Middle Ages

Key Terms
1. Dark Ages: 500 to 1000 in Western Europe where all previous knowledge was lost.
2. Medieval: Latin for “middle”
3. Clovis: Frankish barbarian king in the late 400’s who converted to Christianity
4. Benedict: wrote rules for living in monasteries; later “St. Benedict”
5. Gregory I: powerful Pope in the late 500s who worked to convert kings to Christianity
6. Knight: lowest level of the aristocracy; devoted life to war.
7. Count: generally one of the Kings lesser “vassals”
8. Franks: largest of the barbarian kingdoms after the fall of the Roman empire.
9. Pepin the Short: son of Charles Martel; first Carolingian king.
10. Papal States: land around Rome that was under direct rule of the Pope.
11. Charlemagne: greatest dark age king; briefly united western Europe in the 800’s.
12. Treaty of Verdun: divided western Europe into three zones; Charlemagne’s grandsons
15. Eric the Red: leader of the early Vikings.
17. Feudalism: political and social structure of the Middle Ages; based on land ownership
18. Lord: largest landowner in the Middle Ages. Usually the King.
19. Vassal: one who received land from a King.
20. Investiture: ceremony where the king gave land to a vassal.
21. Fief: the actual land given to a vassal.
24. Fallow: to “not” farm a piece of land.
25. Three-field system: advancement in the middle ages on farms; increased crops.
26. Middle class: level of society that began to develop in Europe after the 1200’s.
27. Bourgeoisie: the middle class of the high middle ages
28. Fair: events held in the new towns to buy and sell goods
30. Apprentice: a person being trained in a specific occupation.
31. Charter: a legal grant from the king granting a city its independence.
32. Cardinal: major and powerful church official.
33. Lay investiture: the act of a non-church official naming Bishops in certain areas.
34. Canon law: church or religious law.
35. Tithe: income set aside to be donated to the church.
36. Heresy: acting or promoting acts or beliefs contrary to that of the Church.
37. Friar: a monk who tended to live amongst the peasants of a town.
38. Romanesque: flat stone architecture of the middle ages.
39. Henry IV: German prince who favored lay investiture
40. **Gregory VII**: Pope who excommunicated Henry IV
41. **Concordat of Worms**: agreement to end the practice of lay investiture
42. **Inquisition**: church court that tried people accused of heresy.
43. **Common law**: English law based on precedents
44. **Battle of Hastings**: William of Normandy conquers England
45. **Hugh Capet**: French king that stabilizes France in the 1300’s.
46. **Otto the Great**: power German King who tried to take over the Christian Church
47. **Holy Roman Empire**: loose union of Germanic kingdoms under one powerful ruler
48. **Frederick Barbarossa**: German King who fought in the third crusade.
49. **Page**: a Knights errand boy
50. **Squire**: a Knights assistant who took care of the horse.
51. **Thomas Aquinas**: monk and scholar who tried to unite rational and religious thought
52. **Crusade**: a series of wars began by Christian knights to take the holy land back from the Muslims.
53. **Jerusalem**: city in Palestine that was the main target of the Crusaders.
54. **Byzantine Empire**: weak Christian empire by the 1100’s
55. **Richard the Lionheart**: King of Enland who fought in the third crusade.
56. **Constantinople**: capital of the Byzantine Empire; sacked by western crusaders in the 1200’s.