WHI.12a The Rise of Nations

**Angles and Saxons**

* During the 400s and 500s Germanic tribes called Angles and Saxons took over what used to be Roman colony of Britain
* Country of England formed under a monarchy
* Held up under attacks from Vikings
* 1066 King Edward of England died without an heir

**Power Vacuum**

* After Edward’s death, a council of nobles picked Edward’s brother-in-law, Harold, to be king
* A relative, William of Normandy, a Frenchman claimed he should be king
* Went to war over who would be king
* 1066 Battle of Hastings– William wins, nickname “William the Conqueror”, becomes king, unites England

**Common Law**

* Henry II, King of England, came up with Common Law, by taking customs and rules that had always been followed and made them official
* Common Law applied to everyone
* People brought disputes to government instead of church
* Jury system created- 12 people locally picked to decide if someone should go to trial

**Richard I**

After Henry II died, his son Richard became king.

Richard I was also known as Richard the Lionheart (from the Crusades)

Richard died without an heir, so the throne passed to his brother, John

**King John**

* King John was a jerk
* Taxed his people at high rates, fought wars his nobles didn’t like, married a girl (possibly 9 years old), fought with the Pope, imprisoned people for no reason
* His nobles met John and told him to sign the Magna Carta, otherwise he couldn’t stay king

**Magna Carta**

* Guaranteed certain rights to nobles (later to all Englishmen)
* Stated
	+ Kings must obey the law
	+ Can’t tax people without their consent
	+ Can’t arrest people without cause
	+ Can’t convict people without trial
* Basis of our entire government and justice system today

**Parliament**

The Magna Carta set the table for the Parliament to oversee the king's rule

Parliament is what inspired our Congress

Bicameral legislature (two houses: House of Commons and House of Lords)

**France**

After the last king of the French (Frankish) Carolingian (Charles Martel, Charlemagne) dynasty died, a new dynasty was started by a noble named Hugh Capet

Capet moved the French capital to Paris and his family (Capetian Dynasty) eventually extended control over most of what is today France

**Expansion of France**

Much of the French expansion was done by a king named Philip II

At first, Philip II lost several battles and land to the English kings Henry II and Richard I (Lionheart), but when John became king he was able to score some big wins and take much territory

**The Hundred Years War**

In 1337 the last Capetian king of France died without an heir

The English king, Edward III, claimed the throne because he was a relative of the dead French king

England would fight a war versus France for control of the French throne from 1337 to 1453 (actually 116 years)

The Hundred Years War is what really makes England and France their own countries

At the end of the fighting each country has a well defined border and the back and forth claims over who should be king are mostly over

**Joan of Arc**

One important figure to come out of the Hundred Years War was Joan of Arc

Joan was a young French girl who claimed to receive visions from God telling her to defeat the British

Convinced French King to let her command troops

French won key victory at Battle of Orleans 1429 on way to total victory

Captured by English, sentenced to death.

**Development of Spain**

In the 1400s, the two main regions of Spain, Aragon and Castille, were joined together by the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella.

After the marriage, the Spanish monarch began to drive out the Muslims who had built a kingdom in Southern Spain.  The war against them was called the Reconquista, which ended in 1492 when the Muslim Moors were finally defeated.

In 1492, Spain became a unified, Catholic country and began its exploration of the Americas by sponsoring Columbus in the same year.

As Spain began to expand in the Western Hemisphere, on the lands discovered by Columbus, it is under Spanish king Charles V that Spain becomes most powerful.

**Russia**

In the 1200s, Russia had become the Khanate of the Golden Horde which was part of the Mongol Empire.

In the 1400s, Ivan III married a daughter of the Byzantine emperor and began to call himself Caesar or Czar.  (Seeing himself as a continuation of Roman and Byzantine tradition)

In 1480, Ivan III stopped paying tribute or taxes to the Mongols. The Mongols refused to fight the Russians so Russia became independent from Mongol control.

**Rise of Moscow**

Ivan declared that his seat of power, Moscow , would be the new Rome .

He then conquered territory to expand the Russian nation. He also centralized power by making the Czar (monarchy) more powerful than the nobility.

Russians were mainly Eastern Orthodox, so the church helped to unify the Russian state.