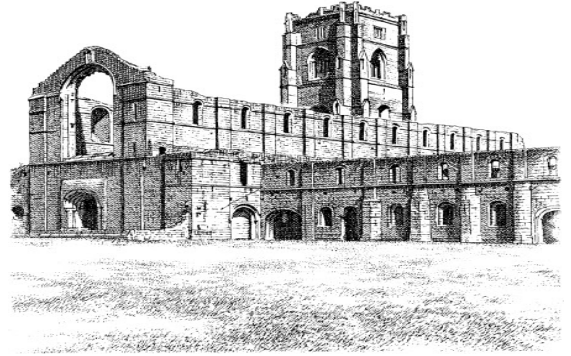




Key words – Medieval monasteries

A pre-visit activity

There are many specific key words linked to the lives of monks in the medieval monasteries like Fountains Abbey. This activity is useful to do in the classroom prior to your visit – students must match up the word on the left with its definition / description on the right. You can adapt the number of words to suit the age & ability of your group.



abbey

A group of buildings where monks (or nuns) live with an abbot (or abbess) in charge

abbot

The man in charge of an abbey; the word means 'father'

altar

The sacred table in a Christian church

Cistercian

A group (order) of monks who strictly follow the rules of St. Benedict

confession

Admitting / owning up when guilty of doing something wrong

cowl

A large, loose hood a monk wore as part of their habit (clothes)

lay-brothers

A separate group of men linked to the abbey who worked the land, looked after the animals, and took vows of obedience to the abbot

monastery

A single building where monks or nuns live

monk

A man who has taken vows and lives as a member of a religious community



Key words – Medieval monasteries

A pre-visit activity

nave

The part of the church which goes from the entrance to the crossing

novice

A new monk who is training

obedience

A vow that monks took promising to follow all the rules

postulant

A man hoping to join the monastery

poverty

A vow that monks took promising to be poor and have no possessions

Prior

The man second in charge of an abbey

processing

The monks walking together in lines

psalm

A sacred song or hymn from a book in the Bible

saint

An honour given to a Christian who is in heaven because they lived a holy life

tonsure

The shaved top of a monk's head



Further details for teacher information:

- Confession was followed by penance (punishment) and absolution (forgiveness)
- Psalms (a book in the Old Testament) contains songs of praise and worship and the choir monks had to learn them all
- The Rule of Saint Benedict was written in the 6th century describing how the monks should live and work together in a monastery
- Mass is a service of worship that involves receiving Holy Communion recalling the Last Supper