

THE MIDDLE AGES

Christianity and the Development of Western Europe

What were the Middle Ages?

- The time b/w the fall of the western Roman Empire in 476AD & the Renaissance in the mid-1300s AD
- Also called the medieval period
- **Hard & uncertain**
- Christian missionaries created a Christian society throughout Europe including England & Ireland called Christendom

Social Structure

- Feudalism –social system
 - Protection given in exchange for labor
 - Lands belonged to wealthy nobles called lords
 - Knights (cavalry soldiers) swore fealty (loyalty) to his or her lord
 - Knights given fiefs (land) for service

Manorialism –economic system

Manors-large estates

- Most workers were peasants
- Some peasants were serfs –tied to the land w/no freedom
- Peasants were usually paid in food & worked in protection
- 3 field crop rotation created surpluses

5th Century Celtic Monastery in Ireland
Christian European Society

- Monastics-people who volunteered to separate from society to dedicate themselves to God
- Augustine of Hippo –wrote *City of God* to explain the teachings of the church using the philosophy of Plato

Benedictines-around 500 AD, this order of monks dedicated themselves to helping the poor, copying manuscripts & running schools

St. Benedict
1st abbot (leader)

Gregory I -1st great pope who strengthened the Catholic Church
-Encouraged service to the poor
-Supported monastics who ran schools

The Emergence of Kingdoms

- Anglo-Saxons of England
 - 800 AD Alfred the Great, 1st king of England
- Franks of France/Germany
 - 490AD Clovis, 1st Christian King
- Carolingian Dynasty
 - Charles Martel, advisor to the Frankish King
 - Led Franks to defeat the Muslims at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD
 - Pippin III, son & king of the Franks
 - Charlemagne, grandson,
Charlemagne: Charles the Great

- Member of **Carolingian Dynasty**
- **King of the Franks**
- Great conqueror of western Europe
- Appointed counts to run his empire
- Created a law code & built schools to educate peasants
- Pope Leo III crowned him **Holy Roman Emperor** on 12-25-800 AD to honor his service to the papacy

Aachen Cathedral

The Holy Roman Empire

The Vikings

The Norman Conquest

England in the Middle Ages

- *The Magna Carta, 1215* –The Great Charter
- 1st written document to limit the power of the monarchy (king)
- The nobles created a council called **Parliament** to help govern

Trade Fair

- *Marketplace for traders only*
- Lasted 2 weeks to several months
- Needed permission from king or fief owner
- Sellers paid a tax to do business on the land
- Tax provided additional income to land owner
- Held outside, inns, food sellers and other business evolved

Market Day

- Held one day weekly in each village or town
- Peasants bartered their goods
- Sometimes passing merchants would visit

Medieval Guilds

- Guild-an organization of merchants or artisans (craftspeople)
- Created a strict process to learn the craft and sell wares
- Set prices, standards of quality, working hours
 - Apprentice- children before the age of 12 would be placed with a master for training. Typically not paid and served for 3-10 years
 - journeyman –independent worker who made his/her own money, but not a “master” because a “masterwork” had not been submitted to be judge by the guild
 - Master –independent worker who was approved by other members of the guild as a master

Pictures from PP

Late Medieval Castle

11th Century Cathedral

Illuminated manuscript

Stained Glass Windows

Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral