The Middle Ages

A Very Dark Time

𝔈urope

Atlantic Ocean

Mediterranean Sea

Black Sea

North Sea

Caspian Sea

Scandinavia

Constantinople

England

France

Germany

Ireland

Italy

Russia

Sicily

Spain

15° E

30° E

60° N

45° N

30° N

N
W E
S

0 250 500 Miles
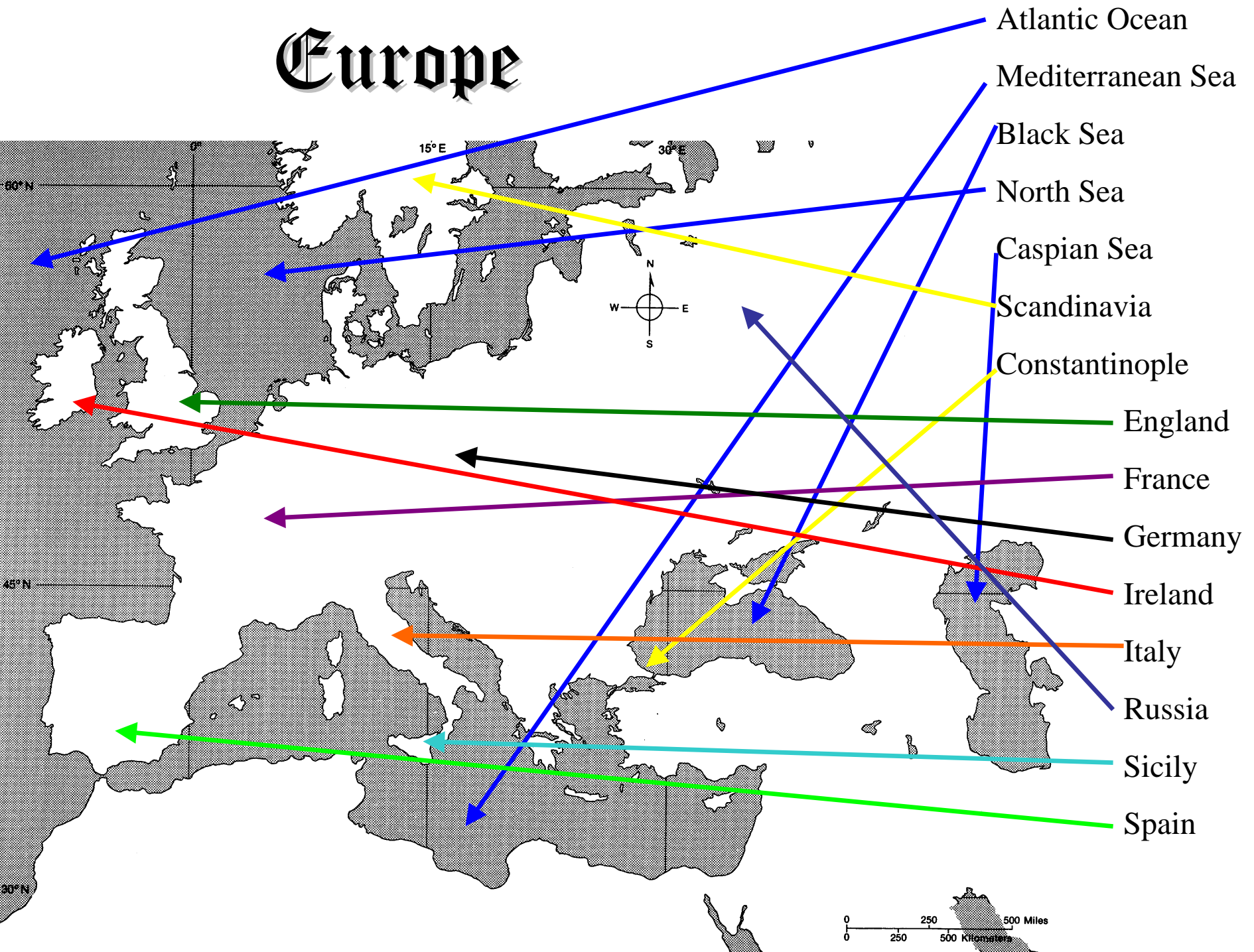0 250 500 Kilometers
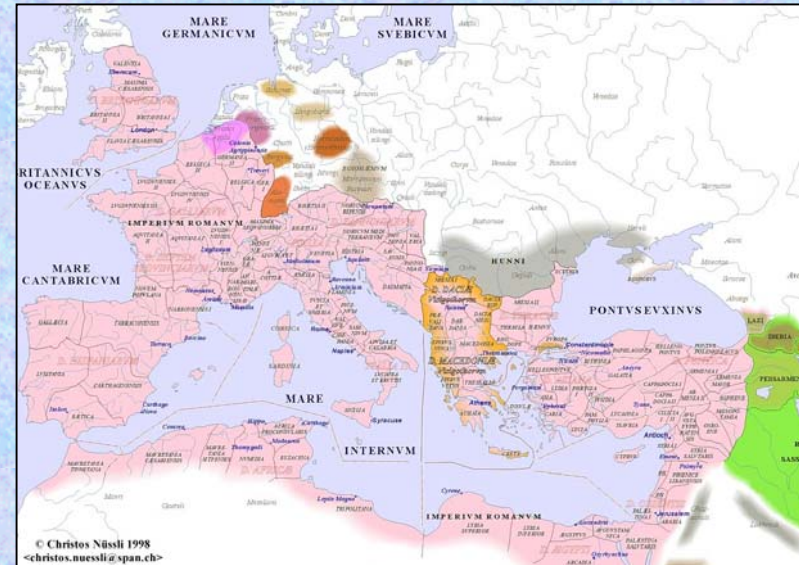
- "Barbarian" invaders swept out of north eastern Europe

