

Quiz #20

Notes

5-13-15

After the Roman Empire had fallen, Western Europe was a very divided and dangerous place to live.

- As empires fell, kings lost power
- Vikings and other armed bands threatened everyone
- Lords need to protect their land from other nobles

Vikings

- Came from Scandinavia,
- Were polytheistic (believed in many gods),
- Wrote in characters called runes.
- Raided Europe using a hit and run strategy and regularly attacked monasteries.
- Vikings were the first European people to reach North America.

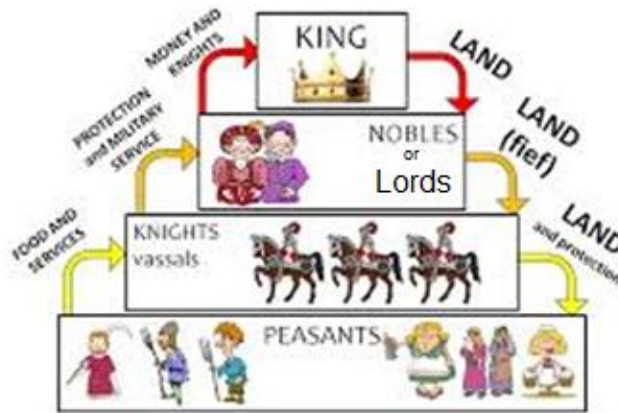
Charlemagne – ALSO KNOWN AS King of the Franks, Charles the Great

- Expanded his kingdom and brought order to his empire by defeating many different groups
- Expanded education
- Supported monasteries
- Crowned the first Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day in 800AD

Feudalism

- **Feudalism** - A political/social system where a lord granted land and protection to a vassal in return for loyalty and military service.

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- Lords were powerful landowners who used their land to gain the loyalty of the people around them.
- Knights were professional soldiers that received fiefs (or land) from lords in return for military service.
- The **Code of Chivalry** is a set of rules of honorable conduct that knights followed created by the Christian Church.
- **Peasants** were people in medieval Europe that worked the land in return for protection and land. They were made up of two groups:
 - **Freemen** who owned or leased their plots of land
 - **Serfs** were tied to the land they worked. They could not leave it without the Lords permission.
- The **manor** was where lords, knights, and peasants all lived together.
- The **manor house, a village, and fields and farmland** make up a manor.