**The Dark Ages**

**Fall of the Roman Empire**

The Fall of the Roman Empire was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in World History!

Remember the Roman Empire fell due to 4 reasons:

**#1** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Rome could not protect itself from invaders and Rome hired mercenaries (foreign soldiers) to defend its borders.

**#2** Political Troubles – Government was more oppressive and authoritarian. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ undermined loyalty to Rome. Dividing Empire also weakened Rome.

**#3** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Heavy taxes, reliance on slave labor, lack of new technology, and poverty led to a bad economy.

**#4** Social Decay – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, discipline and devotion to the Roman Empire led to the collapse.

**Dark Ages**

During the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Roman Empire included much of Western Europe.

* The Roman Empire made many lasting contributions to Western Europe.

1. Spread \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Spread \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ languages
3. Spread \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

After the fall of Rome in 476, Europe entered a time of political, social, and economic decline – that would be called the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (also Middle Ages).

* During this time, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ swept across Europe, trade slowed, towns were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and learning stopped.
* This time period was actually not “Dark” but saw a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ form that blended Greco-Roman, Germanic, and Christian ideas. It would be called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ civilization.

**Germanic Kingdoms**

After the Roman Empire fell, groups of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ controlled most of Europe.

* The main groups were the Anglo-Saxons (Great Britain), the Visigoths (Spain), Ostrogoths (Italy), and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (France and Germany).
* The tribes did not govern like empires – they had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

This changed when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, King of the Franks, united Gaul and ruled his new lands according to Frankish customs and preserved much of the Roman legacy.

* In the 700s, Muslim Empires invaded Europe. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rallied Frankish warriors and defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Tours (732).
* This led to the rise of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Age of Charlemagne**

In 786, Charles Martel’s grandson became King. He became known as Charlemagne, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Charlemagne was a BIG figure (standing at 6’4”) and established the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Europe.
* Most of Charlemagne’s 46 year reign was spend conquering other Germanic tribes and uniting the Old Western Roman Empire.
* Charlemagne united his empire through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Christianity*

* Charlemagne was close with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the leader of the Christian Church.
* In 799, Charlemagne was crowned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by Pope Leo III. This was very important because it created a united Christian community.
* But…
* It angered the REAL Roman Emperor (in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and led to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when the Christian church divided into the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.

*Justice*

* Charlemagne prided himself on being a fair and just ruler and sent out officials called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make sure justice was done.

*Education*

* He also believed that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was a way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his empire (even though he could not read and write!). He created the Palace School in Aachen.

However, all good things come to an end. Charlemagne \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 814 and the Carolingian Empire declined. Charlemagne’s grandsons battled over his empire and divided it into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_areas.

**Charlemagne’s Legacy**

While the Carolingian Empire did not remain intact, Charlemagne left an important legacy in World History.

1. He extended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into Northern Europe
2. He blended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ traditions
3. He established a strong and efficient \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that would be copied by future kings.

**New Invaders!**

In the late 800s, Muslim forces conquered Sicily and made it a center of Islamic civilization.

* Beginning in the 900s, the nomadic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ settled in Hungary and plundered parts of Germany and France.

However, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ broke the last threads of Charlemagne’s Empire! The Vikings were expert sailors and destructive raiders from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* They would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ villages all over Europe – every European’s nightmare were the Vikings.
* However, the Vikings also did a few good things. They were explorers and discovered new lands (Americas) and created new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ routes.