

Week 1

Seventh Grade Homework (April 20-April 24, 2020)

Dr. Sabharwal and Mr. Kovac

- 1) **Journal Writing for Electives (AVID and Speech)** – Write the answer one question every day starting- Monday April 20, 2020. All answers must be at least two paragraphs long and each paragraph has to have five or more sentences.

- 1) What are the biggest differences between learning from home compared to learning at school? Which do you prefer?
- 2) What do you miss most about being in the classroom? What do you miss least?
- 3) What are the best things about doing your schoolwork at home? What are the worst things? Why?
- 4) What about being home has been better than you thought it would be? What has been harder? Why?

- 2) **Language Arts** – You can use the packets you collected from the school for this homework. Read for 20 minutes every day. List anything you read. It can be a recipe you read on a carton/box, an article you read in the Tracy Press or online, a book you read or even a manual you read to assemble a table. Be precise. **Format Reading Log like this every day, for the week of homework:**

Date: Monday April 20, 2020

Title/Name of the document:

Purpose of the Author:

Minutes Read: 20

- 3) **Social Studies** – Read pages 294-299. Write down ten facts you learned about Medieval Europe.

Due Date: Not Graded

Office Hours: – 1 – 3 pm (email us only if you have a question during these hours.)
Mon. – Fri.

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1.1

Medieval Europe



The Germanic tribes that caused the fall of the

Western Roman Empire in A.D. 476 didn't just devastate towns and kill many of their inhabitants. They destroyed a way of life. For hundreds of years, the Roman Empire had united much of Europe. With the empire no longer in control, "Now what?" could well have been the question on almost everyone's mind.

MAIN IDEA

After Rome fell, Western Europe underwent many political and cultural changes.

AFTER THE FALL OF ROME

What came next is a period historians call the **Middle Ages**. This era lasted from about 500 to 1450 in Western Europe and is also called the medieval period. **Medieval** comes from the Latin words *medium*, meaning "middle," and *aevum*, meaning "age."

During the early part of this period, Western Europe was very different from what it had been under Rome's strong central government and powerful army. After Rome fell, Germanic leaders seized power, and much of the region became divided into small kingdoms that were almost constantly at war. As a result of this widespread warfare, one of the greatest challenges

facing leaders was to keep their people safe and secure. This challenge would help shape stronger governments over time.

