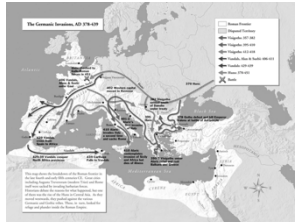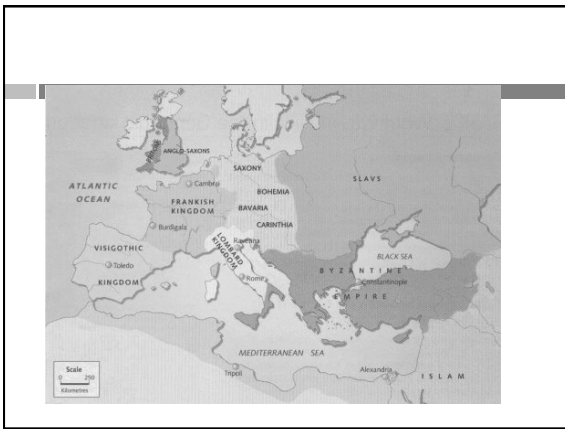# THE MIDDLE AGES

Introduction

- □ fall of Rome = "Dark Ages"
- □ theme…insecurity

- □ Age of Transition
- □ Middle Ages (Medieval)
  - ◘ between classical age and modern beginnings

The Franks

- □ Clovis
  - ◘ first ruler
  - ◘ begins Merovingian Dynasty
  - ◘ Key: becomes Christian

- □ Charles Martel
  - ◘ "Charles the Hammer"
  - ◘ 732- stops Muslim advance at Tours

□ Pepin the Short
  ◘ establishes Carolingian Dynasty
  ◘ strong relationship with Church

Charlemagne

□ 46 yr. reign
□ expansion of empire
□ creates "buffer zone" between Christian and Muslim empires
□ coronation- "Holy Roman Emperor"

□ Government
  ◘ regions ruled by counts
  ◘ capital: Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen)

□ used oaths of fidelity
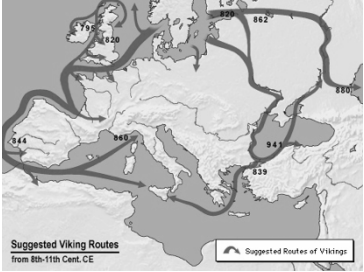□ messengers- "eyes and ears of the emperor"

□ Education and Learning
  ◘ schools for nobles
  ◘ monk- Alcuin of York- head of schools
    ■ grammar, rhetoric, math, music

□ new script- Caroline miniscule
  ❑ used in written Bible
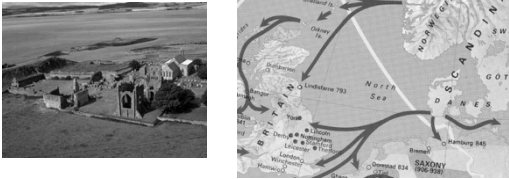

Vikings

Suggested Viking Routes
from 8th-11th Cent. CE

□ Reasons for exploration/conquest
  ❑ could not grow crops at home
  ❑ climate, etc
  ❑ surplus population
  ❑ sense of adventure

□ First target- Lindisfarne Monastery (England)-793 CE

□ Transport: Viking Longships

Viking Travels

□ Constantinople, Russia

□ Greenland- founded by Erik the Red

□ Iceland

□ Normandy

Viking Life

□ sagas- epic poems (history)
□ runes- symbols (written language)

□ Viking gods:
- Odin (god of war)
- Loki (trickster)
- Thor (god of thunder)

Most Vikings were farmers, living with their families and growing and making all the things they needed for their daily lives.

Food was stored in wooden barrels and boxes. The Vikings also used wood for plates and spoons.

Vikings also built "Smithys", which were places for them to make and mend iron tools and utensils.

The Vikings would build a longhouse for the family and barns for the animals.

