

Middle Ages Vocabulary

1. *Middle Ages: period of time between ancient and modern time 500 to 1500
2. Medieval- from the middle ages
3. *Feudalism- a power and order system constructed like a pyramid to help protect
4. Vassal - man who promise to be loyal to a landowner or lord
5. Manor - large estate with farmland and a village
6. *Self-sufficient- able to supply your own needs
7. Serf - peasants who belonged to the land
8. Charlemagne - first emperor after the collapse of the Roman Empire. He was crowned by Pope Leo II. King of the Franks who conquered much of Western Europe
9. Gaul -area that Charlemagne ruled now France
10. *Vikings –seafaring barbarians from Scandinavia that raided Europe
11. *Clergy- men who performed services of the church
12. *Excommunicate- the church could prevent somebody from taking part in church life
13. Guild- a medieval organization of crafts and workers or trades people
14. Apprentice-an unpaid worker who is being trained in a craft
15. Chivalry-the code of honorable conduct for knights
16. Troubadour-a traveling poet and musician of the Middle Ages
17. Monk-man devoted to prayer and religious vows
18. *Nun-women devoted to prayer and religious vows
19. Knight- a man who received honor and land in exchange for serving a lord as soldier
20. *Black death-a widespread plague or disease
21. *Crusades- a series of military expeditions launched by Christian Europeans to win the holy land back

22. Pope Urban II- Pope who developed reforms begun by Pope Gregory VII, began the Crusades
23. *Holy Land-Jerusalem and parts of the surrounding area where Jesus lived and taught
24. Jerusalem- a city in the Holy Land, regarded as sacred by Christians, Muslims and Jews
25. Nation-a community of people that shares territory and government
26. *Magna Carta-The “Great Charter,” in which the king’s power over his nobles was limited, agreed to by King John of England in 1215
27. Parliament-a council that advised the English king or queen
28. Pope Gregory VII- a pope who reigned from AD 1073 to 1085; considered a great papal reformer in the Middle Ages
29. *King John –John I the king of England who was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215 under threat of civil war
30. Joan of Arc- peasant girl who led the French army to victory over the English in the Hundred Years’ War