

Name _____

Quixote in History

Directions: Match each historical note about Spain's Golden Age or chivalric romance traditions to the way Cervantes used it in *Don Quixote*. Write the correct letter in the blank.

Historical Notes

- A. Spain's Golden Age (Siglo de Oro) was a period of flourishing art, literature, and exploration from the 16th-17th centuries.
- B. Cervantes lived during a time of social change, when people questioned outdated traditions.
- C. Chivalric romances were extremely popular in Spain and Europe during the 1500s, filled with knights, quests, and magical adventures.
- D. The decline of Spain's power and the hardships of ordinary people contrasted sharply with the idealized world of knights in old stories.



Connections to Don Quixote

1. Don Quixote imagines windmills are giants and sees inns as castles. (____)
2. The novel was published in 1605, at the height of Spain's artistic and literary creativity. (____)
3. Sancho Panza often represents the perspective of common people struggling with real-world concerns. (____)
4. Cervantes parodies knightly tales to show that they are out of step with modern life. (____)

Reflection Question: Briefly explain how knowing about Spain's Golden Age and the tradition of chivalric romances helps readers better understand *Don Quixote*. Do you think Cervantes was celebrating or criticizing his own culture? Why?
