

Unit 5: The Middle Ages
NC Essential Standard 3: The Early and Late Middle Ages

- I. The Medieval Period – Middle Ages or time between the ancient civilizations and modern history
 - A. Early Middle Ages (500-1000 AD)
 - B. High Middle Ages (1050-1450 AD)
 - C. Dark Ages – little learning or advancement
 - D. located in Western Roman Empire
 - E. Characteristics
 - 1. conquered by Germanic barbarians
 - 2. tribes controlled different regions
 - 3. land divided into feudal kingdoms rather than organized cities or countries
 - 4. brutal, harsh lifestyle, much warfare
 - 5. trial by ordeal – form of justice
 - 6. strongest civilizing force, preserver of Roman achievements – Catholic Church
- II. Franks
 - A. one of the strongest Germanic kingdoms to settle in Roman territory
 - B. Clovis – first Christian king
 - 1. founder of the Merovingian dynasty
 - 2. good general, able king, but cruel
 - 3. brought Franks under one rule
 - 4. married a Catholic – converted to Christianity following a victorious battle; believed Frankish gods had nothing to do with his victory
 - 5. Effects of military victories
 - a. others converted to Christianity
 - b. gained Roman support by becoming Christian; support from the Pope
 - c. united all Franks under one rule
 - d. spoke a form of Latin that became French
 - e. established a capital in modern day Paris
 - C. Charles Martel
 - 1. led Franks in the Battle of Tours to defeat the Muslims (Saracens)
 - 2. enabled Christianity to survive in western Europe
 - D. Pepin the Short
 - 1. Merovingian Dynasty – son of Charles Martel
 - 2. first Frankish king anointed by the Pope
 - 3. Mayors of the Palace – chief administrators
 - 4. Gave land to Pope (Donation of Pepin) which Vatican City is the last little bit.
 - 5. Son - Charlemagne
 - E. Charlemagne (Charles the Great)
 - 1. Carolingian Dynasty
 - 2. Ruled Franks for 46 years
 - 3. Aachen, Germany – capital city
 - 4. Crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on Dec. 25 by Pope Leo III
 - 5. Promoted Education and Christianity
 - 6. missi dominici – government agents who checked the power of local rulers in the provinces
 - 7. Treaty of Verdun – Louis the Pious divided Charlemagne’s empire among the grandsons
 - a. Louis the German – Germany
 - b. Charles the Bald – France
 - c. Lothair – between Germany and France – given the title of emperor
- III. Further Invasions of Europe
 - A. Magyars & Muslims (Saracens)- invaded from the West and South of Europe to spread Islam
 - B. Vikings- invaded from the North of Europe.
 - 1. Raids started at Lindisfarne Abby in 793 AD

2. Vikings raided for food/land b/c of overpopulation in Scandinavia
3. Viking Religion was Polytheistic, Odin & Thor main gods.
 - a. Viking Heaven was called Valhalla & Judgement Day was Ragnarok

IV. The Feudal System

A. Feudalism

1. political and military system
2. based on the holding of land in exchange for taxes and soldiers

B. Feudal Contract – relationship between lords and vassals over the exchange of land

C. The Manorial System

1. Manor – basic economic unit; self-sufficient
2. Villeins – free men who control small plots of land; rent land from lord
3. Serf- much like slaves, but had some freedom
 - a. peasants who live and work on the manor
 - b. do not earn wages; can't leave the manor

D. Hierarchy

1. King – offer land and protection
2. Lords – pay taxes and provide soldiers; may offer land to vassals
3. Vassals (lesser lords)
4. Knights
5. Serfs

E. Knights

1. soldiers on horseback
2. given land by lords to make money for weapons, armor, etc.
3. Steps to become a knight
 - a. Page – age 7, learn manners, fencing, hunting, chess, educated by monks and noblewomen
 - b. Squire – age 14, learn swordfighting, horseback riding, make and fix weapons, assist knight
 - c. Knight – age 21, protect king's land, fight in jousting tournaments, live up to a code of chivalry
4. Knight's Ceremony
 - a. fast from sunup until sundown
 - b. bathe and dress in a white gown and spend a night in prayer
 - c. dress in a full suit of armor
 - d. receive a touch on the shoulder with the blade of the sword by the lord
5. Code of Chivalry
 - a. ideals to live up to; a code of conduct
 - b. defend 3 masters – earthly feudal lord, heavenly lord, chosen lady

F. Compared to Japanese Feudalism

1. rigid social class system with no social mobility
2. Hierarchy/Pyramid
 - a. Shogun – king
 - b. Daimyo – nobles
 - c. Samurai – knights
 - d. Peasants – farmers
 - e. Artisans – craftspeople
 - f. Merchants – traders and businessmen
3. Bushido – chivalry – a code of conduct

V. The Catholic Church

A. Hierarchy

1. Pope – head of the Catholic Church; resides in Rome
2. Cardinal – a leading bishop or archbishop of major cities

3. Archbishop – supervise the bishops; head bishop in major cities
4. Bishop – supervise the priests; head of a local area (diocese)
5. Priest – head of a local church; forgive sins, provide sacraments (rituals), etc.

B. Monks and Nuns

1. Monks – males who live a life of seclusion in monasteries and do God's work
2. Nuns – females who live a life of seclusion in convents and do God's work
3. Abbot – the head of a monastery
4. Friar – traveling monks
5. 3 main vows – obedience, chastity, poverty
6. The Benedictine Rule
 - a. created by the monk, Benedict
 - b. a way for monks and nuns to live
 - c. certain times in the day are set aside for praying, working, worship, etc.
7. Duties of Monasteries/Convents – feed the poor, care for the sick, house travelers, schools, copy manuscripts, illuminate (decorate) manuscripts, etc.

D. Architecture

1. Romanesque – little light, heavy, thick walls, round arches
2. Gothic – more height and light, pointed arches, stained glass, flying buttresses (Notre Dame)
3. Stained glass – used to illustrate Bible stories for the illiterate

E. The Pope and Church Power

1. Papal Supremacy – power of the pope over secular rulers (king, lords, etc.)
2. Canon law – church law (common law – king's law)
3. Papal States – land owned by the pope and church (church is one of largest landowners)
4. Tithe – giving one tenth of your income to the church
5. Simony – buying or selling church offices
6. Heresy – to question the accepted teachings of the church
7. Inquisition – a church court to try heretics
8. Excommunication – banned from the church (cannot participate in sacraments or rituals)
9. Interdict – an entire town is excommunicated

VI. Medieval Towns

- A. Burgh – town; Burgher – townspeople
- B. Bourgeoisie – French townspeople; the middle class
- C. towns developed around harbors, ports, trade routes
- D. Charter – rights and privileges of a town
- E. Market – center of town life
- F. Fairs – sold products made on manors, held a few times a year, offered food, entertainment, etc.
- G. Characteristics of towns – much garbage, dirty, no sanitation or sewage system, danger of fire, multi-story buildings, crowded, disease
- H. Effects of new towns
 1. feudalism decreases as more people moved to towns and off the manors
 2. symbolizes Europe's economic recovery
 3. overproduction needing to be sold due to agricultural revolution
 4. increase in food, population, trade
 5. began the High Middle Ages

VII. Economic Growth

A. Agricultural Revolution

1. Iron Plows – replaced old wooden plows because they dig deeper in hard soil; break less
2. Horsepower – replaced oxen because horses are faster
3. Windmill – replaced water wheels as a power source
4. 3 Field System – plant 2 field, leave the 3rd to replenish nutrients in the soil (plant legumes)

B. Guilds

1. Organizations whose members sell the same product for the same price
2. Quality makes a consumer buy from one merchant over another
3. Buy in large quantities at low prices; cheaper than buying products individually

4. Only guild members were allowed to do business in their town; no foreigners (limit competition)
 5. Merchants guilds – first guilds, wealthiest in town, businessmen
 6. Crafts guilds – artisans who sold handmade products
 7. Steps to join a guild
 - a. Apprentice – learn a trade, do not earn wages, work for the guild master
 - b. Journeyman – work on a masterpiece, earn wages, work for master
 - c. Master – make a masterpiece to be judged by the guild, join a guild
- C. New Business Practices
1. Banks – started in Italy, moneychangers, weigh metal coins to determine value
 2. Bill of Exchange – document given to a merchant who pays money to a bank; exchange it for cash in another city (danger of traveling with coins – robbed)
 3. Insurance – merchant pays a small fee to ensure shipment of goods; if goods are safe, only lose the insurance money
 4. Partnership – group of merchants put funds together to finance a large business venture that would be too costly for an individual
 - a. advantage – share expenses and responsibility; less risk
 - b. disadvantage – share profits

