Charlemagne

after his death, the Carolingian Empire was split into three major sections

west Frankish lands, east Frankish lands, and the Middle Kingdom

the three major sections the Carolingian Empire was split into following Charlemagne’s death

other names for Vikings

Norsemen or Northmen

Normandy

area of northern present-day France given to the Vikings to appease them (hopefully stop them from attacking other areas)

one reason why feudalism began in Europe

fall of the Carolingian Empire = no more protection for the people

feudalism

political and social order that developed during the Middle Ages when royal governments were no longer able to defend their subjects

vassal

under feudalism, a man who was at the ready to serve a lord in a military capacity when necessary

knight

under feudalism, a member of the heavily armored cavalry

mail

armor made of metal links or plates

stirrups

allowed horsemen to wield long lances that enabled them to act as battering rams

act of homage; oath of fealty

name given to the ceremony a man performed to become a vassal to a lord

fief

under feudalism, a grant of land made to a vassal on which the vassal held political authority

feudal contract

under feudalism, the unwritten rules that determined the relationship between a lord and his vassal

tournament

contest in which knights could demonstrate their fighting skills

joust

individual combat between two knights

chivalry

in the Middle Ages, the ideal of civilized behavior that developed among the nobility; a code of ethics that knights were supposed to uphold

why the population of Europe increased dramatically during the High Middle Ages

Europe was more peaceful; the climate changed allowing for more food production

carruca

a heavy, wheeled plow with an iron plowshare

reasons for increased food production during the Middle Ages

climate change; changes in technology; the use of crop rotation

fallow

unplanted

manor

an agricultural estate that a lord ran and peasants worked

serfs

peasants legally bound to the land of manor

Hanseatic League

an alliance of more than 100 northern European cities that banded together for mutual trade protection and economic

opportunity

bourgeoisie

the middle class, including merchants, industrialists, and professional people

guilds

organizations that set the standard for the quality of the articles produced and even fixed the price at which the finished goods could be sold

1066

the year of the Norman Conquest

Battle of Hastings

William of Normandy conquered King Harold of England

Domesday Book

census conducted by the Normans

common law

a uniform system of law that developed in England based on court decision and on customs and usage rather that on written law codes; replaced law codes that varied from place to place

Thomas a Becket

Archbishop of Canterbury under Henry II of England; said only the Church was allowed to punish clergymen, not the king; murdered by knights who thought they were doing what the king wanted

Magna Carta

gave written recognition to the fact that the relationship between king and vassals was based on mutual rights; King John was forced to sign this in 1215, limiting his power

Parliament

in thirteenth-century England, the representative government that emerged; it was composed of two knights from every county two people from every town, and all the nobles and bishops throughout England

Estates-General

first French parliament; comprised of three different orders, each comprised of different classes of people: the clergy, the nobles, and the townspeople and peasants

Holy Roman Empire

the eastern Frankish kingdom; given this name by Germanic Frederick I as he attempted to join Italy with the Germanic lands already under his rule