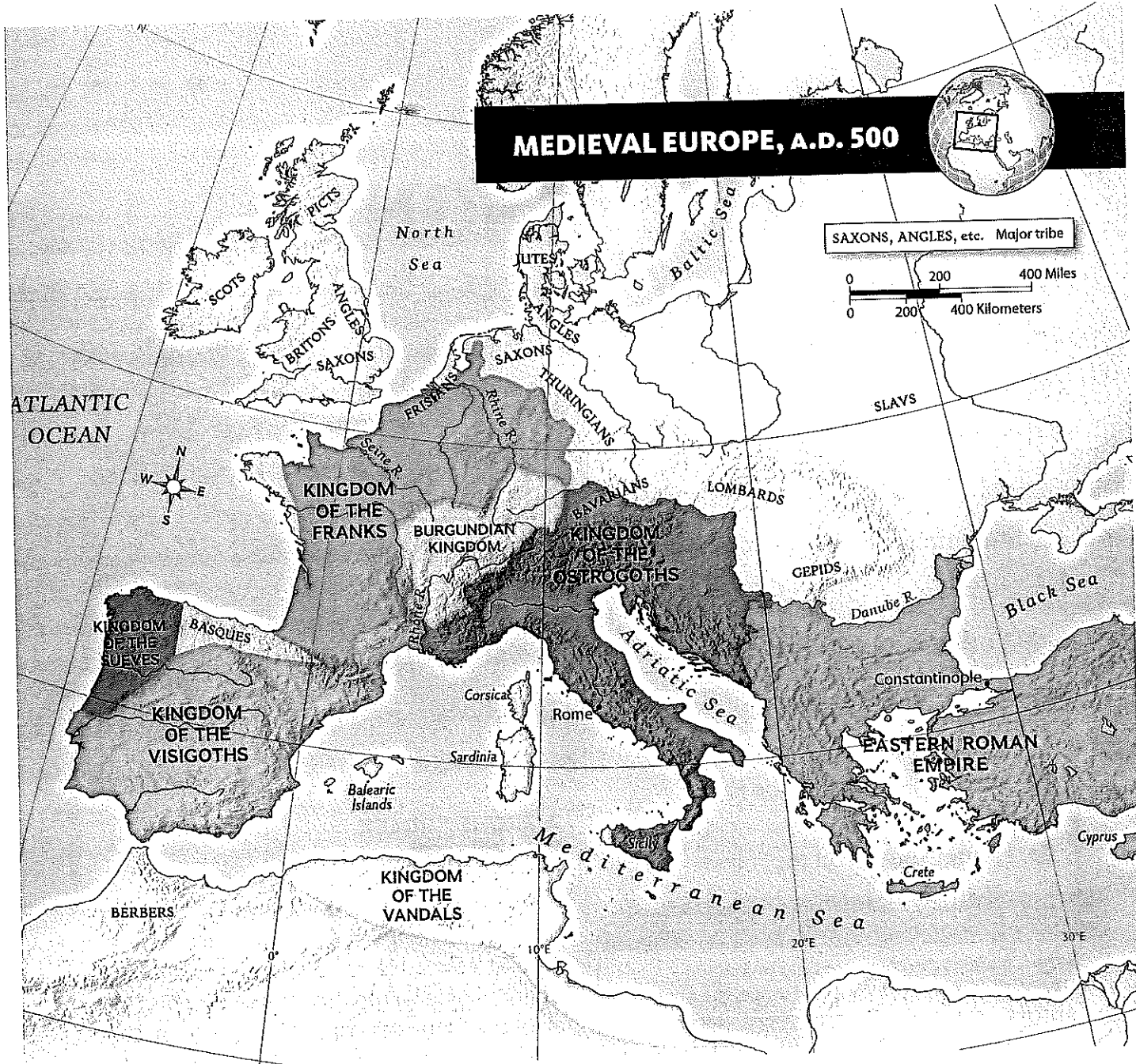
It was a violent time, yet many kingdoms thrived. Thanks to the region's mostly moderate climate and rich soil, farmers could grow crops and feed themselves and their livestock. Abundant forestland provided wood for building, and mountains containing a wealth of minerals—particularly iron—allowed the Germanic peoples to make all the weapons they needed to fight their foes. In addition, Western Europe's long coastline and major rivers gave people access to the sea and plentiful supplies of fish.

POLITICAL AND CULTURAL CHANGES

The region's many waterways offered ideal routes and networks for trading. However, unlike the Romans, the Germanic peoples who migrated to Western Europe were not interested in trade. The tribes that settled in Roman lands in the early part of the Middle Ages preferred their own traditions to Roman ways.

For example, the new settlers had their own ideas about government. Tribes such as the **Franks** united to form powerful kingdoms but didn't create large centralized governments or write down their laws, as the Romans had. Instead, the people obeyed the unwritten rules and traditions of their king. They lived in small villages where they worked the land and tended their herds. As trade began to disappear in the region, so did many cities.

Just about the only force that helped unite Western Europe in the early Middle Ages was Christianity, which survived the fall of Rome. Before the 500s, most Germanic peoples, including the Angles, Jutes, and Saxons, practiced their traditional religions and worshipped many gods. After the Germanic leaders came to power, however, many of them **converted**, or changed their religion, to Christianity.



The first leader to convert was Clovis, who ruled the Franks. After Clovis defeated Roman Gaul (now France) in 486, he went on to conquer other weaker kingdoms. When he converted to Christianity, many of his subjects did, too. As a result of

his conversion and that of other rulers, Christianity spread and increased in influence. Even though the Western Roman Empire had disappeared, the city of Rome itself retained a certain amount of power and strength. It remained the home of the pope as well as the center of Christianity.

