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