

# An Italian town in the Middle Ages

**A.** What can you remember from the film? Complete the gapped text using the words in the box.

ancient Roman – Tuscany – 15 of them – High Middle Ages – stone (twice) – castles – outdo – merchants – wood – towers – prosperity – towers – market

1 In the South of Europe, \_\_\_\_\_ was much more easily available than \_\_\_\_\_ so the medieval towns of Italy are typically built of \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore better preserved. In Italy the \_\_\_\_\_ cities survived, leading to a rapid growth in prosperity. The towns developed into important \_\_\_\_\_ and financial centres. This encouraged noble landlords to leave their \_\_\_\_\_

5 and move into the towns. There they imitated the design of their rural castles and \_\_\_\_\_. The town of San Gimignano in \_\_\_\_\_ gives us a clear impression of what a town in the \_\_\_\_\_ in Italy would have looked like, punctuated by its many \_\_\_\_\_. Because the noblemen who now settled in the towns, and later also the wealthy \_\_\_\_\_, wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ each other in the heights and girths of their turrets. In San Gimignano there used to be 72 towers, \_\_\_\_\_

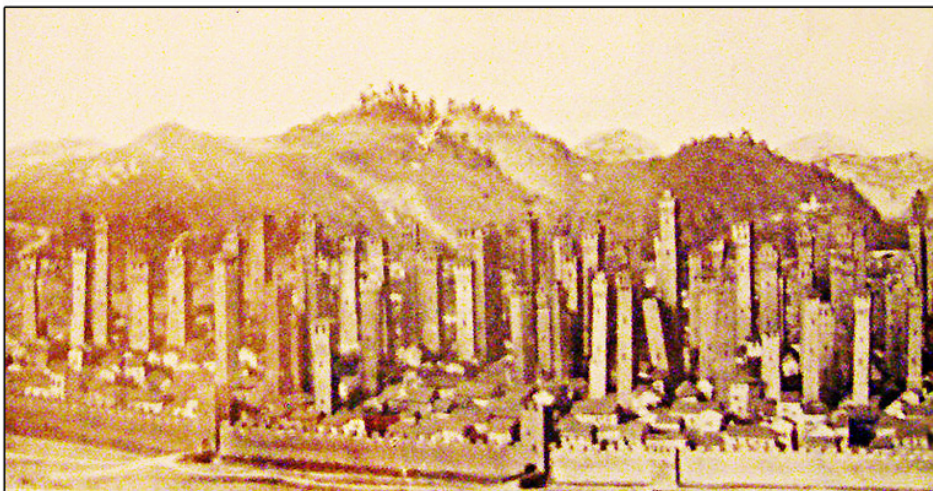
10 \_\_\_\_\_ still stand today.

San Gimignano  
(Tuscany, Italy)



**B.** How dramatic this "competition" to build higher and bigger towers was is shown on this drawing reconstructing medieval Bologna.

How many towers are shown in the picture? \_\_\_\_\_



Source: Wikipedia - „Bologna - Middle Ages“