- They invaded the Western Roman and caused it to fall apart (See maps)

- Large Roman cities were abandoned by people seeking safety from the invaders since they were targets that were sacked for their wealth

- People moved to small villages

- Learning declined as people in small villages relied on a strong oral tradition instead of reading and writing

- The Roman language Latin was slowly replaced by local versions of it (Spanish, Italian, French), further isolating people

Let's review!

Europe in 400 CE

Europe in 700 CE

Let's review!

- Muslim invaders swept out of Arabia in all directions to expand their faith

- They crossed the Straits of Gibraltar and invaded Europe

- Their northward march was stopped at the battle of Tours in 732 CE

Islam Expands

Legend:
- Islamic world under Muhammad, 622–632
- Territory added by first four Caliphs, 632–661
- Territory added by Umayyad Caliphs, 661–750
- Military campaigns

Charlemagne (Charles the Great)

Background:

- His relatives were Germanic invaders who settled in France

- He was crowned king of the Franks after stopping foreign invaders
  - This upset many Franks

Government:

- He believed it was his destiny to reunite the old Western Roman Empire

- He greatly expanded land controlled by the Pope

- He called this area the "Holy Roman Empire"
  - but not Holy and not Roman (they were Germanic people ruled by a king)

- He was crowned Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day in 800 CE by the Pope
  - The empire will last until Napoleon 1000 years later

Charlemagne (Charles the Great)

Revival of Learning:

- Carolingian Renaissance
  - a revival of Christian and classical learning
  - lasts from 790 CE-870 CE

- Not many wanted to learn and even more wanted to keep old thoughts rather than create new ones
  - ancient manuscripts were being copied in Latin, usually by monks
  - a new writing style appears called Carolingian Miniscule

INCIPIT LIBER EXODVS

This gold likeness of Charlemagne was made to hold his bones.
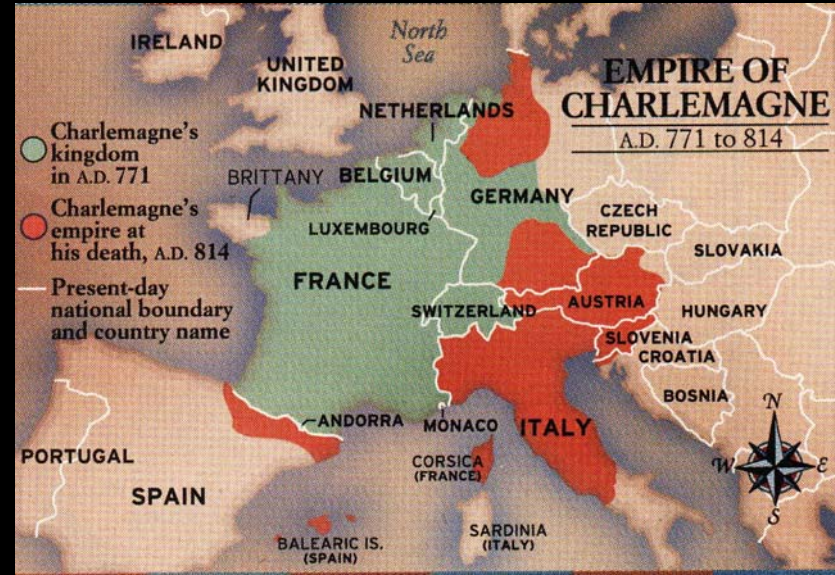
Why were new thoughts suppressed?

Because they might go against the teachings of the Catholic Church

Charlemagne (Charles the Great)

Charlemagne's Legacy:

- He extended Christianity across Europe
  - This included areas controlled by people the Romans considered barbarians
- The blending of German, Roman, and Christian traditions (cultural diffusion)
- He created an efficient and strong government for the Holy Roman Empire
  - Something most of Europe did not have
- His death in 814 CE prompted the empire to fall apart
  - His heirs battled for power for 30 years
- Treaty of Verdun
  - Was created by Charlemagne's grandsons to end the fighting by splitting the empire into 3 regions

