WHI.9 The Middle Ages Part 1

**The Middle Ages- The Basics**

The Roman Catholic Church (based in Rome) became more important as the Roman Empire declined in importance

The church played the role of the government, taking care of their political, social and religious needs

The Pope picked emperors to rule people

Missionaries spread Christianity to Germanic tribes

**Ends Are New Beginnings**

Middle Ages start with the fall of the Western Roman Empire

476 A.D. Rome falls to German invaders

Western Roman Empire doesn’t exist but Roman Catholic Church still survives

**German Invaders**

With the Western Roman Empire done, there was no one to defend people from invaders

Invaders swept into towns and people fled to the countryside

Time period a.k.a. “Dark Ages” because there was little learning or trade

**Mini-Kingdoms**

These Germanic invaders took over lands and set up kingdoms run by kings

Kingdom of Franks had a king, Clovis who took over what used to be Roman Gaul (France)

Converted to Christianity and made friends with the Pope in Rome

**Battle of Tours**

Christian vs. Muslim battle

Charles Martel (Charles the Hammer) leads Christian Franks versus Muslims moving into France

Martel and Christians win, Muslims go back to Spain

Christians think it’s a sign that God is on their side

**Charlemagne**

Charles Martel’s grandson, Charles I, eventually becomes King of the Franks

Built empire through France, Italy and Germany

In 799 Pope asks Charles for help dealing with a gang of Romans who were after him

**Charlemagne**

Charles goes to Rome, exiles the gang after the Pope, puts the Pope back in charge

Pope thankful to Charles, on Christmas Day, 800, crowns Charles “Emperor of the Romans” and he’s now called Charlemagne

Important because now Rome is controlled by a Germanic king, protecting Christianity

**Charlemagne’s Legacy**

Charlemagne sent missionaries through Europe to spread Christianity

Those missionaries carried Christianity and the Latin alphabet to other Germanic tribes

Kept fighting off invading Muslims

Fought off Magyars- people from Hungry- invaders

**Age of Charlemagne**

The Franks (Charlemagne’s people) became a major force in Europe, with most of Western Europe in the empire

The power of the church began to seep into political life- the two were connected

Churches, roads, and schools were built to unite this Christian empire

Re-interpretation of Roman culture

**Monastic Life**

Monks spent most of their day either working the land, praying or copying texts.

They preserved Greco-Roman cultural achievements by copying the works of Greek and Roman historians and poets.

In western Europe most of the classical texts were Roman.

Greek texts were preserved by the Byzantine scholars.

**Who’s the Boss?**

Pope: head of the Church, noble

Cardinal: advisor of the pope, noble

Archbishop: head of an archdiocese = several dioceses

Bishop: head of a diocese = several parishes

Parish Priest: head of a parish (locality)

**Power of the Church**

Catholic church provides for social and religions needs of the people

Priests do sacraments: marriage, last rites

Provided education

Care for the poor

Kept money flowing