VIII. Nation-States

- A. Before nation-states, countries were not united and people followed the leadership of their local lords who had their own army and laws; kings had little power
- B. Characteristics of Nation-States (Countries):
 1. same government, language, beliefs, way of life, laws
 2. a king rules with more power than the local lords
 3. a common history
- C. Powerful Nation-States
 1. Spain
 - a. ruled by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella
 - b. created a unified Catholic nation by defeating Muslim influence
 - c. sponsored the voyages of Christopher Columbus
 2. France – Hugh Capet
 - a. founder of the Capetian dynasty
 - b. received land around Paris and Orleans upon his father's death
 - c. took over what was once the western portion of Charlemagne's empire
 - d. elected king and crowned his son to follow him - made the throne hereditary
 3. Holy Roman Empire (Germany)
 - a. emperors believed themselves to be heirs to emperors of Rome
 - b. crowned by Pope (started with Charlemagne)
 - c. years of conflict and struggle between popes and emperors – who should people follow?
 - d. local rulers had more authority
 4. England – adopted ideas from the Romans; influenced American government
- D. England
 1. Anglo-Saxon Invasions
 - a. Took over England from Roman Empire.
 - b. Man named Arturius defeated Saxon invasion @ Mt. Badon (real-life king Arthur)
 - c. Saxons eventually conquered all of England, created 7 kingdoms (Heptarchy)
 - d. These kingdoms were subdivided into shires (like counties) run by a shire-reeve (sheriff).
 - e. Gradually, the Kingdom of Wessex gained control.
 2. Kingdom of Wessex
 - a. Only kingdom not conquered by Vikings
 - b. Alfred the Great- King who defeated Vikings
 - c. Alfred created English Navy
 - d. Started Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (History of England from 800's to 1100's)

3. Edward the Confessor
 - a. Weak, Unique English King w/ no heir
 - b. Power struggle erupted between England, Norway & Normandy
4. Battle of Hastings (1066)
 - a. Normans (French) v Saxons (English)
 - b. King Edward had no heir and relatives fought for control of England
 - c. Harold Godwinson (Saxon) – brother-in-law
 - d. William of Normandy (Norman) – cousin
 - e. William the Conqueror defeated Godwinson
 - f. effect – a Frenchman ruled England
5. Domesday Book
 - a. William the Conqueror’s method of determining property taxes
 - b. census (population count) – taken to determine property ownership
 - c. amount of property owned determined amount of taxes to pay
6. Common Law – king’s law
 - a. Henry II
 - b. legal system based on court rulings that applied to all of England
 - c. Civil Law – property issues
 - d. criminal law – crimes
7. Jury System
 - a. Henry II
 - b. Jury – group of men sworn to speak the truth; make decisions in a case
 - c. determined cases brought to trial
8. Parliament
 - a. Henry III
 - b. lawmaking body; limits the power of the king
 - c. advise the monarch
 - d. Model Parliament – Edward I (bicameral – 2 houses)
 1. House of Lords (nobles)
 2. House of Commons (commoners)
9. Magna Carta (Great Charter) – 1215
 - a. signed by King John
 - b. people demanded the rights of nobles to be extended to all citizens
 - c. ideas included
 1. trial by jury
 2. no taxation without representation
 3. due process of law – protect people from wrongful government action

IX. King v Pope

A. Power Struggle

1. Who is in charge of the kingdom?
2. Who has more power, the ruler of the land or the head of the church?

B. Main conflict – the issue of lay investiture

1. lay investiture – one not of the church appoints a new member of the clergy
2. argued because land, money, titles, and power come with the new position
3. Concordat of Worms
 - a. meeting to resolve the issue of lay investiture
 - b. compromised over who awards the position to members of the clergy
 - c. pope – chose the new clergy (gave the title)
 - d. king - decided the land that was awarded with the title

X. Education

A. Augustine

1. wrote *The City of God* – his idea of heaven
2. views on war – fight if it is the last resort and only fight for a just cause; glory goes to the one who can end the war

B. Bede

1. author, scholar, monk
2. “The Father of English History”
3. developed the AD and BC system of dating
4. devised a formula for determining when Easter occurs each year (based on the moon)

C. Peter Abelard

1. philosopher, theologian, teacher, monk
2. encouraged students to doubt, investigate, find truth

D. Francis of Assisi

1. monk who established an order of friars, The Franciscans
2. inspired by a sermon to go forth and proclaim the gospel

E. Thomas Aquinas

1. wrote *Summa Theologica* – faith and reason are one; do not have to separate
2. seen as a model teacher for those studying the priesthood
3. believed in democracy and public participation

XI. Crusades

A. military expeditions to capture the Holy Land (especially Jerusalem)

B. Muslims v Christians

C. started by Pope Urban II because Turks were preventing Christians from traveling to the Holy Land; Also Byzantines asked Pope for help against Muslims