EMPIRE OF CHARLEMAGNE A.D. 771 to 814

Charlemagne's kingdom in A.D. 771

Charlemagne's empire at his death, A.D. 814
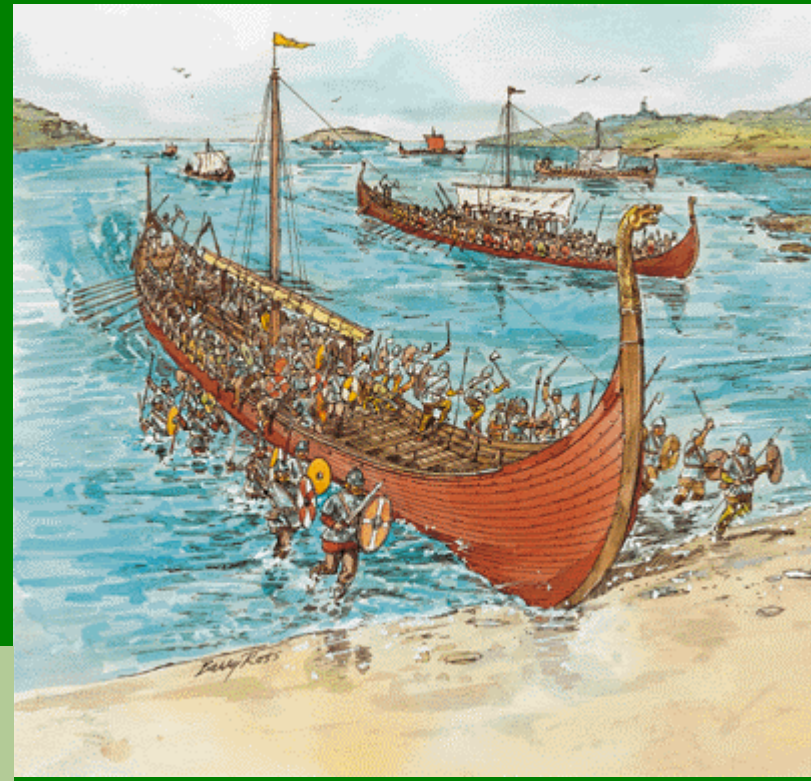
Present-day national boundary and country name

The death of what other leaders who built large empire's caused chaos?

Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar

VIKINGS

- Came from the area around modern-day Denmark and Scandinavia
- Very good sailors who dared to venture away from the sight of land
- Fierce warriors who used their fast long boats to approach sea-side towns quickly to raid them and then get away
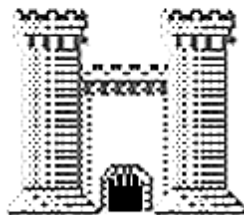- Traveled from Russia to Italy to Greenland to Canada and all points in between

What made the Vikings different from other sailors of their day
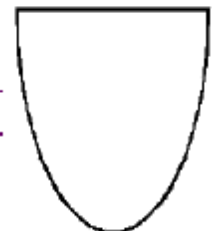*They would leave the sight of land and sail direct courses to places using stars to navigate*

GREENLAND (985?)
Norwegian Sea
ICELAND (874)
VINLAND (1000?)
Labrador Sea
Faroe Islands
Shetland Islands
Bulgar
Novgorod
Volga
Dublin
Lindisfarne
York
London
Paris
Rhine
Dnepr
Kiev
Baku
North Atlantic Ocean
Loire
Pisa
Marseilles
Rome
Constantinople
Mediterranean Sea
500 km mi
Microsoft Map   Danish   Swedish   ◆ Viking Settlement

MEDIEVAL LIFE

Cooperation and Mutual Obligations

Feudalism helped Europeans create safe areas from invasion by providing PROTECTION

Feudalism

Manorialism = Economic System

Feudal / Manorial Relationships
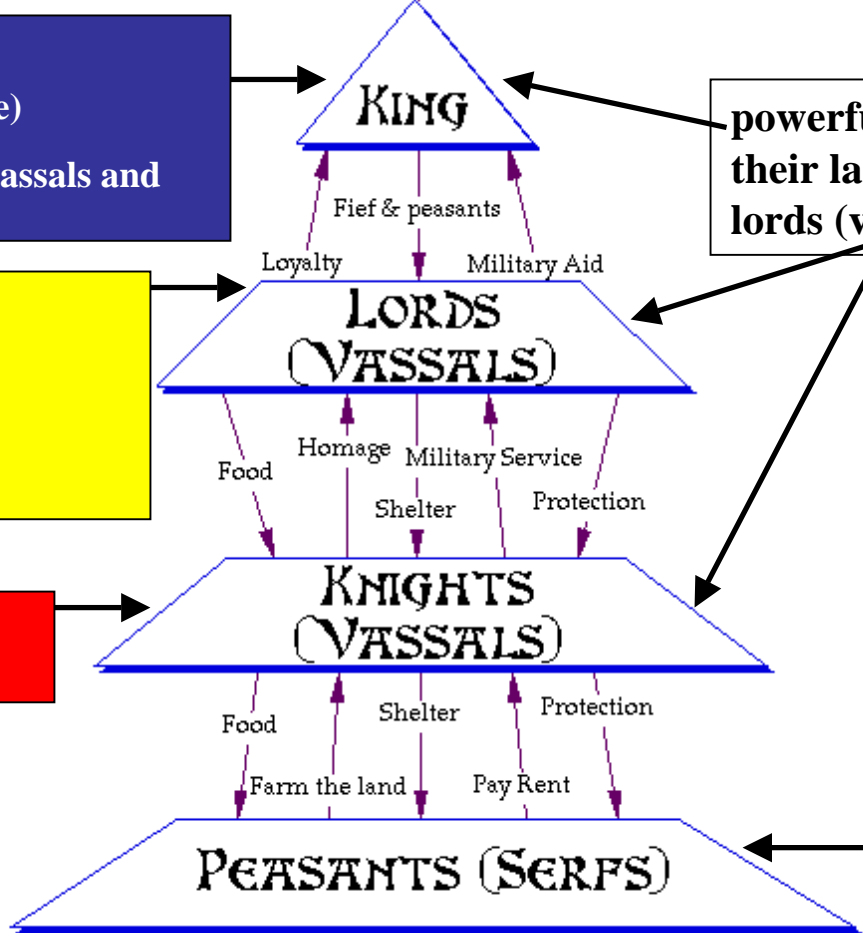
Feudalism = Political System

