

**Study Questions to accompany**  
**UNIVERSAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD**  
**Published by Golden Press, 1966**  
**THE WEST IN THE MIDDLE AGES**  
**Volume 6 481 A.D. – 1485 A.D.**

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\*As you read through this and other volumes, you will need to add important dates and people to a timeline to help you keep historical events in perspective. It would be helpful to list a brief statement of what the person was noted for and what country/empire they are related to. You will find as you study each volume that many of the events overlap. It's a very good idea to look at the other entries you've already made when adding a new entry so you can keep in mind events that were happening at the same time in other parts of the world.

## I. THE END AND THE BEGINNING – pp. 438-447

Map work: “Barbarian Europe”

Timeline additions: Attila the Hun, A.D. 410 – Alaric attacks Rome, St. Augustine writes *The City of God*, A.D. 481 – Clovis crowned king of Franks and converts to Christianity, Charles Martel (“The Hammer”)

### A. Introduction - p. 438-441

- Much of this is a review of what you have studied in the two previous volumes: at the end of the study of Greece and Rome, and the beginning of the Middle Ages in the East.

### B. The Barbarians – p. 441- 442

- List some of the characteristics of the Germanic people including their appearance, their lifestyle, and their religion.

### C. Migrations of the Tribes – p. 442

### D. Attila the Hun – p. 442-443

- Why was Attila the Hun referred to as the “scourge of God?”
- Part of the reason the Roman Empire was falling apart was because it had become so large it was almost impossible to protect and police. Also, the Roman citizens had become rather lax in their attitudes about the condition their country was in. As the book states,

“they again took up the routine of their lives. Crowds swarmed to the Colosseum to watch the games; Roman gentlemen argued politics in the Forum and Roman ladies gossiped about the latest fashions” (443).

It has been said that those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. List some things that we as U.S. citizens can learn from the state of the Roman Empire and the attitude of its citizens during this time.

E. “Tomb of the Peoples” - p. 443-444

- Who wrote *The City of God* and why?

F. The Empire Falls – p. 444-445

- Where does the word *vandalism* come from and what does it mean today?
- After the Roman troops withdrew from England, it was invaded by which groups? Use other resources to find out where these groups originated.

G. The Dark Ages – p. 445

- The “Dark Ages” is often referred to as such because of the disunity and the lack of advancement in education, arts, science, etc.

H. A Christian King – p. 445-446

- Who was Clovis and what important contribution did he make to France and Western Europe?

I. The Hammer – p. 446-447

- What important role did the church play during the “Dark Ages?”
- What was Charles Martel’s goal? Did he succeed? Who did?

## II. CHARLES, CALLED THE GREAT (771-814) – pp. 448-

Map work: “The Empire of Charlemagne,”

Timeline: A.D. 771 – Charlemagne succeeds his father, Pepin the Short, as King of the Franks, A.D. 800 – Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Leo III

A. Introduction

- What made 790 an exceptional year?

B. Charlemagne’s Wars – p. 449 – 450

- What prompted Charlemagne to begin his first campaign?

- List some of the difficulties that the Saxons caused.

C. The Song of Roland – p. 450

- Briefly describe the story behind the “Song of Roland.”

D. The Spanish March – p. 450-452

- List some of the accomplishments of Charlemagne outside of uniting the Germanic people into one nation.

- Why was a visit from Charlemagne not always a blessing?

E. Lords and Serfs – p. 452 – 453

- Describe the relationship between lords, freemen (tenants), and serfs.
  
- Define *feudalism*.

### III. FURY FROM THE NORTH (814-1042) – pp. 453 –

Map work: “The Viking Expansion,” from Knowledge Quest’s The Middle Ages Expanded, Blackline Maps of World History

Timeline: A.D. 400 – St. Patrick converts Ireland to Christianity, A.D. 986 – Eric the Red founds a colony on Greenland, A.D. 871 – King Alfred the Great unites his people and stops invasion by the Danes

A. Introduction – p. 453

- List some of the reasons that the British feared the Northmen (Norsemen/Vikings).

