

# The Development of Feudalism



# Open Ended Question

**What comes to mind when you think of the Middle Ages?**



[https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/middle-ages-europe/?utm\\_source=nearpod&utm\\_content=pdf](https://www.flocabulary.com/unit/middle-ages-europe/?utm_source=nearpod&utm_content=pdf)



# Middle Ages

The collapse of Rome in the late fifth century led to what is known as the Middle Ages.

The Middle Ages was a 1,000 year period (500- 1450 AD) .

During much of the Middle Ages, Europe was a series of small kingdoms that often fought one another during this time





# Geography of Europe

The continent of Europe occupies about one-fifth of what is known as Eurasian land mass. The Eurasian land mass is the continuous stretch of land that includes Europe and Asia

Europe borders the Atlantic Ocean on the west and the Arctic Ocean to the north. Rugged mountain ranges, such as the Apennines and the Alps, run across southern Europe. Much of northern and western Europe is a series of plains and farmland.

The climate patterns of Europe vary across the continent. Northern Europe experiences cold winters, while southern Europe has mild winters and hot and often dry summers.

The abundance of forests, farmland, and rivers played a key role in shaping ways of life in Medieval Europe.

# Slideshow





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# Changes to Europe after the Fall of Rome

1. Decline in the size and power of governments
2. Reduction in long- distance trade
3. Decline in learning and devotion to Greek and Roman Culture
4. Disappearance of cities and rise of rural villages and farms.
5. Growth of numerous Germanic kingdoms



# Clovis and the Franks

- The Christian Church thrived after the fall of Rome; many Germans converted to the Christian culture
- Clovis, leader of the Franks invaded France in 486. He conquered other weak Germanic groups and built large kingdoms.
- Clovis converted to





# Charlemagne

Charlemagne became ruler of Franks during the late 700s.

- He expand territory and built a European empire as great as ancient Rome
- He created a highly organized empire and established new laws to keep order
- Charlemagne also employed landowner counts to govern regions and expanded Christianity





# Growth of Monasteries

Powerful rulers and devoted worshipers helped spread Christianity

Monasteries were places where religious followers led life devoted to God

- Residents known as monks; prayed and studied Christian works

- Christian ideas were





# Charlemagne's Kingdom Crumbles

After Charlemagne's death in 814, his son, Louis I, became emperor. When Louis died, his three sons fought each other for control of the kingdom. They all signed a treaty in 843 that divided the empire into three parts

The divided kingdom grew weak and unstable. Vikings, Magyars, and Muslims attacked various regions of Europe

In the mid- 800s Europe became a place of constant conflict and warfare



# Draw It

Draw a picture of yourself with some of Charlemagne's army.





# Feudalism

Feudalism emerged largely as a way for kings and nobles to hold onto their land and power during so much warfare

Feudalism was based on an agreement between two groups of nobles- lords and vassals.

A lord was a powerful noble who owned land. Lords gave pieces of their land to lesser nobles called vassals. In return, vassals defended lord's property- many of these vassals were knights

Vassals also paid lords' taxes for their land

# Open Ended Question



**What role did the vassals play in the structure of feudalism?**

# European Feudalism

- King: This man sat atop feudal society and ruled over large areas of land

- Nobles: These people owned land and thus held much power and wealth

- Knights: Many of these warriors provided military service to nobles in return for a piece of their land

- Peasants: Peasants known as serfs worked the land for nobles and performed other backbreaking tasks





# Open Ended Question

**Which group held the least amount of power?**