Viking homes were made of timber planks and woven branches, with turf or thatched roofs.

In the middle of the room was an open fire set in a long hearth. This gave the Vikings heat and light.

helmet   axe   shield

Viking weapons were heavy and strong. The blacksmith would make these as well as jewellery. The metal would be heated up and then banged into shape. To make a weapon stronger, it would be plunged into cold water.
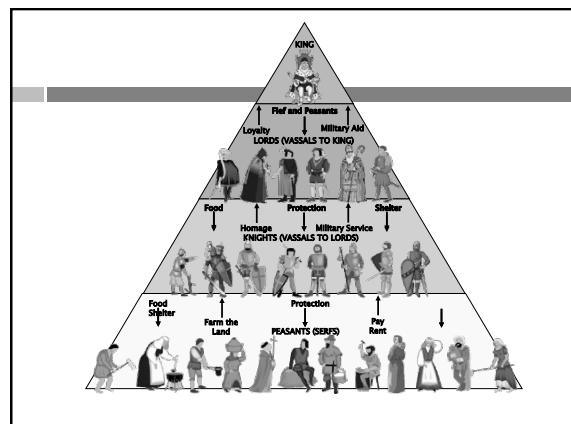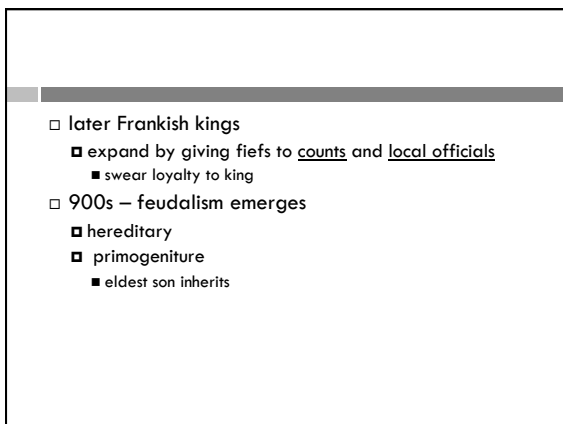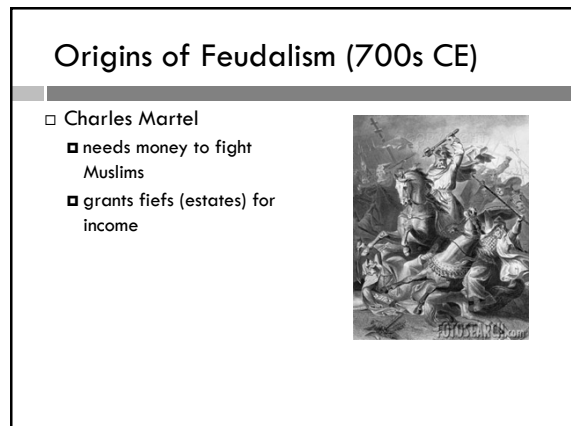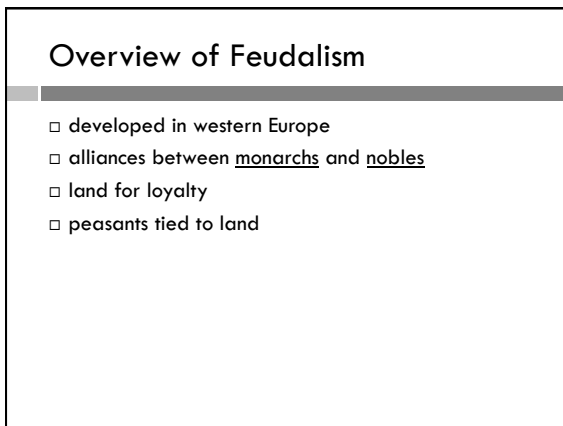
spear   sword

Feudalism

Overview of Feudalism

- developed in western Europe
- alliances between <u>monarchs</u> and <u>nobles</u>
- land for loyalty
- peasants tied to land

