UNIT 8- EUROPEAN MIDDLE AGES GRAPES NOTES

G=GEOGRAPHY

* Germanic tribes (Goths, Celts, Visigoths, Vandals, Franks, Anglos, Gauls, Saxons, etc.) invaded the Western Roman Empire and created these territories.
* European territories become nation states.
* England, France, Spain, and Italy were the main nation states.

R=RELIGION

* Roman Catholic Church—
	+ Center of Medieval World
		- only church in Europe- all Christians belonged to it
		- regulated behavior
		- greatest source of stability for over 1,000 years
		- core purpose to influence people to become Christian
* Governed almost every aspect of people’s lives
	+ had own laws, lands, and taxes
	+ promised if followed teachings rewarded in heaven
	+ used fear – heaven and hell
	+ raised money through tithes: 1/10 of wealth
	+ indulgences- pardons for sins
	+ heretics- people who disagreed with church- tortured and usually killed
* Structure –
	+ Pope- lived in Rome; acted like a king
	+ Archbishops- sat on Pope’s council
	+ Bishops- equal to noblemen
	+ Parish Priests – poor, had everyday responsibilities, usually the only person in a parish/village who could read and write
* **Cathedrals** – enormous churches
	+ Gothic style
	+ buttresses- held weight of roof
	+ stained glass windows
	+ statues, carvings, frescoes
* Holy Orders
	+ Franciscans- Franciscans are typically characterized by their lives of simplicity, penance, poverty, and love for the poor.
	+ Dominicans- primarily preaching and teaching; superior theological training and impeccable virtue.
* Pilgrimages--
	+ Bethlehem- birthplace of Jesus
	+ Jerusalem- place of Jesus’ death
	+ Rome- where the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul are buried
* Monasteries--
	+ Monks
		- lived in monastery
		- pledged poverty, chastity, and obedience
		- isolated and dedicated to God
* Centers for learning
	+ wrote and copied books (Bible) and taught languages
	+ taught Christian message
	+ safeguarded great works for history
	+ educated boys for priesthood
	+ Centers for healing--took care of sick and hungry
* Purpose–
	+ influence people to become Christian (actually Roman Catholic)
	+ create ideal communities
	+ encourage people to live holier and more dedicated lives
* Nuns--
	+ lived in convents
		- Vow to God
		- Lived simple chaste life
	+ same opportunities for women
* Success--commercial and military
* 1st crusade did gain control for a while
* Neutralized Muslim advances in mainland Europe
* Interaction between Christians, Turks, Arabs, and Muslims brought new ideas and products back to Europe (math and science)
* Expanded trade and European economy
* Built interest in overseas land and trade
* Developed nature of exploration- this would propel Europe into the Western Hemisphere

A=ACHIEVEMENTS

* Architecture (churches/cathedrals/basilicas)—
	+ Romanesque- rounded arches; thick walls; small windows; stone roofs (The darkness suggested the power and mystery of God.)
	+ Gothic- vaulted or pointed arches; flying buttresses; thinner walls; stained glass windows; larger windows (Allowed more natural light and was seen as much more serene and self confident)
	+ Gargoyles- meant to chase away evil spirits and often served as water spouts for churches
* Art and Literature—
	+ Art was religious.
	+ Two famous works were *The Canterbury Tales* written by Chaucer and *The Divine Comedy* written by Dante Aligheiri
	+ Ballads and poetry
	+ Illuminated manuscripts
* Education—
	+ Universities- taught religious subjects, then expanded to medicine and law
	+ Scholars and the RC Church used Latin
	+ Regular spoken languages included variations of Spanish, French, German, and English
* Other things—
	+ Blast furnaces
	+ Hour Glass clock
	+ Mechanical clock
	+ Eyeglasses
* Bubonic **Plague** {Also known as “The Black Death”(It’s not an achievement but it leads to some!)}
	+ Geography-- originated in Central Asia in 1320’s spread east to China and then to the Middle East
	+ spread into Europe – first European case in Genoa, Italy
	+ spread by trade routes (Silk Road)-- trading posts and port cities were especially devastated
	+ Epidemic -- widespread and deadly disease (1347-1352) killed 25% to 33% of population of Europe (don’t actually know exact number of deaths)
	+ Economic Impact of the Plague--fewer peasants made them more valuable (labor shortage)
		- higher standard of living
		- more independent
		- end of Feudalism
		- businesses went bankrupt
		- trade declined and towns disappeared
		- food supply decreased and people starved
* Scientific and Medical Knowledge--
	+ Learned to improve cleanliness – disease spread by rats
	+ Became knowledgeable of disease and how it spread
	+ Learned how to isolate outbreaks

P=POLITICS

* Land use and ownership: villages grew in the protection of castles
* Centralized power: began at local level and spiraled up to include whole countries
* Nation States - centralized power of lords and kings
* Development of Feudalism--
	+ **Feudalism** was a political system based on reciprocal obligations and allegiances
	+ Nobility received land for service to a king- however, if the king was overthrown or lost power, the nobility would have to choose sides and wars/battles were fought to keep control.
	+ Land and military protection was given to the peasants for loyalty, service, and land to work
	+ It governed how people lived and worked
* **Magna Carta-** June,1215
* King John-cruel, unjust, constantly raising taxes, and not keeping promises to Nobles
* Nobles - rejected growing monarchical power, forced king to sign, and meant to restore Nobles power and to limit King John’s power
* English citizens- rights and principles eventually included all and weakened Feudalism
* Rights and Principles-
	+ rule of law-everyone must follow written laws
	+ development of representative assemblies
	+ right to approve taxes
	+ due process
	+ trial by jury
	+ contained 63 clauses
* Great Council-
	+ formed to advise the King
	+ grew into English Parliament- the first democratic, legislative body in modern Europe
* Importance-
	+ one of history’s most important democratic documents
	+ set precedent for limiting government
	+ expanded representative government
	+ increased individual rights

E=ECONOMICS

* + Collected fees and taxes
	+ Main economic system was feudalism
	+ Before the Crusades, there was some trading just between the European nation-states
	+ After the Crusades, there was increased trade between Europe and Asia
	+ Leads to Renaissance/Reformation
	+ Then continues through to the Age of Discovery

S=SOCIAL STRUCTURE

* Feudalism Hierarchy
* Monarchs/Kings--lived in castles
	+ Sumptuary laws- laws that restrained certain people indulging in luxuries
	+ Only nobles could wear fancy clothes or have anything luxurious
* Nobles (dukes, counts, barons, lords)-- ruled the manor or town
* Knights-- granted land in exchange for military service and taxes
	+ owned and fought on horses
	+ stages- Page, Squire, Knight
* Vassals- stewards and others who ran the land while the nobility was away
* Professionals- doctors, etc.
* **Merchants**- bakers, millers, stone workers, etc.
* created **guilds** to keep power
* **Peasants** or serfs—
	+ did most of the work on land-holdings of lords
	+ granted small parcels of land to farm but had to pay taxes or fees to the lord
	+ use the mill to grind wheat
	+ Both peasants and serfs were illiterate
	+ Serfs were bound to land, sold with land
	+ Peasants were considered “freemen”
	+ poaching was the #1 offense or crime