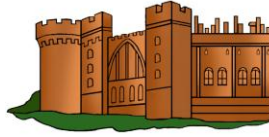


## Early Middle Ages Vocabulary



### Key Terms:

Middle Ages: Period between 500 and 1500 AD; transition period between the classical period and the modern world

Age of Faith: Another name of the Middle Ages due to the importance of religion in all aspects of life

Dark Ages: Period of cultural and social decline that took place in Western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire

Monastery: Religious community where monks lived and worked

Christendom: The idea of a Christian Kingdom ruled by the Pope

Treaty of Verdun: Treaty signed by Charlemagne's grandsons that divided the Frankish Kingdom into thirds

Manor: A large estate controlled by a lord

Fief: Piece of land given by lords to vassals in exchange for services

Feudalism: A political and social system based on the granting of land in exchange for military and other services

Chivalry: A code followed by knights stressing ideals such as courage, loyalty, and devotion

Sacraments: Important religious ceremonies such as baptism

Canon Law: Body of laws governing the religious practices of the Christian Church

Lay Investiture: Ceremony in which kings and nobles appoint Church officials; banned by Pope Gregory VII

**Turn Over!! Important People on the back!!**

## Important People:

Monk: Christian men who gave up private possessions and devoted their lives to serving God

Franks: Germanic people who controlled Gaul (France)

Clovis: Frankish king who brings Christianity to the Franks and unites the Frankish tribes into one kingdom; begins the Merovingian line

Benedict: Monk who created the Benedictine Rules – a rule book for life in monasteries

Scholastica: Nun who adopted the Benedictine rules for nuns in convents; Benedict's sister

Gregory I: Pope who increased the authority of the Church

Carolingian: Frankish line of rulers that began with Pepin the Short

Charles Martel: Known as "The Hammer;" defeated the Moors at the Battle of Tours

Pepin the Short: Defeated the Lombards for the Pope and gave the land around Rome to the Pope; began the Carolingian line

Charlemagne: Known as "The Great;" crowned emperor by Pope Leo III

Vikings: Germanic people from Scandinavia who invaded Western Europe

Leif Ericson: Viking explorer who traveled to North America around 1000 AD

Magyars: Nomadic people from Central Asia who invaded Western Europe; superb horsemen

Lord: Landowner who granted land in exchange for military protection and other services

Vassal: Person who receives land from a lord in return for services

Serf: Peasant who were bound to the land where they worked for a lord

Knight: Mounted soldiers who provided military services to lords in exchange for land

Troubadours: Traveling poets/musicians who entertained people with poems/songs about courtly love

Clergy: Church officials who perform religious services

Merovingian: Line of Frankish kings established by Clovis

Patrick: Christian monk who brought Christianity to Ireland in 432 AD