





The beginning...Early Middle Ages

- · Decline of Roman Empire
- · Rise of Northern Europe
- · New forms of government
- · Heavy "Romanization" (religion, language, laws, architecture, government)
- · Latin- "medium aevum" means "middle age" and is source of English word "medieval"





Periodization

Early Middle Ages: 500 - 1000

High Middle Ages: 1000 - 1250

Late Middle Ages: 1250 - 1500



Early Middle Ages



Dark Ages (500 CE- 1000 CE)- scholars named this as a time when the forces of darkness (barbarians) overwhelmed the forces of light (Romans)

Rise of influence of barbarians as Roman Emperors had granted barbarian mercenaries land with the Roman Empire in return for military service and it was these barbarians who eventually became the new rulers





Europe in the 6c



From Rome to Constantinople

Constantinop

- (former city of Byzantium) became new capital and control centre for Roman Empire
- Was largest city by population in the world west of China
- Strategic location on trade routes
- One of largest natural harbours in the world linked the east and west
- Byzantine gold coin (bezant) was the main currency of international trade
- Ruled provinces by Roman model (governors, bureaucracy and imperial army, heavy taxation and favouring of royal family and priests in trade and taxes



Expanding Influence of the Church

- Christian Church has become an important political, economic, spiritual and cultural force in Europe
- Leading officials of Church were the Pope and Patriarch
- Banning of heresy (holding beliefs that contradict the official religion)
- · conversion by force
- Eventually in 11th Century, Church split into two independent branches Eastern Orthodox (Greek) based in Constantinople and Roman Catholic in Rome



You scratch my back... I'll scratch yours....



- Church was granted favors by <u>Roman Emperors</u> / Kings (land, exemption from taxes, immunity in courts, positions in courts) and in return the Church would endorse kings to help secure their rule
- Kings looked to Church to supply educated administrators to help run kingdoms and in return kings would enforce laws that prohibited other religions

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The Medieval Catholic Church

- filled the power vacuum left from the collapse of the classical world.
- monasticism:
 - St. Benedict Benedictine Rule of poverty, chastity, and obedience.
 - provided schools for the children of the upper class.
 - inns, hospitals, refuge in times of war.
 - libraries & scriptoria to copy books and illuminate manuscripts.
 - monks → missionaries to the barbarians. [St. Patrick, St. Boniface]

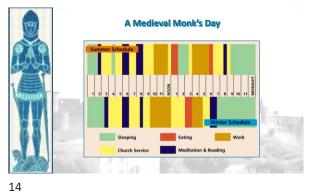


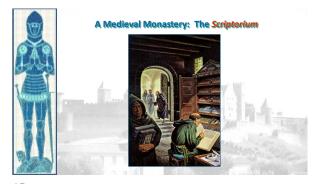
The Power of the Medieval Church

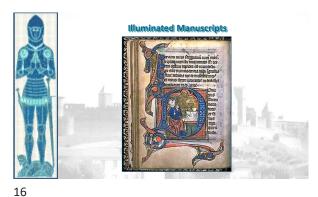
- bishops and abbots played a large part in the feudal system.
- the church controlled about 1/3 of the land in Western Europe.

- tithe → 1/10 tax on your assets given to the church.
- Peter's Pence → 1 penny per person
 [paid by the peasants].









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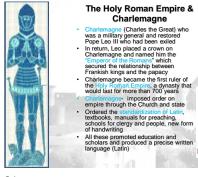




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Charlemagne's Kingdom

- After the death of his father and his brother he inherited the Empire at the age of 26.
 He was constantly at war with his enemies, spreading Christianity with the edge of his sword. Ruled the interior kingdom using the feudal system (lords, nobles, counts, abbots and bishops)
 Introduced an education of arithmetic, grammar and songs of worship.
 Charlemagne once said: "Good works are better than knowledge, but without knowledge good works are impossible."
- He adopted the best ideas of that time and although some were rude and crude raised the standard of living.







Pope Crowned Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor: Dec. 25, 800



The Carolingian Renaissance







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A single faith and Frankish heritage



- · Coextensive with Christian Europe
- The vast area he had conquered was once a divided people with conflicting beliefs.
- Although his Empire did not last forever, the ideas and beliefs of the population remained.
- Charlemagne's Empire created a culture in which the tradition and custom was accepted and maintained.





