Canterbury Tales

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales: Geoffrey Chaucer

- Chaucer was born in London in the early 1340s
- English poet

The Canterbury Tales: The Language

Written in **Middle English** in the late 1300s

Chaucer wrote in the vernacular, the English that was spoken in and around London in his day.

Life in the Middle Ages: Historical & Cultural Background

1. Health: Black Death
2. History & Politics: Hundred Years War
3. Religion: Sale of Indulgences and Church Relics

Life in the Middle Ages: Morality & Societal Standards

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1. Code of Conduct: Chivalry
2. Approach to Romance: Courtly Love
3. Men of Honor: Knights

The Canterbury Tales: "The Prologue"

Pilgrimage to Canterbury (religious journey)

Tabard Inn

Contest for a free meal

"The Prologue" Characters

- Knight
- Squire
- Yeoman
- Prioress
- Monk
- Friar
- Merchant
- Oxford Cleric
- Serjeant at Law

- Franklin
- 5 Tradesmen
  - Haberdasher
  - Dyer
  - Carpenter
  - Weaver
  - Carpet-maker
- Cook
- Skipper
- Doctor

- Woman of Bath
- Parson
- Plowman
- Miller
- Manciple
- Reeve
- Summoner
- Pardoner

- **TURN TO "THE PROLOGUE"**
- **READ PAGES 1-5, THEN SKIM**
- **HIGHLIGHT EACH CHARACTER**