REVIEW & ASSESS

1. READING CHECK How did government change in Western Europe after the fall of Rome?

2. INTERPRET MAPS Which of the six kingdoms labeled on the map might have been most exposed to attack from other kingdoms? Explain why.

3. COMPARE AND CONTRAST How did Western European culture in the early Middle Ages differ from culture during the Roman Empire?

CHARLEMAGNE

c. 742 – 814

He was a man of contrasts. He ruthlessly destroyed his enemies but loved learning. He was a tall, commanding figure but usually wore simple clothing. He received fabulous gifts from foreign kings but collected songs of ancient Germanic heroes. In spite of—or maybe because of—these contradictions, he became the first emperor in Western Europe since the fall of the Western Roman Empire. They didn't call this king of the Franks Charlemagne—or Charles the Great—for nothing.



Job: First emperor of the Holy Roman Empire

Home: Kingdom of the Franks

FINEST HOUR

After Charlemagne conquered and united the Germanic kingdoms of Western Europe, the pope placed a crown on Charlemagne's head, proclaiming him emperor of the Romans.

HOBBIES

He enjoyed hunting and swimming and often made his friends and nobles swim with him.

TRIVIA

He could get by on little sleep and sometimes woke his officials to hear the latest report or charge them with a new task.

DEATH

After swimming in one of his favorite springs, he came down with a fever and died a week later.

A MIGHTY RULER

More than 200 years after Clovis died, **Charlemagne** (SHAHR-luh-mayn) became the Frankish king in 768 and proved to be a natural leader. He had a vision for his reign. Charlemagne wanted to unite under his rule all of the Germanic kingdoms shown on the map in the previous lesson. To achieve that goal, the Frankish king battled such tribes as the Slavs, the Lombards, and the Saxons, who reigned in what is now Germany. In the end, Charlemagne succeeded. He brought many of the Germanic tribes together as one people and became the strongest leader in Western Europe.

While Charlemagne was doing battle with the Saxons and other powerful Germanic tribes, he ably administered his kingdom. He established new laws to keep order and appointed officials to run faraway regions of his realm. Each year, Charlemagne called the officials to his court to keep tabs on them. He also took care of his subjects. He founded



Coronation of Charlemagne, Raphael, Sanzio, 1516–1517

In this painting, Pope Leo III crowns Charlemagne emperor of the Romans before an audience of Church officials.

schools and protected the weak against injustice. Above all, he wanted to strengthen Christianity throughout his kingdom.

A CHRISTIAN EMPIRE

Like all Frankish kings since the 500s, Charlemagne was a Christian. In fact, his wars against the Germanic tribes had been fought not only to unite the tribes but also to spread his faith. After he conquered the Saxons, he declared that he would put to death anyone who refused to convert to Christianity. Since Charlemagne had already proved how ruthless he could be by slaughtering more than 4,000 Saxons who had fought against him, those who remained offered no further resistance.

Charlemagne was also a loyal defender of the pope at the time, Pope Leo III. After the pope passed laws that chipped away at the power of the nobles of Rome, they rebelled against him in 800. Leo asked for Charlemagne's help, and the king put the uprising down.

To express his gratitude, Leo crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Romans during a Christmas service in Rome. Charlemagne became the first German emperor of what would later be called the Holy Roman Empire. The title recognized Charlemagne as a guardian of Christianity. It also fueled his passion to strengthen the Church. By the time Charlemagne died in 814, he had created a strong Christian empire.

REVIEW & ASSESS

1. READING CHECK What were Charlemagne's two main goals during his reign?

2. SEQUENCE EVENTS What happened after Charlemagne put down the uprising in Rome?

3. MAKE INFERENCES How was Charlemagne a stabilizing, or steadying, force in Western Europe?



Investigating a Mysterious Treasure

People carefully combing every inch of a stretch of beach with a metal detector may dream of striking it rich, but they usually just find a few dollars in change. Who knows what Terry Herbert dreamed of finding with his metal detector as he searched a field in the English county of Staffordshire in 2009? The farmer who owned the land hoped Herbert would uncover his missing wrench. Instead, as Caroline Alexander has reported, he found a mysterious stash of long-ago buried treasure.