Death of Charlemagne



- Charlemagne dies in 814 from pleurisy at the age of 72. He had ruled for 46 years.
- He is buried at Aachen, a town in the north part of Germany and west of the Rhine
- His sons divide the land into four subkingdoms
- They will only rule for another hundred vears

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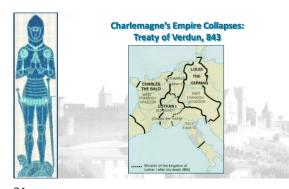
Hero of two Nations

- He is held as both a French and German hero although some say he himself was neither.
- His success was largely due to the Church but he couldn't have done it without his own personality and enthusiasm.
- It is said he listened to any voice, rich or poor, that had a comment about the state of the Empire.
- During festivals like the "Mayfield" (also a government meeting) he would jest with the young and help the old.
- He was an emperor who's ideas and decisions were like those of the common population and therefore the people could relate to him.



Civil War and the end of an empire

- Charlemagne's sons fall into civil war and unknowingly destroy that which they are fighting for.
- The treaty of Verdun and the treaty of Merson (In 843) were declared by the pope and divided the land into the feudal kingdoms of France, Germany and Italy.





He changed the course of history

- · By Beginning the Carolingian Renaissance
- · By spreading Christianity
- · By uniting almost all of Europe
- · By protecting the Holy Roman Church
- By documenting history
- · By turning enemies into friends
- · By using the feudal system
- By introducing education

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Medieval Life

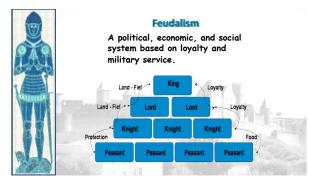
- War, death and disease
- Populations were clustered around strongholds
- The narrow lanes in towns were crawling with beggars and lepers
- · Agriculture was the common man's duty
- People were Superstitious and fearful of change
- Education was mainly for the Church and nobility
- The common story told of the former Roman Empire was that God had given and God had taken away.

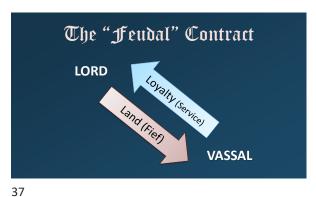


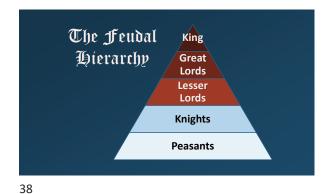


Structure of government: Feudalism

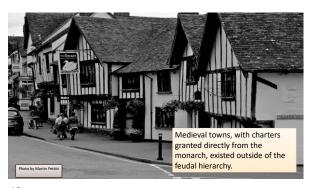
- Like a pyramid: King at top, lords, nobles, vassals and finally serfs.
- King had final word, lords and nobles enforce
- There was no standing army, only militia
- · No civil service or merchant class
- On a Democratic aspect, Charlemagne held meetings of higher classes to debate the state of the Empire.

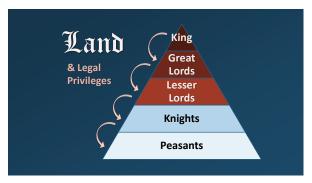


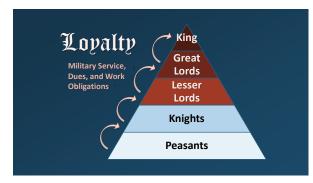












"Homage and Fealty"

This was the glue of the feudal system

- It was romanticized and very symbolic but just like contract.
- Means to be faithful to king and noble until your death.
- The vassal swore on bended knee: "To do service and reverence as far as a freeman may, and not at any time of my life withdraw myself from your power. At my death my property shall return to your hands."

Lord and Vassal

- >Lords owned the land and distributed it among the vassals.
- Everything from the fish in the streams to the cow's pasture was taxed.
 - Including public ovens, baths and grain mills
- This is how lords and nobles acquired money.

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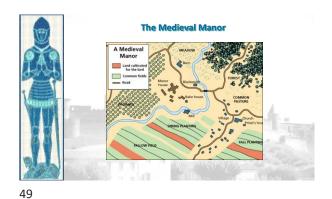
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Parts of a Medieval Castle



Chivalry: A Code of Honor and Behavior

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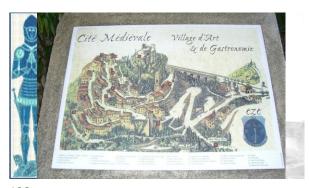












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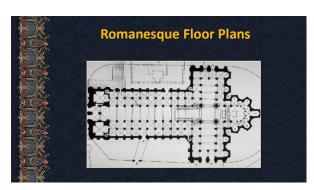
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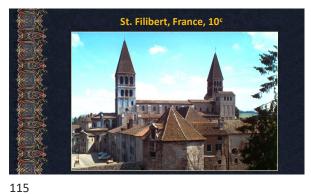


