

Session 7: The Middle Ages in Europe

Barbaric Invasions and The Age of Feudalism in Europe The Early Middle Ages

Performance Standards:

- SS.A.2.4.7 Understand the development of the political, social, economic, and religious systems of European civilization during the Middle Ages
- SS.B.2.4.3 Understand how the allocation of control of the Earth's surface affects interactions between people in different regions.

This unit explores the continued invasions of Western Europe by various barbarian tribes. The word "continued" is used here, because, as discussed in Session 6, one of the major reasons for the fall of Rome at the end of the fifth century A.D. is that it was not able to absorb the various tribes into the mainstream of Roman life.



1. Read **Invasions of Western Europe, The Franks, and Charlemagne**, in this Guide and correctly rewrite **Scrambled Sentences 7-A**.
2. **Sequencing:** Complete **Timeline 7-B**, a 900-year time period from 400 A.D. to 1400 A.D. Correctly place the Early Middle and the Later Middle Ages. Indicate the 1st and 2nd Feudal Periods. Complete **Sequencing 7-C**.
3. Complete the exercises: **7-D Reviewing Key Terms 1-22, 7-E Re-teaching 1-22** and **7-F Summarizing Information 1-3** in this Guide.
4. Complete **Multiple-Choice 1-19**, and **True-False 1-8** on pages 75-77 of your text.
5. Complete **7-G FCAT Extended Response**.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

6. **Ask for Session 7 Test.**
7. Suggested Film: **The Vikings**

Turn in all work to your Instructor

Invasions of Western Europe

The period from the fall of Rome in A.D. 476 through the 500 or so years that followed is known as the early Middle Ages. This period is characterized by a series of invasions, each more destructive than the one before. Western European cities were destroyed and violent and criminal behavior affected almost everyone. Valuable art was stolen and Rome, which at one time had a population of over one million, had a population of less than 50,000 by the end of the fifth century.

During the period of these invasions, learning and education were not considered important, and people could not and would not travel because of fear. Trade nearly stopped. Sea travel was especially dangerous because pirates sailed freely in search of treasure and plunder. It was not uncommon for towns to completely disappear after an attack.

The only organized group which tried to maintain some order was the Roman Catholic Church. This wasn't an easy task, however the Church had some strong-willed popes who were able eventually to restore peace among the various tribes. In fact, many tribal leaders converted to Christianity, particularly the great early leader of the Franks, Clovis.

The Franks

In 732, a leader of the Franks named Charles Martel, which means Charles the Hammer, defeated the Islamic invaders in France in what was called the Battle of Tours – one of the most important events in the history of Europe. By defeating the Moslems and driving them back to Spain, Charles Martel saved the Catholic Church in Europe. Perhaps today, Western Europe would be another Islamic region if Charles Martel had not been victorious.

The son of Martel, Pepin the Short, became the first king of the Franks. He defeated the Lombards in northern Italy and then gave those captured lands to the Pope in Italy. This action also was very important for the history of the church because with strong protection from the Franks, the Pope was able to begin a rule over a territory in Italy known as the Papal States. In addition, Byzantine and Islamic influence in Italy began to decline, while the power of the Roman Catholic Church continued to grow.

Charlemagne

Pepin the Short had a son named Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, who conquered more lands throughout Italy and present-day Germany. He remained on good terms with the Pope and became a devout Christian. Charlemagne tried to overthrow the power of the Moslems in Spain but was unsuccessful. He did, however, gain control of much of the rest of central Europe.

On Christmas Day, A.D. 800, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne the emperor of Rome, however, Charlemagne's empire was culturally much more Germanic than Roman.

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Unlike most of the barbaric rulers of his age, Charlemagne was skilled at holding his empire together, and he enjoyed learning. Neither of these was an easy task. Charlemagne traveled extensively around his empire, using his exceptional powers to keep his holdings strong. He was helped in this task by instituting a system of inspectors, who reported directly to him each year on the conditions of the empire.

