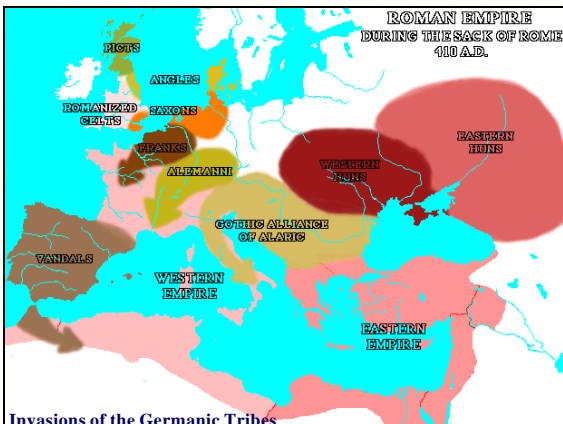## Patterns of Medieval Life

Early Middle Ages 500-1000

- Western Europe's vacuum caused by the decline and fall of the Roman Empire

- Germanic tribes invaded much of the Western Empire and filled the vacuum

- And ushered in the Dark Ages—how really dark was it?

- European feudalism replaced Roman rule

ROMAN EMPIRE
DURING THE SACK OF ROME
410 A.D.

PICTS
ANGLES
ROMANIZED CELTS
SAXONS
FRANKS
ALEMANNI
EASTERN HUNS
WESTERN HUNS
GOTHIC ALLIANCE OF ALARIC
VANDALS
WESTERN EMPIRE
EASTERN EMPIRE

Invasions of the Germanic Tribes

Influence of the Germanic Tribes

- Battle of Adrianople in 378 was a harbinger of doom inflicted upon the Empire by the Visigoths

- 455 the Vandals *visited* Rome

- 476 Roman emperor deposed

- Tribal laws influenced Common Law

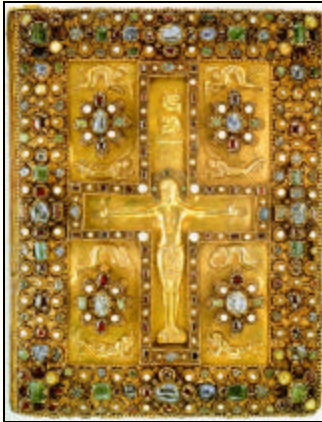- Literature: Beowulf, Song of the Nibelungen, Song of Roland
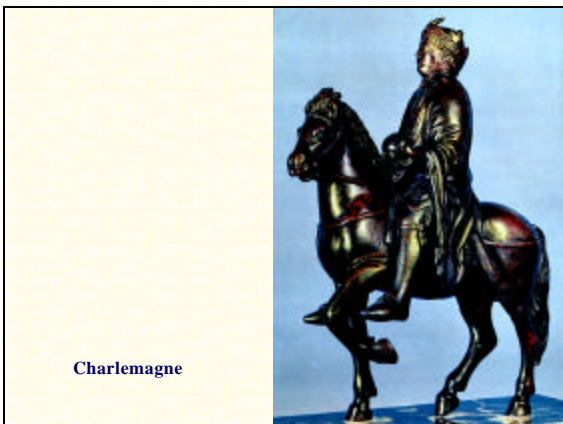
Germanic Visual Arts

Enamelwork

Carpet Page
NB the Islamic look

Lindau Gospels ca. 870

Charlemagne
Carolingian Renaissance

- Charlemagne—ruler, diplomat, playboy, and would-be Justinian (768-814)

- Charlemagne upset Byzantine emperors with his delusions of Roman grandeur

- Leo III crowned him on Christmas Day 800. Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire—which was neither Holy, Roman, or an Empire

- However, it lasted until the Austrian/Hungarian Empire, which fell in the aftermath of WWI

Charlemagne

- Charlemagne didn't get along with the Byzantine Emperor but seemed to have gotten along with the Muslims (even though Charles Martel, his grandfather, stopped the spread of Islam into Europe in 732 leaving Muslims in the south of Spain)

- CM became protector of the holy shrines in Holy Lands

- Learning during the time of CM—who couldn't write—but he brought education to Aachen and his kingdom

- Decree of 798—local leaders were to start schools

Chapel of Charlemagne
at Aachen 792-805

Charlemagne's Throne

Feudal Society

- With the death of Charlemagne, Europe was divided among his sons

- No unity or cohesiveness in society

- This vacuum produced the feudalism of the Medieval times

- Exchange of services—military service for security

- Local warlords emerged

Song of Roland

- Epic tale of chivalry and Medieval life

- Heaven is given to anyone who dies in the noble wars against the Muslims (does that sound familiar?)

- You are either with us or against us…you are either good or bad (another familiar notion)

Norman Conquest and Art

- William the Conqueror invades England in 1066

- William conquers the Anglo-Saxons and installs feudalism in England
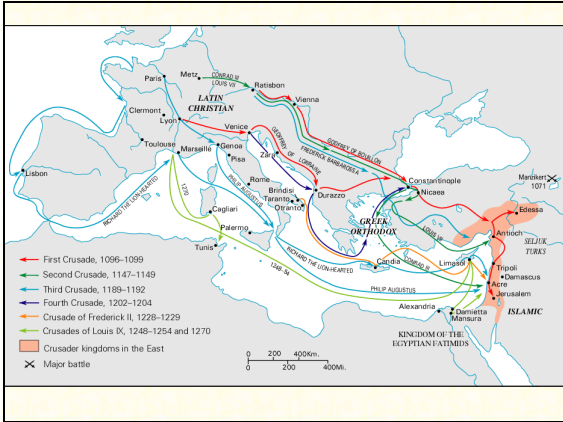
The Bayeux Tapestry

20" x 231' narrative of the William's invasion of England

Christian Crusades

- **Purpose—liberation of the Christian shrines in Holy Lands**

- **Pope Urban II in 1095 called for the first Crusade**

- **Primogeniture, commercial expansion, religious zeal, adventure all fueled the Crusades**

- **All but the first were failures and even the first one failed to hold once conquered areas**

A moment of *double* Middle Age Zen

- **Crusades (1st Crusade 1095) were designed to free the Holy Lands from the infidels who had been living there for centuries. The West didn't want them on holy land. Think of one of Osama bin Laden's complaints….**

- **Where did the West discover their Greco-Roman culture? Hint: in the Arab world**

Carcassonne, France - famous walled city

Patterns of Medieval Life

A very interesting site:

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/06/eu/hm06eu.htm