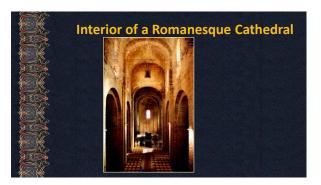
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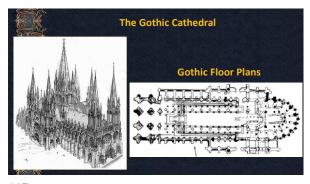




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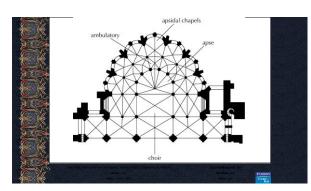






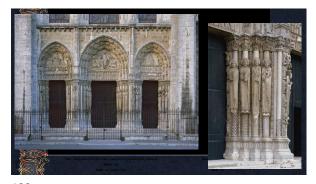


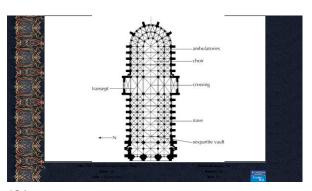






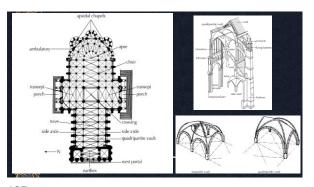












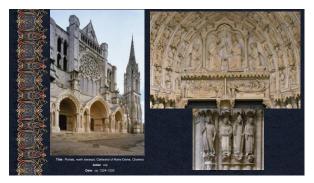


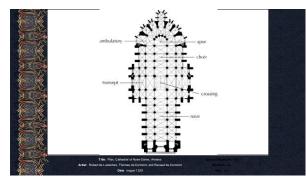
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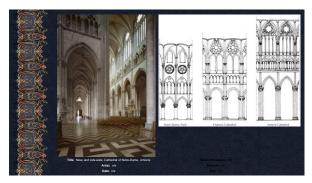


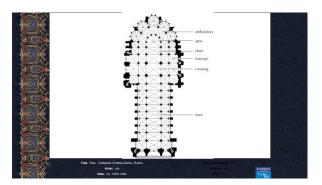
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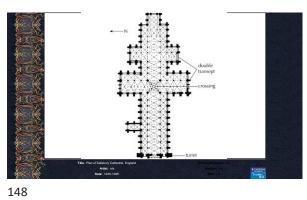
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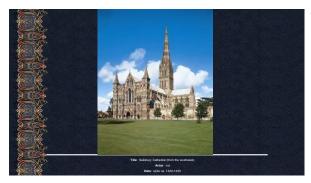


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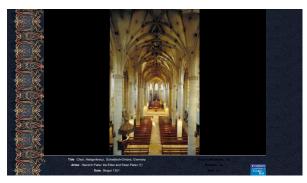
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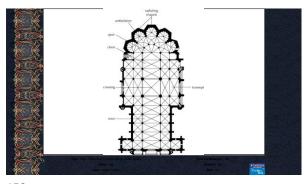




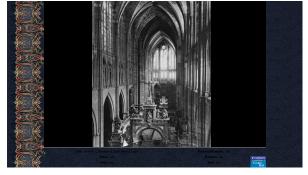
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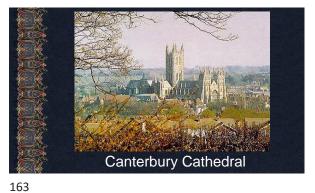


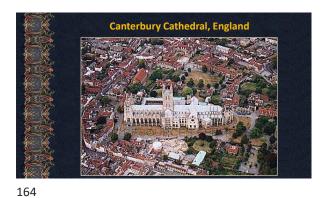
























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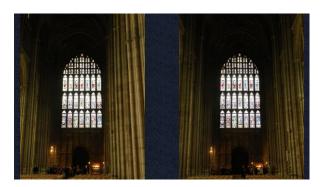


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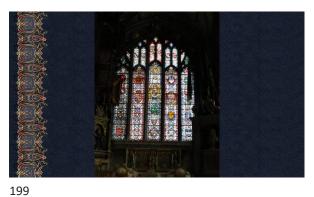


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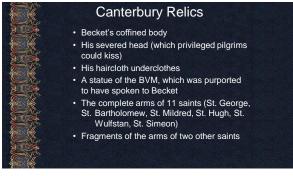