❖owned all of the land

❖granted vassals a fief (estate)

❖Had to offer protection to vassals and serfs

KING

Fief & peasants

Loyalty | Military Aid

powerful lords divided their lands among lesser lords (vassals)

•worked the land

•pledged service to lord

•ran the manor

•provided food for knights

LORDS (VASSALS)

Food | Homage | Military Service
Shelter | Protection

➢protected the land by all means whenever called upon

KNIGHTS (VASSALS)

Food | Shelter | Protection

Farm the land | Pay Rent

▪could not participate in the feudal system

▪could not leave manor without permission

PEASANTS (SERFS)

Vassals are no hassles

The role of the Vassal

- Provide the king with soldiers, money, and food
- Got land (fief) and serfs in return
- Had to show loyalty to the king at all times
- Managed their manors while at home
- Oversaw lesser vassals (knights)

The role of noblewomen
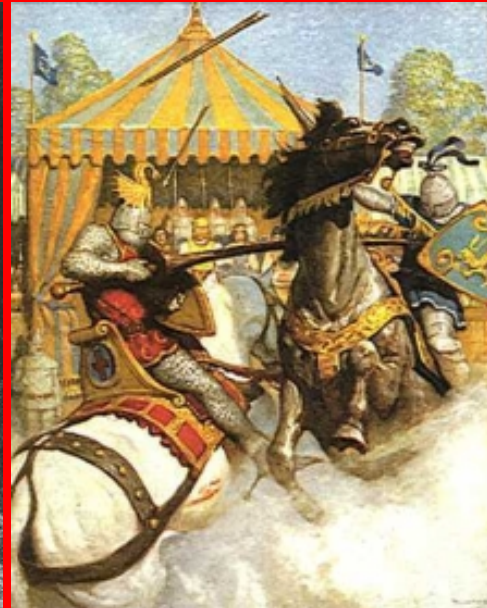
- They had an active role in warrior society by providing support and taking care of the manor when needed.
- Their marriages were often arranged to create bonds between families.
- They often learned to spin, weave, as well as supervise servants

Why did vassal have to give so much to the king?

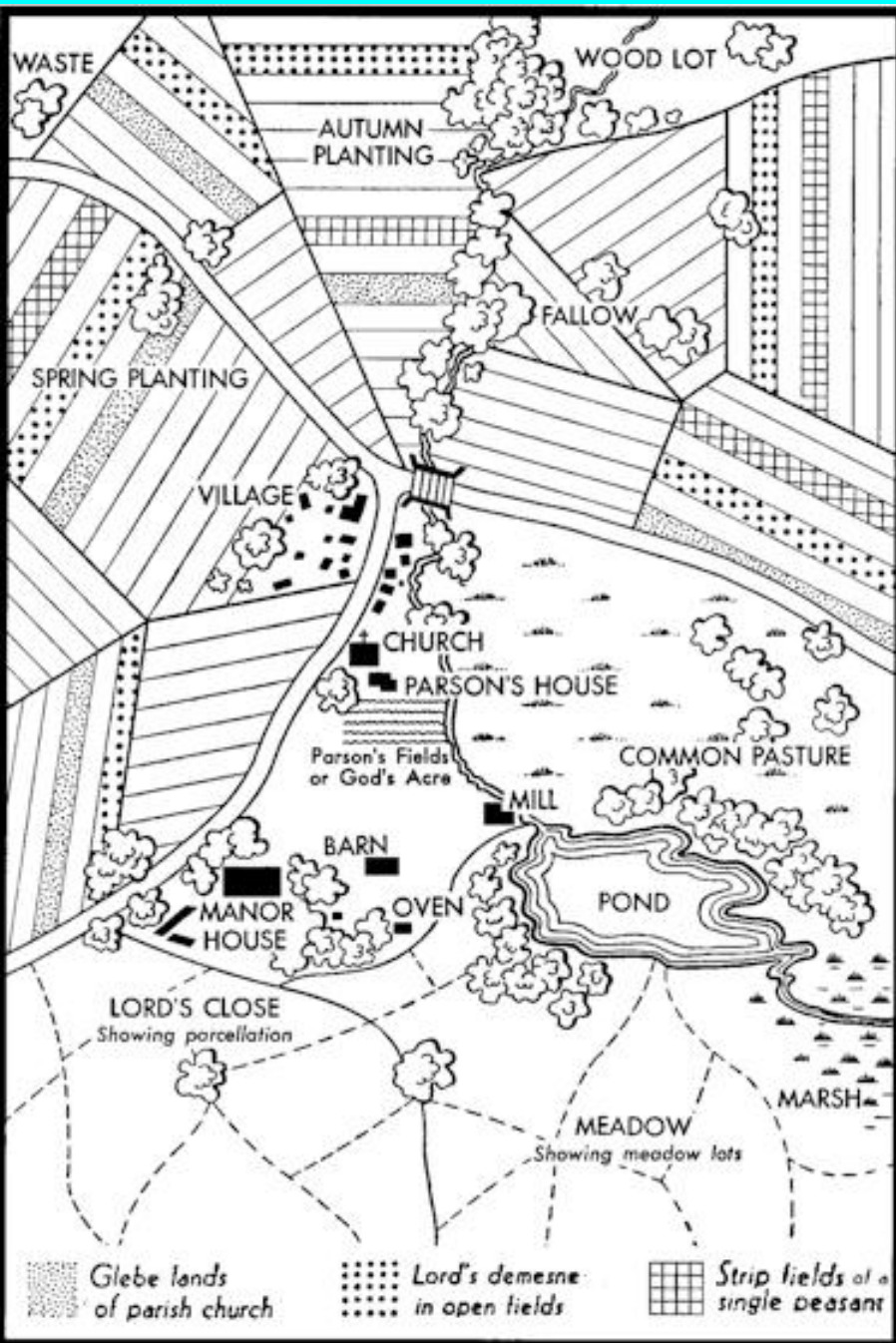*Everything they had could be taken away by the king if they didn't*