^ This gold sword hilt, or handle, was among the treasure found in Staffordshire. The hilt is inlaid with red gemstones called garnets. If you look closely, you can see traces of soil on the gems.

MAIN IDEA

Archaeologists are trying to figure out who buried a great treasure in England in the late 600s and why.

BURIED TREASURE

Remember reading about the Angles and Saxons in the first two lessons of this chapter? Not all members of these powerful tribes lived in Germany. The Anglo-Saxons—made up mostly of Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—settled in England in the 400s and ruled there for about 600 years. Archaeologists know that the treasure Herbert uncovered in Staffordshire was buried during the Anglo-Saxons' rule. They have also determined that most of the Staffordshire Hoard, as it came to be called, consists of military items. (*Hoard* is just another word for a mass or collection of something.) The only nonmilitary items are a quotation from the Bible, inscribed on a thin strip of gold, and two golden crosses.

What archaeologists don't know is who hid the hoard and why. Was the treasure buried by Anglo-Saxon soldiers or thieves? Did those who hid the treasure want to keep it safe from enemy hands? Did they plan to come back for it? Questions like these captured the imagination of National Geographic writer Caroline Alexander. As she points out in a 2011 issue of *National Geographic* magazine, "The Staffordshire Hoard was thrilling and historic—but above all it was enigmatic [mysterious]."

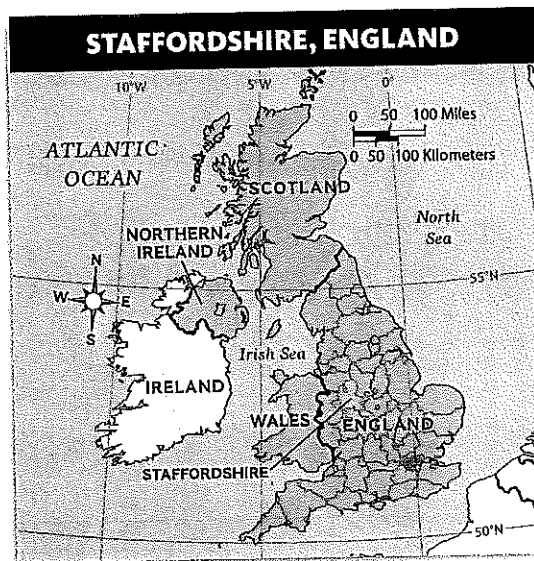
MYSTERIES AND MAGIC

Alexander believes the key to understanding the mystery of the hoard lies in understanding the importance of magic

at that time. The Anglo-Saxons deeply believed in magic and certain supernatural creatures. For example, as Alexander writes, "Misfortune was commonly attributed to tiny darts fired by elves." Gold was thought to have magical properties that could please these creatures. So the hoard might also have been meant to ward off misfortune—particularly in battle.

But what about the Christian items? You've learned that many Germanic peoples converted to Christianity after the fall of

Rome. This may explain the quotation from the Bible on the strip of gold and the two crosses. However, many of the new converts blended Christianity with their traditional beliefs. Some early Germanic Christian kings called on God to help them in battle. They also believed that biblical quotations could give them magical power in battle.



So was the hoard buried as an offering for the gods, the Christian God, or supernatural creatures? Perhaps it was a combination of all three. Or maybe it was none of the above. As Alexander admits, "Odds are we will never know the story behind the Staffordshire Hoard, but in a world without magic spells or dragons, would we understand it if we did?"

REVIEW & ASSESS

1. **READING CHECK** What treasure was discovered in a field in Staffordshire?
2. **IDENTIFY MAIN IDEAS AND DETAILS** Who were the Anglo-Saxons?
3. **DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Why does Caroline Alexander think we may never understand the story behind the Staffordshire Hoard?