

Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, was king of the Franks from 768 to 814. He was one of the greatest military leaders of the Middle Ages. Because he was a strong leader, he united all the Franks under his rule. Waging war against other Teutonic tribes, Charlemagne created a vast empire in the West which included much of the western part of the old Roman Empire as well as some new territory. Because Charlemagne strongly supported the Roman Catholic Church, lands he conquered were forced to accept Christianity. In 800, the Pope crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Romans.

Charlemagne recognized the need to maintain law and order in a troubled age. His greatest contribution was his work toward the development of a better civilization. He set up schools and worked toward raising the standard of living in his empire.

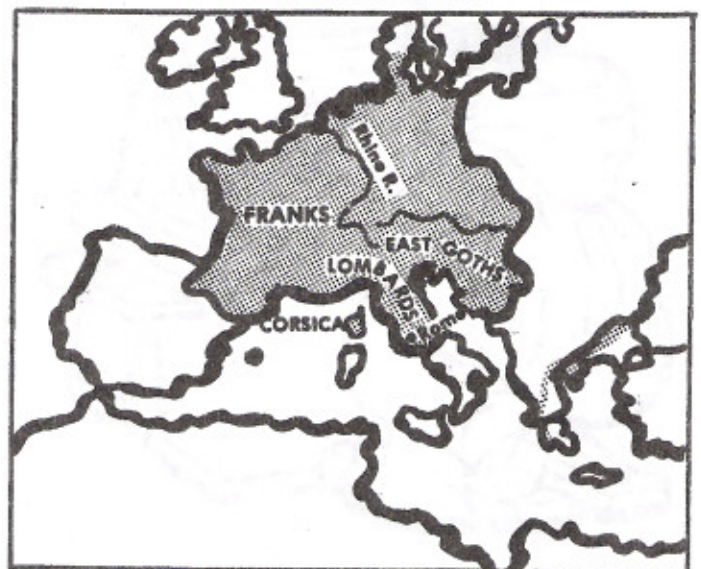
A Underline the correct answers.

1. Charlemagne was the leader of the Teutonic tribe called the (a. Goths b. Lombards c. Franks d. Angles).
2. Charlemagne was also known as (a. Charles the First b. Charles the Great c. Pope Charles d. General Charles).
3. The empire created by Charlemagne included (a. part of the old Roman Empire b. Spain c. England d. the Eastern Roman Empire).
4. The accepted religion under the rule of Charlemagne was (a. Judaism b. Islam c. Buddhism d. Christianity).
5. Charlemagne became emperor in (a. 768 b. 800 c. 814 d. 700).
6. Charlemagne was a (a. strong leader b. wise king c. selfish leader d. hard worker).

B Write a ✓ by things Charlemagne considered important.

1. education
2. making Europe a democracy
3. law and order
4. Christianity
5. unity in western Europe
6. unjust laws
7. a better civilization
8. improved standard of living
9. being a rich leader
10. strong leadership

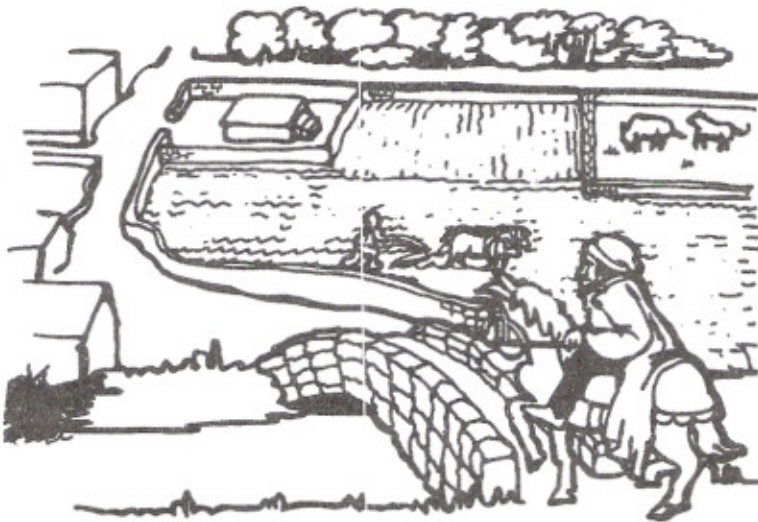
CHARLEMAGNE'S EMPIRE



The way of life that developed in the Middle Ages was called feudalism. Feudalism was a useful system for its time. It helped create order out of the disorder that existed in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Under feudalism, people were divided into two main classes. The nobles and some men of the church made up the upper class. The common people made up the other class. The upper class was the landowners. Each landlord divided his land. Portions of the land were given to vassals. In exchange for the land, each vassal promised to fight for the lord. Land that was granted in this way was called a feud or a fief.

The work on feudal estates was done by laborers called serfs. In return for their work, the feudal lords defended the serfs from enemy attacks. Serfs had no freedom. They belonged to the land and worked for the master who owned the land.



A Matching

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. vassal | e. upper |
| b. landlord | f. feudalism |
| c. serf | g. fief |
| d. protection | |

- ___ 1. a man who lived on a lord's land and farmed it
- ___ 2. a man who received land from a lord
- ___ 3. the way of life in Europe in the Middle Ages
- ___ 4. land given by a lord to a vassal
- ___ 5. the class to which many churchmen belonged
- ___ 6. a nobleman who owned land
- ___ 7. what serfs received from their masters in return for their work

B True or False

- ___ 1. Under feudalism, all people had equal rights.

- ___ 2. Feudalism was a social system in which nobles held vast areas of land.
- ___ 3. The main objective of a feudal lord was to protect his land and his people.
- ___ 4. Feudalism was a very poor system of government.
- ___ 5. Serfs could be sold like slaves.
- ___ 6. Under feudalism, people were divided into two classes.
- ___ 7. The manor of a feudal lord was self-supporting.
- ___ 8. The work on feudal estates was done by vassals.
- ___ 9. The feudal system helped to bring order to Europe in troubled times.
- ___ 10. Serfs were free to move wherever they liked.
- ___ 11. Serfs were members of the upper class of people during feudal times.
- ___ 12. If the land upon which serfs worked changed hands, the serfs worked for the new owner.