A Knights Tale

- *Followed the Code of Chivalry*
  - applied only to kings, vassals, and knights (not serfs)
  - knights had to be loyal, brave, and honest
  - women were to be protected and honored
  - knights had to allow other knights to prepare for battle before attacking (no sneak attacks)

- Knights were required to provide protection to greater vassals and serfs in return for land and food
- They would constantly train to be ready to fight

The Manor

- Most manors included one or more villages and surrounding lands
- Manors were self-sufficient producing everything it needed such as food, clothing, furniture, tools, etc…
- Manors were run by vassals
- Serfs farmed small plots of land for themselves as well as the Vassals fields
- Serfs paid their lords fees (usually food) to use their goods
- Fields were divided into narrow strips with each family working one
- *Serfs were tied to the land* and could *not* be sold

Who "owned" serfs?

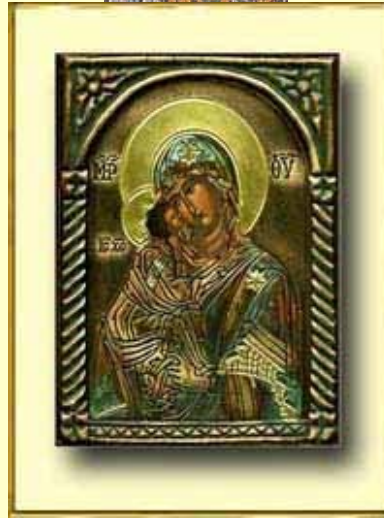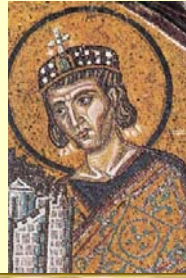*The land*

The Life of a Peasant

- *Serfs worked long hours*

- *The entire family worked the fields*

- *Very few serfs lived beyond age 35 due to exhaustion, disease, and malnutrition*

- *The family and animals slept in a one-room hut* →

Christianity + Europe = Splitsville

Eastern Orthodox Christians (East)

- Patriarch - highest church official
- Clergy can marry
- Mass spoken in Greek
- Easter = holiest day
- Veneration of icons is acceptable

Roman Catholics (West)

- Pope - has authority over all Christians
- Clergy can't marry
- Mass spoken in Latin
- Christmas = holiest day
- Veneration of icons is unacceptable

The Great Schism - permanent split of the Roman Catholics and Byzantine Christians

Pope in West excommunicates Byzantine Emperor over veneration (praying to) of icons. Icon veneration is later accepted. However, the patriarch excommunicates the Pope. *Result = Rival churches*

The Roman Catholic Church

- **Structure of the Catholic Church**

- The Pope
  - Supreme leader of the Catholic Church

- Cardinals
  - High ranking bishops who choose the popes and administered a collection of dioceses

- Bishops
  - Administered large groups of parishes called dioceses

- Priests
  - Oversaw local parishes in towns and villages

- Monks & Nuns

- **Structure of European Feudalistic Societies**

- The King
  - Supreme leader of a country

- Lords (Vassals)
  - High ranking lords who choose the popes and administered a collection of fiefs

