

# What Do You Know?

**networks**

## Medieval Europe

### Cloze Activity

**Directions** The paragraphs below have key words and terms missing. As you read the paragraphs, fill in the blanks. You may not know the missing words or terms, but you will learn them as you read Chapter 19. After studying the chapter, you will reread the paragraph again and fill in any blanks you have left.

In A.D. 476, Germanic groups invaded Western \_\_\_\_\_, bringing the Roman Empire to an end. A new period called the \_\_\_\_\_ Ages had begun. During medieval times, the Catholic Church would become an important political as well as religious authority. Its leader, the \_\_\_\_\_, crowned emperors and told them how to rule their lands.

Because of Europe's many \_\_\_\_\_ and wide rivers, the region was rarely unified under a single ruler. As a result, local governments run by land-owning nobles became more important. A new social system called \_\_\_\_\_ began. Knights and vassals agreed to fight for specific nobles. In return those nobles protected them and rewarded them with land. \_\_\_\_\_ farmed the land and had few rights.

As trade increased and the population grew, people moved to \_\_\_\_\_. There they took up trades and some grew wealthy. \_\_\_\_\_ were established, and a small number of people became educated. Soon townspeople began to demand their rights from the nobles.

By the 1100s, many nobles left Europe to fight in \_\_\_\_\_ in the east. Their goal was to take back the Holy Land from the Muslims. They failed, but they returned to Europe with new ideas and goods. Some nobles gave up their lands and freed their \_\_\_\_\_.

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The church also faced changes. Scholars at the universities learned a new way of thinking called \_\_\_\_\_. Its followers wanted to show that ideas accepted on faith could be in agreement with learning gained through reason and experience. Yet, the church remained central to daily life. People built \_\_\_\_\_ and churches. Missionaries spread their faith throughout the region. To stop \_\_\_\_\_, or opposing ideas, the Church created a court called the Inquisition.

In the Late Middle Ages, famine and diseases like \_\_\_\_\_ caused the deaths of millions of Europeans. After years of hardships, some people began to question the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church. Countries fought long wars over land. During the Hundred Years' War, England and France fought for control of land in \_\_\_\_\_. In Spain, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella tried to unify their people by persecuting and driving out people who were not \_\_\_\_\_.