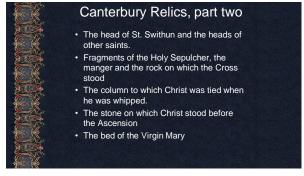


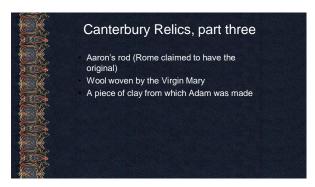


















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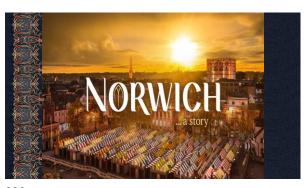


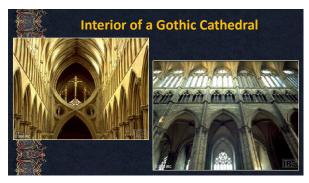
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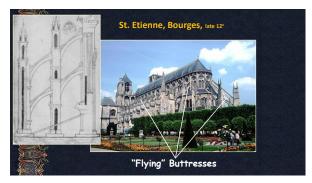






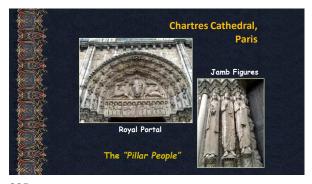


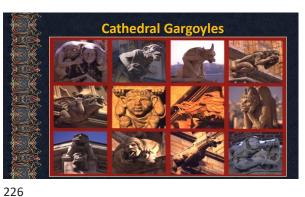




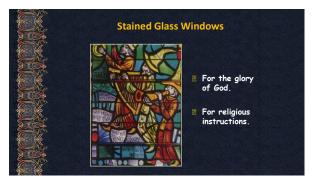


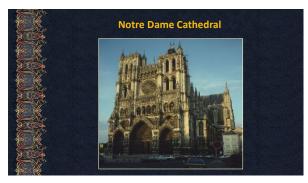






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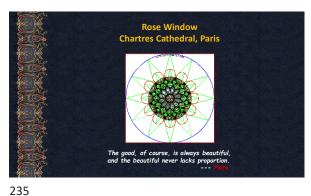


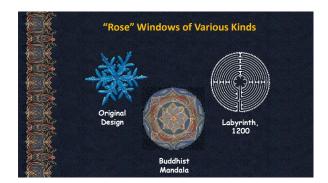


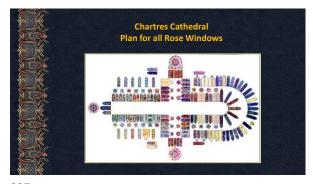












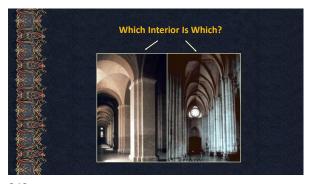


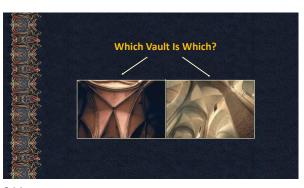




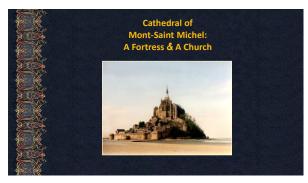






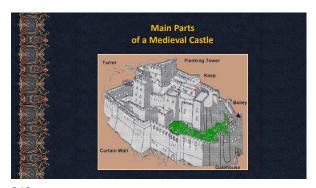


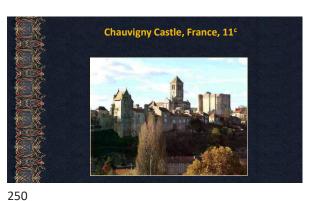


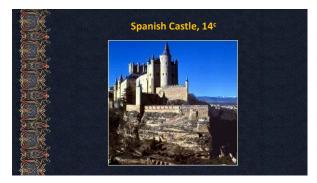


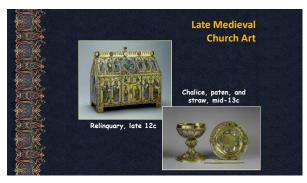


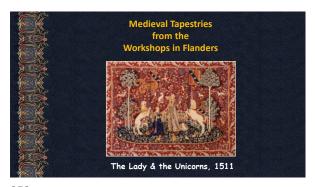






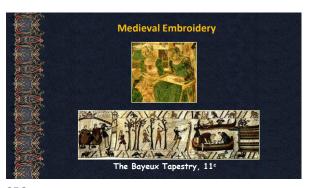






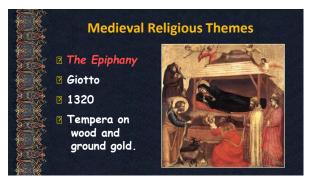






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