- Knights
  - Oversaw local towns and villages in fiefs

- Serfs

The Roman Catholic Church

- Performed important rites such as marriage, baptism, communion, and last rites called Sacraments
  - If sacraments were not performed, the Church told people their soul was condemned to an eternity in Hell
- Provided a "common law" structure with it's laws called Canon
  - These typically applied only to the Church
- Could impose banishment from the Church called excommunication
  - If you were excommunicated you were to be denied all the rites of the Church
- The denial of performing the sacraments on certain lands was called interdict
  - This was used by the Church to put pressure on rulers by their people who feared their souls would be sent to Hell
- The collection of a tithe or 10% tax on income
  - This was called for by the Bible by all believers to support the Church and to give alms (charity) to the needy
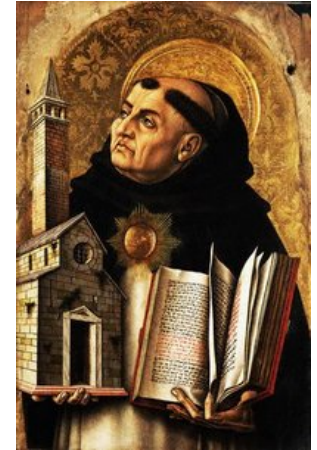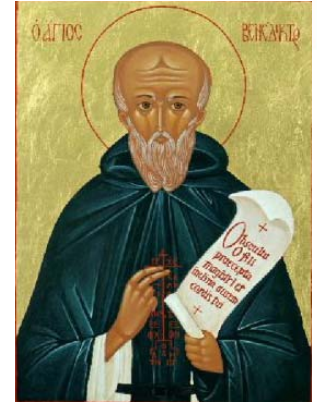
The Roman Catholic Church

- The Roman Catholic Church runs or has a say in just about everything from the coronation of kings to the blessing of seed planted by the serfs
  - The threat of excommunication kept people in line
  - The vast wealth they collected with tithes made the Church even more powerful
- It kept large libraries as repositories of knowledge – especially if it agreed with the teachings of the Church
  - Universities were founded to pass along this knowledge (of course along the lines of church doctrine
- Churches became centers of the community
  - They served as schools, hospitals, meeting areas, and houses of worship
- Taught women were inferior and morally weaker than men and thus could not hold positions of responsibility
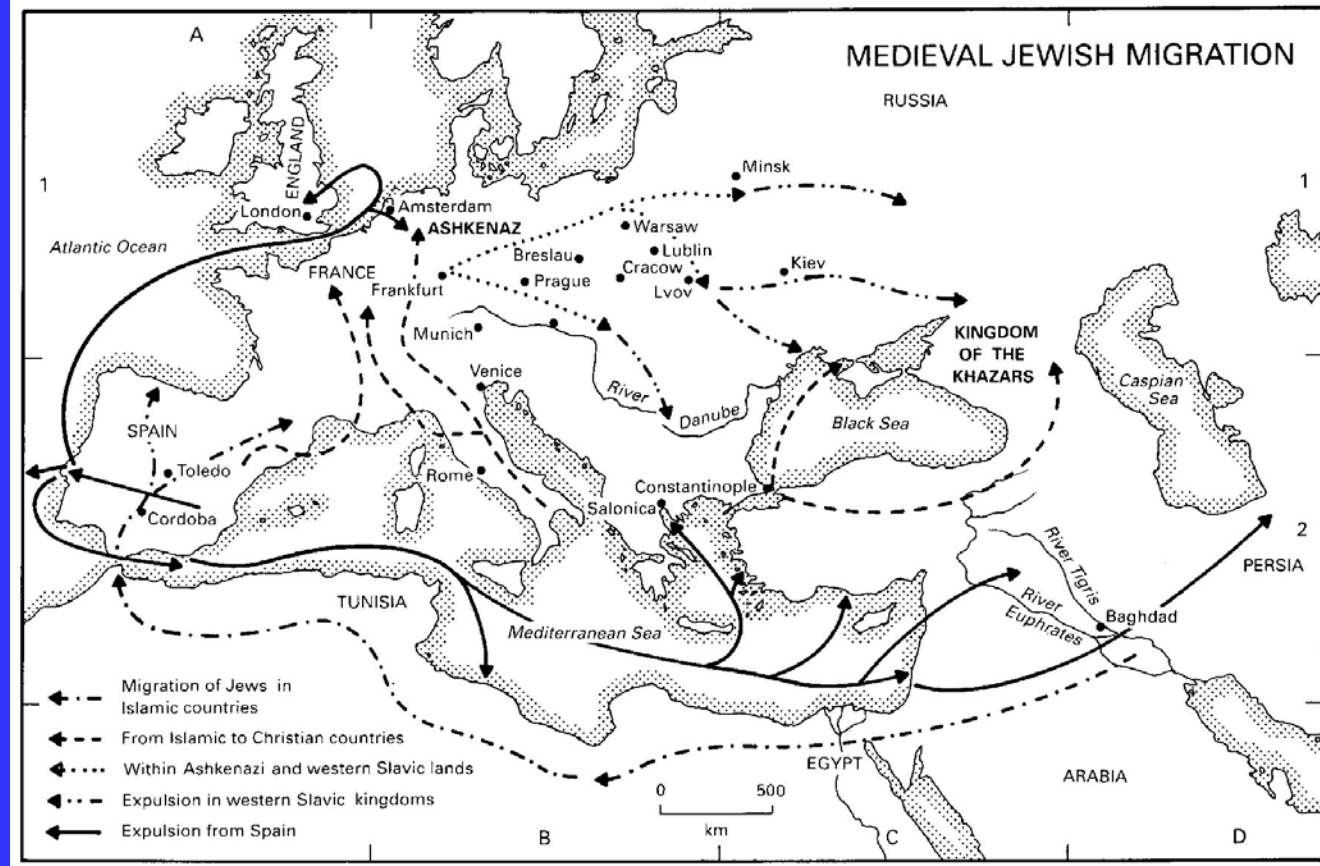 - Stems from the temptation of Adam by Eve in the Garden of Eden

