board games will be left with the teachers, along with printed copies of the game boards.

VIKING STORYTELLING

30 – 90 MINUTES



Fun for all ages. Traditional Viking stories of great heroes, evil villains, monsters, courageous warbands, and colourful characters from history and Norse mythology. Imagine being in a great hall hearing the bard telling stories for the entertainment of all... as thousand year old tales are brought back to life! Hear tales of mighty Thor, and crafty Loki, of beautiful goddesses and fantastic Giants! Hear of the fabled Jomsvikings and their code of honour! Hear of Tyr the Bravest and the wolf Fenrir, of brave Beowulf and the troll Grendel! Each session's stories are chosen to suit the year level of the students. Younger students will enjoy hearing tell of Thor's fishing trip, whilst more mature level students will enjoy tales of the Jomsvikings, or Harald Hardrada's Escape.

HANDS ON CHAINMAIL WORKSHOP

Ideal for the creative and crafty students. With this workshop your students can obtain hands on experience in making real chainmail, just like the armourer's apprentices of the 11th and 12th centuries. With the assistance of a real life medieval armourer your class can work together to produce their very own piece of chainmail as a medieval keepsake. All materials are supplied and as many tools as possible. Instructions for making chainmail and a supply of extra materials and instructions can be left with the teachers for any students who are interested in continuing the project. Larger groups may be required to share tools. Limited to approximately 20 students at a time.

ALLOW 2 HOURS



THE SIEGE ENGINES

Utilising working scale model siege engines, (I would love to bring the full size ones to your school, but they are just too large and heavy to transport easily), students can see and appreciate the medieval engineers' craft. Students can see just how the different types of siege engines work and, space allowing, test fire the working models which include a Roman onager, Greek ballista, an English trebuchet and the almost universal staff sling. Each model is explored with a presentation about the history, use, mechanics and physics, of the various types. Plans for students to build their own models can be left with teachers.



THE CRUSADES

45 – 60 MINUTES

Why did thousands of European people from all walks of life, not just knights and soldiers, but peasants, priests, tradesmen, even children, abandon their homes and their lives to walk to the Holy Land? Focussing on the first Crusade, explore the reasons and motives behind the Crusades.

VIKING INVASION OF ENGLAND

30 – 45 MINUTES

Told by a member of “The Great Army” which invaded England in the 860’s, this unit introduces students to historical figures such as Ivar the Boneless, Aella of Northumbria, Guthrim, and Alfred the Great. Detailing the conflict between the raiding and invading Danes and the separate Kingdoms of what we now call England, which resulted in a long lasting Viking legacy still evident in England today!

OTHER SUBJECTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

If your curriculum requires a subject not listed here, please let me know so I can develop a presentation to fulfill that requirement.

SUBJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

ENGLAND 1066

Why is this such an important date? This presentation gives students an overview of the events leading up to the Battle of

Hastings and the subsequent shift in English power from an Anglo Saxon base to a Norman base under Duke William of Normandy. Explore the reasons why the Normans were so successful

and the tactics they used. Similarly, student can gain insight into why the Saxons under Harold Godwinsson were defeated, and into their victory at the battle at Stamford Bridge only weeks earlier, against Harald “Hardrada” of Norway.



THE NORMANS

Just who were the Normans? From their origins as Viking raiders in the north of France, the Normans quickly established themselves as the ruling class of the Duchy of Normandy. Students can learn how they quickly integrated into local society and expanded their influence to include England, Ireland, Wales, Italy, Sicily, North Africa, and parts of the Middle East. With historical figures such as Duke William “The Bastard” of Normandy, The De Hauteville Family, and King Roger II of Sicily there is no end of adventure and conquest to captivate students, yet these were men ahead of their time in many ways.

THE SHIELD WALL

Your students can experience the feel of a medieval battle! This session puts your students in the shoes of medieval soldiers. Each person in the shield wall protects not only themselves but the people next to them, as they also rely on those around them to keep them safe too. See how a shield wall worked as a team on the medieval battlefield. Students can see just how much co-ordination it takes to have a group of people protect each other and still be able to move about together... Then we add a deadly hail of tennis balls!

PRICING

In order to keep my presentations as cost effective as possible and simplify bookings I have a flat fee for each subject.

With a minimum of only one subject, this allows you much more flexibility in the way my presentations are delivered to your students. I can set aside a whole day for your students with 5 or 6 subjects planned, I can visit your school and present a couple of subjects in an afternoon or even book in for several visits with a single different topic each time.

The table below lists the various subject I currently offer and the corresponding fee.

SUBJECT	Fee
Medieval Armour	\$150
Feudal Society	\$120
Who Were The Vikings?	\$100
Weapons Display	\$150
Arms and Armour (combined armour and weapons displays)	\$240
Viking Society	\$100
Medieval Games	\$150
Viking Story Telling	\$100
The Crusades	\$120
Viking Invasion of England	\$100
Hands on Chainmail Workshop — Subject to class sizes	\$12 per student
The Siege Engines	\$300

You will notice that the Hands on Chainmail Workshop is priced per student, this is due to the materials required. The chainmail rings are individually hand made by myself. There is a minimum of 10 students per session and a maximum of 20 students per session. Multiple sessions can be presented on the one day to accommodate larger groups.

For schools outside the Adelaide metro area, I do charge an extra fee based on travel time and any accommodation expenses which may be needed. Please don't let the fact that your school is outside the metro area stop you from booking, I'm happy to travel!

It is recommended that for the best benefit to your students group sizes are kept to a maximum of approximately 2 normal classes or around 50-70 students. This allows greater access for students to ask questions, interact and get involved.

For larger groups, please contact me for a quote.

Ready to make that booking now?
Either call Mike on 0421 301595
Or Email : medievalconsultant@gmail.com