Origins of Feudalism (700s CE)

- Charles Martel
  - needs money to fight Muslims
  - grants fiefs (estates) for income

- later Frankish kings
  - expand by giving fiefs to <u>counts</u> and <u>local officials</u>
    - swear loyalty to king
- 900s – feudalism emerges
  - hereditary
  - primogeniture
    - eldest son inherits

Feudal Obligations

- ☐ homage
    - ◻ ceremony that tied lord and vassal
- ☐ lord
    - ◻ provide fief
- ☐ vassal
    - ◻ military service
        - ▪ 40-60 days per year
    - ◻ lodging
    - ◻ ransom if needed

The Manorial System
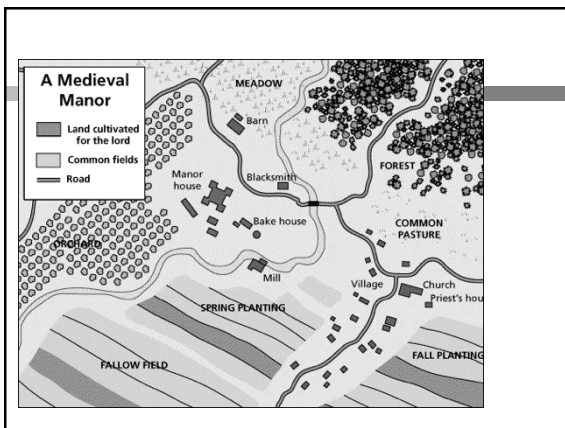
Manorialism vs Feudalism

Manorialism: Economic	Feudalism: Political
☐ Originated from latifundia	☐ Mutual obligations
☐ Lords owned land	☐ Fiefs awarded to vassals
☐ Serfs controlled land	☐ Lords minted coins and made laws
☐ Property was shared	☐ Lords headed manors
☐ Lords headed manors	☐ Loyalty
☐ Lords protected people	☐ Pyramid structure

A Medieval Manor

- ☐ Each manor became its own little town:
    - ◻ mill for grain
    - ◻ bake house for bread
    - ◻ blacksmith for tools

Mill

Bake house

Blacksmith
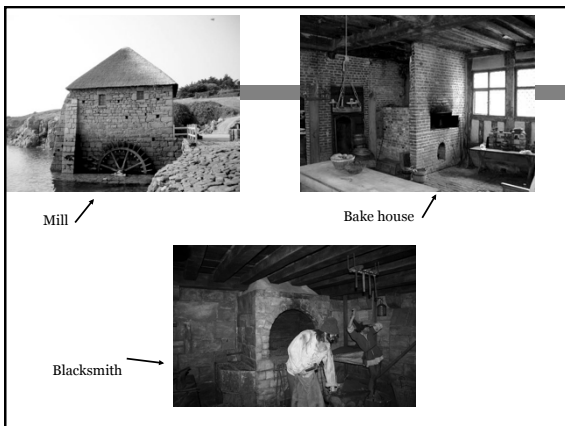
Castles

Purpose of a Castle

□ Home
□ Marketplace
□ Village
□ Tourney place
□ Official feasts
□ Protection

Castle Defenses

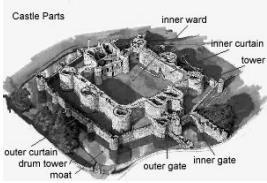□ built on a hill or mound
□ surrounded by a deep moat

□ "keep"
  ▫ square tower
    ▪ contained hall, dungeon

□ "bailey"
  ▫ surrounded the keep
    ▪ barracks, storerooms, workshops and chapel

Attacking a Castle

□ Portcullis
□ Drawbridge
□ Moat
□ Murderholes
□ Burning Pitch

Castle Parts
inner ward
inner curtain
tower
outer curtain
drum tower
moat
outer gate
inner gate