After Charlemagne's death in A.D. 814, his sons squabbled among themselves and were unable to hold their father's empire together. Rich landowners and powerful military generals took power and a new era, known as the age of Feudalism, was about to begin in Europe.

The breakup of Charlemagne's empire was a direct result of the Treaty of Verdun, signed by his three grandsons in A.C. 843. Under the terms of this treaty, the empire was divided into the East Frankish Kingdom under Lothair, the Central Kingdom under Louis the German, and the West Frankish Kingdom ruled by Charles the Bald.



Charlemagne

King of the Franks and Emperor
of the Holy Roman Empire

742 - 814

*Let my armies be the rocks and
the trees and the birds in the sky.
—Charlemagne*

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

7A

These sentences are scrambled. Rearrange them so they make sense.

1. act territory and entering to trying conquer the called is a invasion of

2. is the an of effect produce or person influence thing to on others power a

3. is wealthy to a their which people landowners in feudalism owe loyalty system.

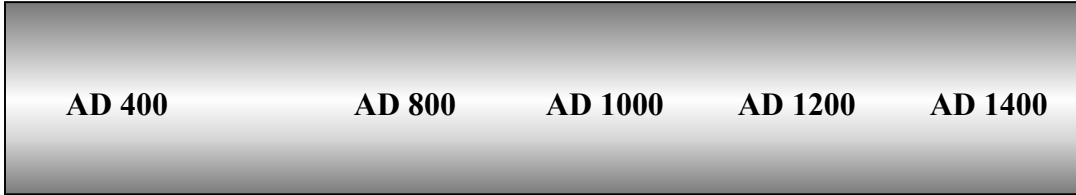
4. move from another one means to to migrate to place

5. is something act someone of keeping harm protection or from

6. convert one's religion means change to beliefs to

7. same as number the its living population people an is in area the of

7-B
Timeline - The Middle Ages



- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) | 2) | 3) | 4) |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Fall of Rome | Treaty of Verdun | 1 st Crusade | End of Crusades |

- 5)
- _____
- Charlemagne
Crowned Emperor

6)

Feudal Periods

Under the Timeline, indicate the year of each event, and accurately divide the Feudal Periods box to indicate the correct intervals of the Invasions and 1st Feudal Period, and the 2nd Feudal Period. Use your text to find the accurate date of these events.

SEQUENCING: 7-C

Use information in your readings to number the following events in the order in which they occurred.

- _____ 1. Pepin the Short becomes king of the Franks
- _____ 2. The Byzantine Empire falls.
- _____ 3. Charlemagne becomes emperor.
- _____ 4. Invasions into the Roman Empire begin.
- _____ 5. The rise of the Byzantine Empire begins.
- _____ 6. Charles Martel defeats the Moslems in France.
- _____ 7. Treaty of Verdun divides the Empire.
- _____ 8. The fall of Rome occurs.

**7-D
Reviewing Key Terms**

The Early Middle Ages

Vocabulary Worksheet

Key Terms

medieval	manor	investiture	count
abbot	Dark Ages	serf	lord
missi dominici	knight	monastery	fief
vassal	feudalism		

A. Rewrite each of the following sentences, using a synonym from the key terms to replace the underlined term.

1. When he became head of a monastery, Benedict established strict rules for monastic life.

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2. Christian men who live in a religious community surrender all their private possessions and follow a simple life.