The Roman Catholic Church

- Saint Benedict founded the Benedictine Monks
  - They vowed to live a life of celibacy and poverty
  - Their sole purpose in life was to serve God and not worldly or secular aims
- Other orders of monks and nuns were formed by others
  - They often would serve the communities by providing a service it did not have such as education or health care
  - Saint Thomas Aquinas founded the Jesuit monks who would go out to spread the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in new areas
- Pope Gregory VII banned the marriage of priests and said they must be celibate in 1073CE
  - Too many priests were focused on their families and not the Church
  - They were taking Church property and money for their families

Jews in Western Europe

MEDIEVAL JEWISH MIGRATION

Legend:
- —·— Migration of Jews in Islamic countries
- —— From Islamic to Christian countries
- ···· Within Ashkenazi and western Slavic lands
- —··— Expulsion in western Slavic kingdoms
- —— Expulsion from Spain
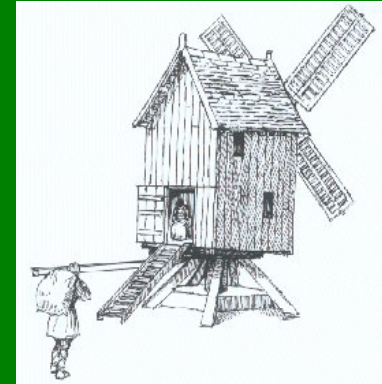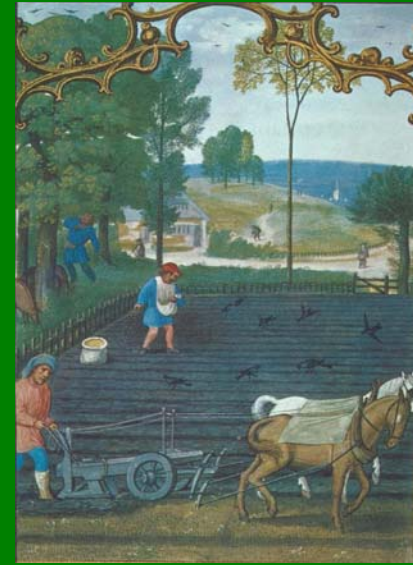
- Jews came to Europe during the Diaspora when Romans forced them from Palestine in 76 CE
- *Christians launched attacks on Jews* during the Crusades and Black Death because they blamed them for Christ's death
- *Jews were expelled* from many areas: France, Spain, etc.
- This prejudice towards the Jews is called *anti-Semitism*

Agricultural Changes in the Middle Ages

- Serfs adopted new farming techniques to improve agricultural production
  - The 3 field system was adopted where 2 fields were planted with crops and the third was left fallow (unplanted) so the soil could recover
  - Wind power was used to work grain mills and pump water
  - Iron plows allowed for soil to be turned over easier
  - New harnesses for horses allowed for horse teams to replace oxen teams pulling plows, carts, and wagons
- Increased food production allowed for serfs to earn money and for fewer serfs to work fields so they could do other jobs
  - Artisans such as metal smiths, potters, weavers, musicians increased in number
  - Serfs could use the money they earned to buy their freedom
  - Towns and cities grew again

Changes in Trade during the Middle Ages

- As wealth and security increased in Europe, people began to travel more to trade with other towns and villages

- Trade routes would be established with Asia (silks and spices) and the Middle East (metal goods and jewelry)
  - This really took off during the Crusades as returning Crusaders wanted the goods they were exposed to in the Middle East

- Local fairs and markets were established for goods to be bought and sold
  - These were often located in larger towns and cities
  - Charters or laws were written to govern these towns and cities so laws became consistent

Changes in Trade during the Middle Ages

- Traders began to pool their resources, forming trade caravans or partnerships

- They also began to invest in insurance to cover their losses for goods they shipped

- Paper money, lines of credit, bills of exchange, and banks were established to make moving money easier and safer for traders

