Medieval Study Guide

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| 1. Know your vocabulary: | **Study your vocabulary cards!** |
| 2. Why Middle Ages? How did they start and what was the environment like during this time? | **Its in between the great accomplishments of the ancient times (Ancient Romans) and the great achievements of the modern era (Renaissance).**  **They began at the fall of the Roman Empire around 500.**  **It was a time of endless battles, invasions, bloodshed, struggles for power, Catholic church touched everyone’s lives.** |
| 3. Know the 3 periods and the key events of each period. | **Early – Viking invasions, Charlemagne**  **High – feudalism in place, people begin to feel safe, good growing seasons, plenty of food, growth of cities, Crusades, most cathedrals were built**  **Late – bad growing seasons, starvation, Black Death, Hundred Years War** |
| 4. What made Charlemagne so great that we now study him? | **He conquered or united several kingdoms in Western Europe – crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by the pope, always led his men into battle, he was a great leader.**  **He also tried to fix the justice system by getting rid of trial by ordeal and set a ‘jury’ in place. He revised the tax system so collectors could not cheat as much. He promoted learning; he set up roads for trade.**  **It was almost like the Roman empire again…** |
| 5. Describe feudalism. Know the groups and their position on the “totem pole” and how each group depended on the other. | **A type of government system where land = power. The king as at the top, he would give land (fief) to a lord/noble for money, protection, and loyalty. The lord would then give land to lesser nobles like vassals/knights for their money, protection, and loyalty. The peasants and serfs at the bottom did ALL of the work for the protection of the knights.** |
| 6. Describe the manor. Know how the manor worked – the lives of the people that lived there. | **The manor was how that fief of land was organized to house everyone and provide the needs of everyone that lived there – it was how the economy was organized. The king/lord/noble/vassal lived in the manor house (which could also be a castle) while the peasants and serfs lived around the outside of the manor in a village. There was land for farming, for animals to graze, and forests for the lord/noble to hunt and do falconry. The manor was self-sufficient – they made all clothing, food, everything they needed was made on the manor.** |
| 7. Describe the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages… | **The Church was important to everyone in Western Europe during the middle ages, whether rich or poor. The rich paid the church for services, such as penance, with land, jewelry, and money. The nobles also paid the church to educate their children. Therefore, the Church became very wealthy. The church also acted like the government by collecting taxes, making laws, and setting up courts to uphold the laws. The church advised kings and threatened them with excommunication. Every village and town had a church and a priest. There were also monks and nuns that lived apart from the people but helped out the sick, poor, and travelers.** |
| 8. Know that Battle of Hastings – who was it between and who was the winner. | **The Battle of Hastings was between King Harold II of England and Duke William the Conqueror of Normandy. The Duke had made Harold sign an oath before he was king swearing he would marry William’s daughter and make William king of England. When Harold became king he ignored the oath and William declared a holy war on England. In the end Harold II was killed and William the Conqueror became king of England. Which two hundred years later helped cause the Hundred Years War between England and France.** |
| 9. With the decline of feudalism, what begins to grow? Who gets powerful during this time? Why? | **Towns begin to grow, as does the King’s power. As the nobles get weaker, they cannot challenge the king. As towns grow, there is less need for self-sufficient manors that have knights to protect it, plus with more towns comes more trade, which allows people to travel more and leave the manors. The manors lose their power and wealth, the towns grow larger. The nobles lose power while the king gains it.** |
| 10. What is the significance of the Magna Carta? | **It limited the king’s power and set up a “great council” which later becomes the Parliament of England.** |
| 11. How did the Black Death change Europe? | **It killed about one third to one half of the population, which brought about changes to the workers asking for more rights. Whole towns were decimated. People began to question the power of the Catholic Church as the clergy died too. People became scared to help one another and it totally changed the society of Europe.** |