- Where were the Vikings from, and how did they get the name “Vikings?”
  - Where were some of the areas they established colonies?
- B. The Vikings – p 453 – 455
- What were the “sagas” of the Vikings of Iceland?
  - Use the internet, library, or other resources to find some of the Viking sagas to read. Be sure to have your parent/teacher approve the piece before reading. (Also called “Scandinavian” sagas.) Some terms to search for: Sigurd, Brynhild, Sigmund, Gudrun, “Saga of the Volksungs,” “Song of the Nibelungs” (considered Germanic). You may want to search for the book, The Children of Odin, by Padriac Colum.
  - List some of the areas in North America where the Vikings are thought to have explored.
  - What was the Danelaw?
- C. The Viking Conquests – p. 455-457
- What agreement did the English king Athelred make with the Danes? What was the *danegeld*? (King Athelred is also known as Ethelred, or Ethelred the Unready.)
  - Who was Canute?
  - Who was Edward the Confessor? What is one thing he was noted for?
  - What other country was forced to pay the *danegeld*?
  - How did the area along the coast of France come to be called Normandy? Remember the area, because it will play an important part in English history later.
  - To what areas did the Swedish Vikings spread?
- D. Arabs and Magyars – p. 457
- What was the driving force behind the attacks of the Saracens?
  - Describe the Magyars (where they originated from, what they were like in battle, where they attacked.)

#### IV. THE CASTLE AND THE MANOR (900-1300) – pp. 458 – 467

This section is a description of life on a manor in story form. To get more information on life in a manor, find the definitions of the terms from the various sections listed below, read about “feudalism” in an encyclopedia, or check out websites such as [www.mrdowling.com](http://www.mrdowling.com). Search for the sections on Feudalism, Middle Ages, Vikings, etc. Also do a search on castles, finding out about the various sections of the castle and what they were for and more about what life was like in a castle. Remember, when searching for the definitions, make sure they are ones pertaining to this period in time.

If you desire, you can also do a report, display, or lapbook on life on a manor. Include information on the classes of the people, the layout of the castle, the life style of the various classes of people, the jobs, education, role of religion, government, etc.

##### A. Introduction

##### B. The Lord and the Vassal – p. 458 – 461

- fief
- liege
- bailey
- homage
- vassal

##### C. The Code of Chivalry – p. 461- 462

- Code of Chivalry
- page
- squire
- knight
- Read about the ceremony surrounding becoming a knight.

##### D. A Knight’s Trade – p. 462-463

- tournament (see if you can find the origin of the word, also)

##### E. A Knight’s Oath – p. 463 – 465

- homage

##### F. Life on the Manor – p. 465 – 466

- manorialism (what is the difference between manorialism and feudalism)
- serf
- manor

##### G. The Three Estates – p. 466-468

- List the three estates and describe who was a part of each class.

H. Each Man in his Place – p. 468  
-troubador

**V. FEUDAL GERMANY (936-1250) -pp. 468 –472**

Map work: “The Holy Roman Empire”

Timeline entries: Otto the Great (936-973), Concordat of Worms signed 1122 (agreement permitting the Popes to select the bishops and abbots.); 1152 Barbarossa (Frederick I) comes to power in Germany

For an overview of the Holy Roman Empire, read this excerpt from A History of the World, by Alice Magneis, American Book Company, 1955.

“The Treaty of 870 had divided the Frankish Empire into the East Frankish Kingdom, the West Frankish Kingdom, and Italy. The East Frankish, or German, kingdom was beset by trials. A succession of weak rulers, often elected by the nobles were unable to gain control of the warring nobles. The rulers were constantly troubled by the Slavic tribesmen east of them, especially the Czechs and Hungarians. The East Frankish Kingdom was a nation in name only.

Finally an important figure arose in the East Frankish Kingdom. He was Otto the Great (936-973). Otto succeeded in making his power felt throughout the kingdom. He also defeated the Slavs and started to push them farther eastward, a process which continued for centuries. German settlers followed across the Elbe and into the Danube basin, Germanizing the native Slavs who remained there.

Then Otto turned his attention to Italy. The nineteen-year-old widow (Adelheid) of an Italian nobleman appealed to Otto for aid. Her husband’s rival had put her in prison for refusing to marry him. Otto went to Italy, defeated her captor, fell in love with the girl, and married her himself. Ten years later he made another trip to Italy to settle a dispute between the opposing factions there. This time he was named the successor of Charlemagne and crowned by the Pope as “Roman Emperor of the German Nation” in 962. Later this large territory came to be known as the Holy Roman Empire, and it was to last, in name at least, until 1806.

This political union of Italy and Germany had important effects upon both countries. The German rulers wasted their wealth and manpower in fruitless attempts to keep their Italian vassals loyal, and while they were away in Italy, there German vassals often staged revolts against them. Italy, on the other hand, was unable to become a nation as long as it had a foreign ruler across the Alps. Besides this, the emperors came into conflict with the popes because the popes resented their interference in Italian affairs, especially the affairs of the Church. Popes, too, sometimes felt that since they crowned the emperors, they had the right to select them. Despite all these troubles, the title of emperor was a coveted one. There was a respect, dignity, and influence attached to it. It was the highest title in Western Europe.