The Nobility

Nobles

- lords
- ladies
- knights

Life of a Noble Lord

- total authority w/in fief
  - collecting rents
  - settling disputes

Life of a Noble Lady

- few rights
- primary duties
  - children
  - household

Life of a Noble Lady

- marriage
  - as early as twelve years old
  - husband selected by father

Entertainment

Tournaments

- mock battles jousting, sword
- main goals
  - honor
  - victory
  - winning the hearts of ladies

□ Drawbacks
- ◘ dangerous
- ◘ Church looked down on them
- ◘ large group of armed men in one place

Hunting

□ hawking, archery
- ◘ skills applied to warfare

Dinner Entertainment

□ musicians
□ minstrels (singing, juggling)
□ acrobats
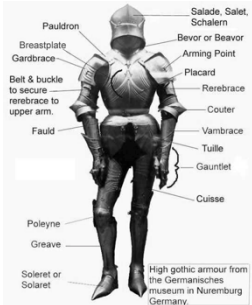□ contortionests

Knighthood

Training

□ Age 7– sent off
□ Age 14– squire
□ Age 21– knight
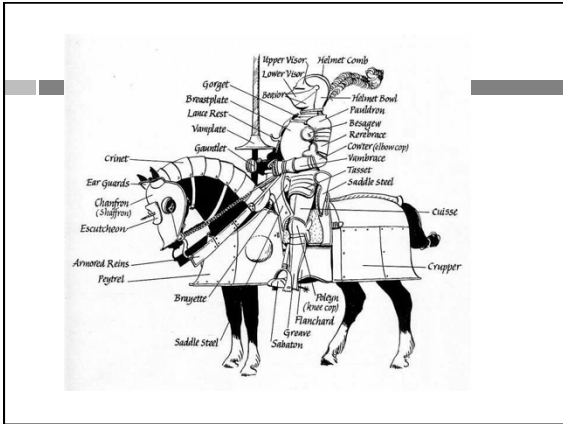

□ Why would they be sent away at age 7?

Tools

□ armor

□ sword and spear

□ horse
  ◘ destrier (warhorse)

Chivalry

□ governed behavior of knights
  ◘ Brave in battle
  ◘ Fight fairly
  ◘ Keep promises
  ◘ Defend the church
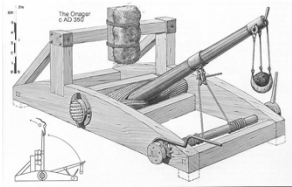 ◘ Treat women with noble birth in a courteous manner

Warfare

□ siege– trying to overtake a castle

Attacking a Castle

Siege Weapons

□ Catapults
□ Onager
□ Siege Tower
□ Battering Ram

Trebuchet

Siege Towers

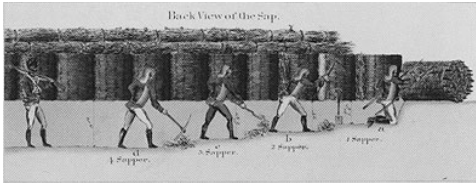□ to protect invaders
□ to attack wall instead of gate

Battering Ram

□ were usually made of a large tree trunk
□ essentially a very heavy weight on wheels
□ Sometimes they were carried by a group of men
□ or were slung from a support frame via ropes

Sappers

□ miners

Peasant Life

Characteristics

- Poverty and hardship
  - famine, disease, and warfare
  - few live beyond 40

- most people rarely bathed
- little knowledge of germs
  - toilets were buckets emptied into rivers or streams
    - same stream used for cooking and drinking, too

Peasant Homes

- dirt-floor houses
- no chimney
- little furniture
- animals inside

Peasant Food

- few vegetables from the garden
- grain for porridge
- meat was rarity

Importance of Manor System

- lacked freedom and opportunity for people
- …but, it created a stable and secure way of life during a violent and uncertain time