Interactive Notebook Setup

- 8/28/2019
- Middle Ages Europe
- This will be one page
The Early Middle Ages

- 500-1000 CE
- Fall of Rome led to changes in government, economics, and culture of western Europe
Middle Ages European Kingdoms

The Roman Empire collapsed for a ton of reasons, mostly because of:

- Outbreaks of Disease
  - Maybe even lead poison from the waterpipes
- Weak Leaders
- Invasion by group of people called Germanic Tribes
Politics and Society

- After Roman Empire collapsed, Europe was ruled by lots of small weak kingdoms
  - Called decentralized monarchies

- Most of these kingdoms were ruled by one of the Germanic Tribes

- Tribes like the Goths, Huns, and Saxons took over Europe
Politics and Society

- None of the kings were very powerful and they were always in competition with each other.

- The kingdoms fought each other often.

- They would fight over control of land, access of water/waterways, and to take resources away from one another.
Politics and Society

- Kingdoms were attacked/raided by Vikings and Germanic tribes often

- Many kings struggled to protect their people

- The Vikings TERRIFIED ALL OF WESTERN EUROPE
Some Vikings even created new Kingdoms
Most of these decentralized monarchies relied on a political/economic system called feudalism.

Politics and Society
Politics and Society

- King relied on Nobles/Lords to:
  - Enforce laws
  - Collect taxes
  - Provide military troops
Politics and Society

• Serfs received:
  • Protection
  • Land to live on/farm
Politics and Society

- Serfs were called COERECED LABORERS

- Coerced labor = work forced to do for someone else for little to no pay
Politics and Society

• Some peasants were free laborers

• These peasants were free to grow and sell their own crops

• This was a very small number of people
Peasants: 90%
Politics and Society

- **Economy was almost entirely based on agriculture**
- Mostly producing crops like:
  - Wheat
  - Barely
  - Vegetables
Politics and Society

- European **Kingdoms** were not strong enough to protect/participate much trade

- Trade only happened at local level between towns

- Robbers and thieves were common on trade routes

- Not to mention the Germanic Tribes and Vikings
Belief in Christianity was the only thing that European kingdoms had in common.

Catholic Church became most powerful organization in Western Europe.

Catholic means Universal or all inclusive. First used by a man named Saint Ignatius of Antioch.
European Culture

- Leader of Catholic Church is called the Pope

- Pope was the most important/powerful person in Western Europe for about 1000 years
European Culture

- Most of the Church’s power came from the promise of a way to heaven
The Church was the only place that kept records of:

- Births
- Marriage
- Death
Germanic kings became Catholic to gain support of Pope and become more powerful.

Clovis I of the Franks converted to Catholic Christianity, it set him apart from other kings vying for power and put him in alliance with landholding elites of the former patrician classes.
Baptism of Clovis in 496
European Culture

- The Catholic Church influenced/controlled:
  - Education
  - Science and Philosophical Study
  - Hospitals
  - Art
Canterbury Cathedral in England
Chartres Cathedral in France
European Culture

- Loss of a common language
  - Latin language had united the Roman Empire

- Many of the new kingdoms created their own languages

- Germanic Languages mixed with Latin to create new languages
  - Different dialects developed
  - Led to the formation of the romance languages
European Culture

- Islamic culture dominated the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) from the 8th-15th Century

- Called the Al-Andalus
European Culture

- Islamic culture influenced European Architecture and Scientific Developments

- LET’S LOOK AT SOME PICTURES AND SEE IF YOU CAN SEE THE ISLAMIC INFLUENCES...
European Culture

- Judaism had been practiced in Europe as early as the 1st Century CE

- Judaism continued to be practiced in almost every major kingdom in Europe
  - Largest area of Jewish Diaspora
European Culture

- Most of the time Jews were a religious minority in the community that they lived in and kept their unique and influence culture.

- This often lead to mistreatment and conflict with Christian Majority communities.