D. Major Crusades

1. 1st – Christians captured Jerusalem
2. 3rd – “King’s Crusade” - Richard the Lionhearted of England and Muslim leader, Saladin, ended war with a truce (Muslims controlled land, but Christians allowed to visit holy places)
 - a. Eleanor of Aquitaine
 1. the first woman to challenge the church and her husbands for equality
 2. first married Louis VII of France
 3. next married Henry II of England
 4. son Richard the Lionhearted gave her ruling power when he fought in the Crusades
 5. she governed well, was fair, established some rights for women
3. 4th – Western Christians captured & sacked Constantinople
 - a. “Children’s Crusade” (Nicholas and Stephen – 2 movements)
 1. boy preaching about vision from God to lead a peaceful crusade to the holy land
 2. not just children, adults and elderly also
 3. most never made it but were sold into slavery

E. Effects

1. Christians failed to take control of the Holy Land
2. Christians stopped Muslim expansion into Europe
3. Power of kings increased but power of pope decreased
4. Trade and a desire for eastern goods increased
5. Led to the Age of Exploration

XII. Reconquista (Spanish Crusades)

1. Reconquest of Spain from the Muslims
2. El Cid- Greatest Spanish Hero of Reconquista
3. Ferdinand & Isabella ended Reconquista in 1492 by capturing Grenada.
4. Ferdinand & Isabella started Spanish Inquisition
 - a. Ended toleration for minority groups in Spain,
 - b. They believed that all Spaniards had to be Catholic if Spain was to be one nation
 - c. Spanish Jews and Muslims were given the choice to either become Catholic or to leave Spain

XIII. Crisis

- A. Famine – crops failed; people were starving
- B. Black Death (Bubonic Plague)

1. Spread from Asia to Europe
 2. One in three people died
 3. Carried by rats and fleas
 4. Spread due to poor sanitation
 5. Merchants brought diseased rats and fleas back to Europe from Asia on cargo ships and wagons, horses, in goods, etc.
 6. No cure; life expectancy was a few days
 7. Flagellants- practiced mortification of the flesh as a penance.
 - a. They traveled around Europe from town to town whipping themselves trying to atone for people's sins.
 - b. Flagellants brought plague to towns where it had not yet surfaced.
 8. Jewish Persecution
 - a. Jews were blamed for causing the Plague
 - b. There were many attacks against Jewish communities.
 - c. By 1351, 60 major and 150 smaller Jewish communities had been destroyed.
- C. Church – heresy (going against Church teachings) the Church strongly suppressed Heresy when they found it, often by the sword.
1. John Wycliffe
 - a. English theologian; preached predestination
 - b. translated the Bible into the common vernacular (Wycliffe Bible) from Latin
 - c. said the Bible, not the church was the source of all truth
 2. Jan Hus
 - a. influenced by the teachings of Wycliffe
 - b. Czech (Bohemia) priest
 - c. Catholic Church considered his teachings heretical
 - d. excommunicated and burned at the stake
 3. The Albigensians- group in France who denied the Church and Sacraments, Church sent Crusade against them.
 4. The Inquisition- Church court that suppressed Heresy through torture
- D. Hundred Years War (1337-1453)
1. England v France
 - a. Started by Edward III of England when he claimed the French Crown
 2. Longbow (able to shoot 10 arrows/min) – helped England win battles in the beginning
 3. English Heroes
 - a. The Black Prince of Wales- the main English hero during the early phase of the war, he was the son (and heir) of Edward III, but died before his father.
 - b. Henry V- young English king who defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt, where the French had 6x the number of soldiers that he had.
 3. French Heroes
 - a. Joan of Arc (French peasant girl) – vision that God wanted her to help save France; burned at the stake
 4. Cannon – first used in war by English, but later the French used cannons to bust through English castle walls and win the war
- E. Wars of the Roses- series of English civil wars between the Houses of Lancaster (Red Rose) and York (White Rose) for the throne of England.
1. 1485- battle of Bosworth Field, the House of Lancaster under Henry Tudor defeated the house of York. Henry Tudor obtained the throne uncontested and was crowned Henry VII.
 - a. Henry VII gradually reasserted Royal power over the lords and nobles.
- F. The Fall of Constantinople (1453)
1. The Byzantine Empire had been weakened since the 4th Crusade had sacked it.
 2. Turkish Ottoman Empire besieged Constantinople.
 3. The Christians resisted the Ottomans for 6 weeks, but the Turks eventually broke into the city

- a. The Last Emperor, Constantine XI was cut down while defending his city.
- b. Sultan Mehmed II renamed the city Istanbul.