The most dramatic clash between the popes and emperors was the quarrel

that took place between Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Henry IV (1054-1106)...A war broke out between the forces of Henry and Gregory that lasted until after both men had died. It was not until 1122 in the Concordat of Worms (verms), that a settlement was made.

B. The Holy Roman Empire – p. 470-472

- What did the Concordat of Worms in 1122 do?
- For several years after the signing of the Concordat of Worms, the German emperors did little to challenge the Pope and his power. Who was the emperor who came to power in 1152 who tried to regain the power of the monarchy? (List his nickname, also.)
- How did Barbarossa try to strengthen his kingdom?
- Who did Barbarossa help in the Third Crusade?
- What legend was told about Barbarossa?
- How was Frederick II related to Barbarossa?
- Why was Frederick II called the *stupor mundi*? What does *stupor mundi* mean?
- What were some of the things that made it difficult for Frederick II to maintain control of his kingdom?



## VI. FEUDAL FRANCE (814-1314) – pp. 472

### A. Introduction

- What is the modern day name for the Franks?
- Why were the Frankish kings considered “figureheads?”
- How did King Louis VI begin to bring the lawless vassals under control?

### B. Henry of Anjou – p. 473 – 474

- French kings had been hindered by the duchy of Normandy for years. Do you recall where Normandy was and where it originated from? (look back at pp. 455-457)
- As the book states, “the French king was still overlord of the duke of Normandy,” but difficulties arose when William, duke of Normandy, conquered England in 1066 (you will read more about that in the next division). In later years, Henry of Anjou took the throne of England, and also inherited several French Duchies. What else did Henry of Anjou “inherit” from King Louis VII?
- What happened in 1153, placing Henry of Anjou in control of more land than Louis VII?

### C. The Capetians – p. 474-475

- Through the acquisitions of Henry of Anjou (Henry II), the Angevin kings (England) now had more power than the Capetian kings of France. Although they were smaller in area, did they lose any of their territory to the Angevin kings? (Remember, the Angevin kings held land in Normandy as well as England.)
- Who was Philip Augustus, and what was his contribution to France?
- While Philip Augustus was a good king in many ways, he was also not afraid to plot to gain land. One of the ways he did this was in using Henry II’s sons, Richard the Lionhearted and John against each other.
- Philip Augustus wore away at the power of the feudal lords by giving more power to common people (thus winning their loyalty) and by encouraging the rise of towns.

### D. A Christian King – p. 475 – 476

- Who was the “only monarch of the Middle Ages who tried to practice Christianity both as a king and as a man?”

- How did he do this?
- Did trying to live as a Christian hinder his ability to rule his country?
- Why was Louis IX's move to make laws for his country without consulting the nobles an important move away from feudalism?

E. Philip the Fair – p. 476

- Look up the word “carbuncle.” Was it flattering for Philip III to be considered the “carbuncle sprung from that most precious gem of Christ, St. Louis?”
- Why was Philip III's son, Philip IV, called “Philip the Fair?” Was he fair (as in “just?”)
- How did Philip IV's method of ruling France differ from his grandfather, Louis IX?
- What was the Estates-General and what was the importance of the three meetings (1302, 1308, 1312)?

**VII. THE CONQUEST OF ENGLAND (1066-1265) – pp. 476 –**

Map work: “The Norman Conquests”

Timeline: Battle of Hastings, 1066; Henry II becomes King of England, 1154, 1215 - Signing of the Magna Charta at Runnymede

A. Introduction

- Why was William of Normandy unable to battle against the king of France?
- Why was England easy for William to conquer?
- Read the description of William the Conqueror as he went into battle on p. 478. What one characteristic seems to be out of place in the description of this warrior?
- What type of strategy did William employ in the battle against the English?

- How did William divide England? How do you think this could help in governing the country?
- What were two things that hindered the English from being able to stand against William?
- How did William ensure support for his kingdom?

B. The English Language – p. 480

- From what two languages did the English language arise?

C. The Domesday Book – p. 480-481

- What was the “Domesday Book” and why was it important?
- Who took over rule of England after William’s death? Were they good rulers? Why or why not?

D. Civil War – p. 481 – 482

E. Thomas à Becket – p. 482

- Henry of Anjou (Henry II from the previous section) was a man of extremes, while he was known for an uncontrollable temper, he also brought peace and order to England. What were some of them most important contributions he made to England? (there are two paragraphs that address the reforms)
- What was Thomas à Becket’s role in the reign of Henry II?
- What caused the conflict between Henry II and Thomas à Becket?

F. Murder in the Cathedral – p. 482-484

- What did Henry II’s fit of temper in court lead to?

- Read James 3:3 – 3:8. How could this apply to the situation with Henry II regarding the murder of Thomas à Becket?
  - What was the response of the people of England?
  - Define *interdict*.
  - How did Henry II's treatment of his children and wife come back to torment him?
- G. Richard the Lion-Hearted – p. 484 – 485
- What was Richard the Lion-Hearted's chief goal?
  - Was his brother, John, any better at ruling England?
  - What two good things came from the cruel reign of King John?
- H. Magna Charta – p. 485
- What was the *Magna Charta* and why was it of great importance?

## **VIII. THE POWER OF THE CHURCH (529-1409) – pp. 486**

### A. Introduction

- What kind of example was set by the people who came together to rebuild the cathedral in Chartres?
- Use the internet, the encyclopedia, and other reference books to explore the Chartres Cathedral.
- Do some research on Gothic architecture. Make a list of what distinguishes Gothic architecture from other building forms. If desired, gather pictures of Gothic architecture from around the world (or draw one of your own) and use them to make a pamphlet or display on Gothic architecture. You may also want to take photos of buildings in your town that have elements of Gothic architecture. Be sure to label the

parts of the building that are Gothic in nature.

B. The Seven Sacraments – p. 487 – 488

- What is the difference between the “Catholic Church” and the “catholic church?” Why was the church central to the lives of all people who lived in the Middle Ages?
- List the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.
- What were the two methods of punishment doled out by the Catholic Church? Why were these so devastating to the people?

C. The Clergy – p. 487-490

- Describe the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, starting with the Pope. You may draw a diagram if you like. Be sure to include a brief description of the duties of each rank. Use another sheet of paper (or more) for your chart or diagram.

D. The Friars – p. 490

- How were the friars of the 19<sup>th</sup> century different from the monks of earlier times?
- Define *mendicant*.

E. Saint Francis – p. 490-491

- Give a brief description of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic, including the country they were from and their beliefs/contributions.

F. The Inquisition – p. 491

- Define *heresy*.
- Describe the two groups of heretics of the time and explain why they were a threat to the Catholic Church.

- What was the purpose of the Inquisition?

G. The Universities – p. 491-493

- How did the battle against heresy lead to the development and growth of the university?
- What were some other reasons for the growth of universities?
- List some of the typical subjects taught at the universities.

H. The Power of the Pope – p. 493

- As the book states, the Church did not only influence the religious aspect of the lives of the people in the Middle Ages, it also was influential in keeping learning alive. List some of the ways it did this.
- What were some of the powers of the pope?
- Who was the most powerful and influential pope during the Middle Ages?

**IX. THE CRUSADES (1096-1260) pp. 494**

Map work: “The First Crusade” and “The Third Crusade”

Timeline: 1096 Pope Urban II calls for the beginning of the Crusades to free the Holy Land from Muslim rule; 1174 – Saladin becomes leader of Egypt

A Introduction

B. “It is the Will of God!” - p. 494-496

- As you have studied in a previous volume, the Holy Land (Jerusalem, Nazareth, Gaza, Damascus, etc.) had fallen to the Moslems at the fall of the Roman Empire. For many years, Christians were still allowed to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, that is, until Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Turks. As the book says, the Turks were Moslem also, but they began to persecute Christians.

- What did Pope Urban II call on the people of France to do?
- What was the “battle cry” of the Crusaders (in French it is *Dieu le veut*)? What symbol were they supposed to wear on the head or chest?
- Was the release of the Holy Lands from Moslem rule the only reason Urban was encouraging the Crusade? What other reasons did he and many of the nobles have?

C. The First Crusade – p. 496 – 497

- How many crusades were there in all? What time period did they cover?
- What types of people went on the Crusades?
- What types of behavior did the Crusaders exhibit?
- Was the first Crusade successful?

D. The Crusade of the Kings – p. 497-502

- Distinguish between the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitallers.
- What is a *jihad*?
- Was Saladin’s holy war successful? How did he treat the captured Christians?
- What did Saladin’s capture of Jerusalem trigger?
- Why was the Third Crusade called the “Crusade of kings?”
- List the kings involved and give the name of the country they represented. (Review the history of the kings involved from previous sections of this volume.)

- Share some details about some of the other crusades, including the “Children’s Crusade.”
- How did the Crusades positively effect western Europe?