3. The powerful landowner who ruled a county in a king's name administered justice and raised armies.

4. At the bottom of the feudal pyramid was the armored warrior on horseback who defended his lord's land.

5. A vassal received land through a feudal ceremony.

6. Charlemagne set out royal agents to check that counts did not abuse their power.

7. In feudal society, a loyalty oath and a piece of land tied a vassal to a lord.

8. A lord's family gained its livelihood from a small estate.

B. Use a key term to complete each analogy.

9. *planter: plantation as lord:* _____

10. *kingdom: king as county:* _____

11. *nuns: convents as monks:* _____

12. *jet: fighter pilot as horse:* _____

13. *power of citizens: democracy as power of landowners:* _____

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14. *royal: king as noble:* _____

C. Use a key term to complete each of the following sentences. Write your answer in the space provided.

15. In the feudal system, a _____ pledged loyalty to a lord in exchange for a grant of land.

16. A royal vassal could become the _____ of other vassals by further dividing the land into smaller estates.

17. A _____ could not lawfully leave the manor on which he or she was born.

18. The era between 500 and 1000, referred to as the _____, was a period in Western Europe in which learning and civilization declined.

19. The _____ period in Europe began after the fall of the Roman Empire.

20. _____ was a political and military system based on the holding of land.

D. Write a sentence to explain the relationship among the terms in each of the following items.

21. *lord, vassal, fief* _____

22. *serf, lord, manor*

7-E
Re-teaching Worksheet

The Early Middle Ages

A. Reviewing Key Terms: *In the space provided, define each of the following terms.*

1. A period in Europe from about 500 to 1000 when learning and civilization declined was called the _____.
2. A _____ was a community in which Christian men gave up all their private possessions and lived simply and devoutly.
3. An armed warrior who fought on horseback was called a _____.
4. Each Frankish county was ruled in the king's name by a powerful landlord called a _____.
5. _____ was a political and social system based on the holding of land.
6. In the feudal system, a piece of land was known as a _____.
7. _____ was a feudal ceremony in which a lord granted land to a peasant.
8. In the feudal system, a piece of land was known as a _____.
9. A _____ was a small estate from which a lord's family gained its livelihood.
10. A _____ was a peasant who was bound to the land.

B. Identifying Key Facts *In the space provided, identify each of the following people and places.*

11. Clovis: _____

12. Benedict: _____

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13. Gregory I: _____

14. Charles Martel: _____

15. Pepin: _____

16. Charlemagne: _____

17. Aachen: _____

18. Alcuin: _____

19. Leo III: _____

20. Lindisfarne: _____

C. Checking for Understanding: *On a separate sheet of paper, write complete sentences to answer the following questions.*

21. What were two of Charlemagne's achievements during his long rule?

22. What were two characteristics of feudalism?

Summarizing Information 7-F

The Early Middle Ages

The paragraphs below describe aspects of life during the Early Middle Ages. Read each paragraph. Then write a sentence summarizing the paragraph.

1. Monasteries were also the most educated communities. They operated schools, maintained libraries, and copied books. In the 600's and 700's, the monasteries of Ireland and England were the leading scholarly centers of the day. Above all, the monks of these lands excelled in making beautiful copies of religious writings, decorated with ornate letters and brilliant pictures. Through the work of the monks, at least part of Rome's intellectual heritage was preserved.

Summary: _____

2. The Viking warships were the technological marvel of their age. Long, lean, and light, the largest of these ships could hold 300 warriors who took turns rowing its 72 oars. Most ships were smaller, with crews of 30 to 50 fighters. The prow of each ship swept grandly upward, often ending with the carved head of a sea monster or a dragon. Although a ship might weigh 20 tons when fully loaded, it could sail in 3 feet of water. Thus the Vikings could strike villages and monasteries far inland by rowing up shallow rivers and creeks.

Summary: _____

3. Historians often describe feudalism as a system in which public power became private. The Roman and Greek idea of public affairs had disappeared. Justice, military power, and political power had all become private possessions. They could be traded among lords or passed down to one's heirs. The duties a person owed were not to a polis or to an empire but to a personal lord.

Summary: _____

7-G

FCAT EXTENDED RESPONSE

Some historians refer to the period 500 A.D. – 1000 A.D in Western Europe as the “Dark Ages.” Discuss why this period does or does not deserve the title “Dark Ages.” Be sure to use details and information from your readings to support your response.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN
