

CHAPTER 13 Section 1 (pages 353–357)

Charlemagne Unites Germanic Kingdoms

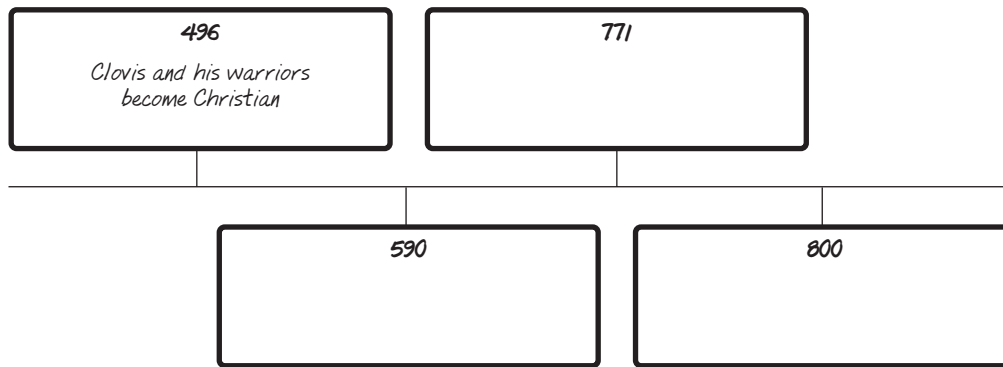
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about Southeast Asian kingdoms and Korean dynasties.

In this section, you will read about the rise and fall of Charlemagne’s empire.

AS YOU READ

Take notes on the time line below. Fill it in with key events related to the rise of Germanic kingdoms and Charlemagne’s empire.



TERMS AND NAMES

Middle Ages Period of European history from 500 to 1500

Franks Germanic people who held power in the Roman province called Gaul

monastery Religious community of people devoting their lives to worship and prayer

secular Concerned with worldly things

Carolingian Dynasty Dynasty of Frankish rulers, lasting from 751 to 987

Charlemagne Powerful Frankish ruler who built a huge empire

Invasions of Western Europe

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How did invasions by Germanic groups change Europe?

The slow decline of the Roman Empire marked the beginning of a new era in European history. This period is called the **Middle Ages**. It lasted from around 500 to 1500.

By the end of the fifth century, various Germanic groups invaded the Roman Empire in the west. These invasions led to a series of changes. Trade was halted. Moving goods from place to

place became unsafe. Cities were no longer centers of trade and government. Many people then fled to the countryside. They returned to rural ways of life. People also became less educated.

As Germanic groups settled in different areas, they began to blend Latin with phrases of their own language. Many kinds of *dialects* developed. Europe no longer had a single language understood by all.

1. Name three effects of the Germanic invasions.

Germanic Kingdoms Emerge

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Who were these Germanic peoples?

As Rome's power faded, a new kind of government appeared. Warring Germanic groups carved out kingdoms. The borders of these kingdoms changed often because of warfare. There was no central rule. Family ties and loyalty to a local leader bound Germanic peoples together. Europe was in *chaos*. The Church provided a sense of order, though.

The **Franks**, a Germanic people, established a large kingdom. It was located in the Roman province of Gaul. In 496, Clovis, the king of the Franks, and his warriors became Christian. From then on, the pope in Rome supported Clovis.

2. What new kind of government arose during Rome's decline?

Germans Adopt Christianity

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How did Christianity spread?

Other Frankish rulers helped spread Christianity. The Church also tried to convert people. It set up religious communities called **monasteries**. There Christian men called *monks* devoted their lives to God. *Nuns* were women who led this religious way of life. Monasteries became centers of learning. Their libraries preserved some writings of ancient Rome.

The Church grew in importance when Gregory I became pope in 590. He made the pope the *guardian* of the spiritual lives of all Christians. He also made the pope a worldly, or **secular**, power in governing part of Italy. Gregory used Church wealth to raise armies and fix roads. He took part in making peace treaties with invaders. His influence in politics grew.

3. What role did monasteries play during this period?

An Empire Evolves (pages 355–356)

How did the Carolingian Dynasty arise?

The kingdom of the Franks covered much of modern France. By the 700s, the most powerful official was the mayor of the palace. He made laws and controlled the army.

In 719, Charles Martel became mayor of the palace. He expanded the lands controlled by the Franks. He also won a battle in 732. He defeated a Muslim force moving north from Spain. This victory ended the Muslim threat to Europe and made Charles Martel a Christian hero.

His son, Pepin, was crowned king. Pepin began the reign of the Frankish rulers called the **Carolingian Dynasty**. One of Pepin's sons, **Charlemagne**, became king of the whole Frankish kingdom in 771.

4. Who were Charles Martel and Pepin?

Charlemagne Becomes Emperor

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What did Charlemagne achieve?

Charlemagne had great military skill. He made his kingdom larger than any other known since ancient Rome. By 800, he held most of modern Italy, all of modern France, and parts of modern Spain and Germany. Pope Leo III crowned him emperor. This event marked the joining of Germanic power, the Church, and the *heritage* of the Roman Empire.

Charlemagne cut the power of the nobles in his empire and increased his own. He traveled throughout his lands, visiting the people and judging cases. He brought well-read men to his court and *revived* learning. However, Charlemagne's empire fell apart soon after his death.

5. What was important about Charlemagne's being crowned as emperor?