- Payments began to be made in money instead of food or goods

- Traders and merchants began to create a new class of people between the serfs/peasants and the vassals– the Middle Class
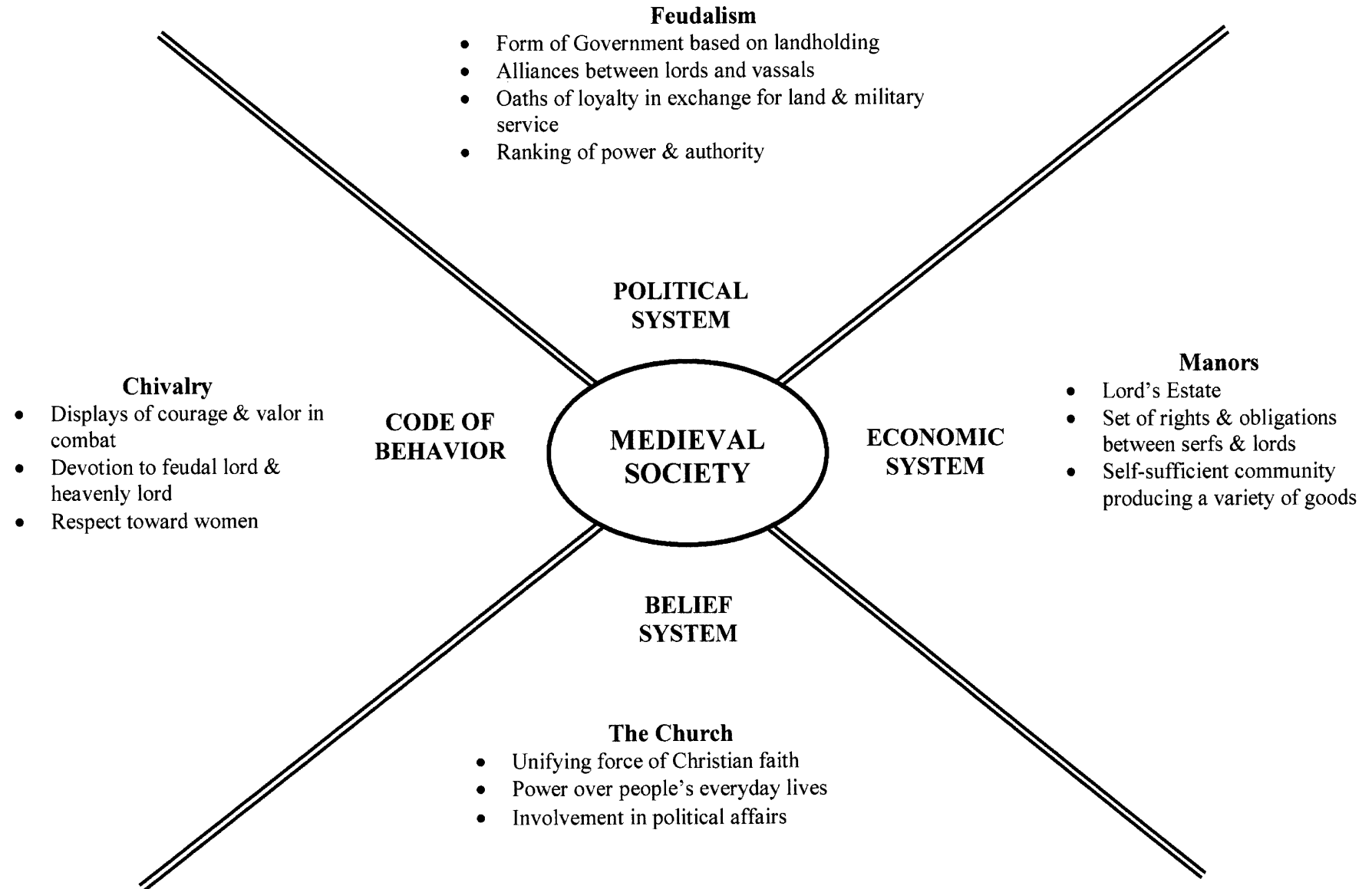
The Rise of Guilds

- Guilds were collections of workers of the same profession (blacksmith, mason, weavers, etc..) who banded together to create a set of rules for their profession so everyone was treated equally
  - These rules set up how much things cost, how much a worker was paid, how things were made, etc…
  - They also set rules for training in that profession
  - Had to work as an apprentice under a master for years before becoming a master that could work on their own
- Guilds would control European markets and dominate town and city life
  - They could even levy taxes and make laws

Review

Feudalism
- Form of Government based on landholding
- Alliances between lords and vassals
- Oaths of loyalty in exchange for land & military service
- Ranking of power & authority

POLITICAL SYSTEM

Chivalry
- Displays of courage & valor in combat
- Devotion to feudal lord & heavenly lord
- Respect toward women

CODE OF BEHAVIOR

MEDIEVAL SOCIETY

ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Manors
- Lord's Estate
- Set of rights & obligations between serfs & lords
- Self-sufficient community producing a variety of goods

BELIEF SYSTEM

The Church
- Unifying force of Christian faith
- Power over people's everyday lives
- Involvement in political affairs

THE RISE OF EUROPE

Review

1000 – 1300: Development of towns leads to increased trade, new business practices, increased food production, population growth

↑

1100s: Feudalism evolves to protect people from invaders; system regulates relationships among classes of people

↑

890 – 1100: Magyars and Vikings invade Europe

↑

800 – 814: Charlemagne unifies Germanic and Roman lands in Western Europe; sets example of unified rule for later rulers

↑

711 – 732: Islam spreads into Europe, bringing knowledge of math and science

↑

400 – 700: Germanic tribes carve Western Europe into small kingdoms