## **X. THE TOWN AND THE GUILD (1100-1382) pp. 502**

Map: “The Black Plague”

Timeline: Black Plague 1348-1349

### A. Introduction

- At the beginning of the Middle Ages, the manor was the center of life. This now was changing as towns began to spring up. What was one of the reasons that cities began to grow?

### B. A New Class of Men – pp. 505-506

- What was the “new class of men” that developed and how did they help increase the use of water travel?
- How did the increase in trade help the growth of towns?
- How did kings and noblemen use the towns to increase their income and following?

### C. Life in the Towns – pp. 506

- Describe, or draw and label, a typical town in the late Middle Ages.



- What were two dangers that were faced by townspeople and why?

D. The Guilds – pp. 506 – 508

- Describe what a guild was and how it functioned.

- What were the three classes of craftsmen and how did they differ from one another?

**XI. THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR (1326-1477) P. 508**

Map work: "The Hundred Years' War"

Timeline: The Hundred Years' War 1338-1453

A. Introduction – p. 508 – 513

- Who was the Hundred Years' War a battle between?
- Is the name "Hundred Years' War" an accurate name? Why or why not?
- What was the cause of the war?
- Do some research on two of the new types of weapon and warfare that were used in some of the battles of the Hundred Years' War, the longbow and the new battle formation.

B. Joan of Arc – p. 513 – 516

- With the belief that for one to be considered the king of France he had to be crowned in Rheims, the French felt that they had no leadership. They were in danger of being conquered by the English when a young girl name Joan of Arc persuaded the king to let her lead the French armies. As one reference stated: "She inspired her troops with a love of their country and led them to victory at Orleans." -- *The History of the World*, Magenis. After this victory, King Charles was able to safely travel to Rheims where he was crowned King of France.
- What happened to Joan of Arc after King Charles was crowned king?

C. “We Have Burned a Saint!” – p. 516 – 518

- How does the phrase, “Too little, too late” apply to the examination, execution, and later exoneration of Joan?
- What act by the Estates General helped to strengthen the monarchy of France and build the army of France?
- After the end of the Hundred Years’ War between France and England, what two kingdoms began to fight?

D. A Unified France – p. 518

- What king helped to bring France back together in one empire?

**XII. THE RISE OF NATIONALISM (1272-1485) pp. 519 –**

Map:

Timeline: 1455 – 1485 The Wars of the Roses (England);

A. Introduction

- How did life and thought in the Middle Ages began to change through the years?
- How did the idea of *nationalism* differ from the idea of *feudalism*?

B. Wars of the Roses – p. 520 – 521

- What was the cause of the Wars of the Roses and who was involved in it?
- Remember that many of the events in this section occurred during the same time as the Hundred Years’ War. This section tells of events that occurred specifically in England.

C. Richard III and the Tudors – p. 521 – 523

- What marked the end of the Wars of the Roses?
- What else did this event mark?

- How was the western world in general changing as the Middle Ages drew to a close?

The listing of all of the monarchs can be confusing. Here is a list of the monarchs of England who would have ruled during the time period covered by Volume 6. The ones discussed in this volume have an asterisk (\*) next to them.

Egbert 802-839

Æthelwulf 839-858

Æthelbald 858-860

Æthelbert 860-865

Æthelred I 865-871

Alfred "the Great" 871-899 \*

Edward "the Elder" 899-924

Athelstan 924-939

Edmund I 939-946

Eadred 946-955

Eadwig "the All-fair" 955-959

Edgar "the Peacable" 959-975

Edward "the Martyr" 975-978

Æthelred II "the Unready" 978-1016 \*

Edmund II "Ironside" 1016

#### **The Danish Conquest 1016**

Canute 1016-1035 \*

Harold I 1035-1040

Harthacnut 1040-1042

#### **The Restoration Before the Restoration 1042**

Edward "the Confessor" 1042-1066 \*

Harold II 1066 \*

## **The Norman Conquest (1066)**

William I "the Conqueror" 1066-1087 \*

William II Rufus 1087-1100 (William the Red) \*

Henry I 1100-1135 \*

Matilda \*

Stephen 1135-1154 \*

Henry II 1154-1189 \*

Richard I "the Lion-Hearted" 1189-1199 \*

John 1199-1216 \*

Henry III 1216-1272

Edward I 1272-1307 \*

Edward II 1307-1327 \*

Edward III 1327-1377 \*

Richard II 1377-1399 \*

Henry IV 1399-1413

Henry V 1413-1422

Henry VI 1422-1461 \*

Edward IV 1461-1483 \*

Edward V 1483 \*

Richard III 1483-1485 \*

Henry VII 1483-1509 \*