

The Early Middle Ages



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Summarize ways in which the Byzantine empire flourished after the decline of Rome.
- Explain the impact of the fall of Rome on Western Europe.
- Describe how Germanic tribes carved Europe into small kingdoms.
- Explain how Charlemagne briefly reunited much of Western Europe and what happened to his empire after his death.

The Byzantine Empire Thrives

Remember Constantine? He conquers & rebuilds the city of Byzantium & names it **Constantinople**.

Constantinople was the center of the Byzantine empire with an elaborate set of defenses.

The Byzantine Empire takes a lot from the Romans but begins to meld cultures together between Greek, Rome, & Christian influences

The Age of Justinian

Justinian- Byzantine Emperor who begins conquest to bring Rome back to its original power

He builds the church of Hagia Sophia “Holy Wisdom” with colored marble & silk

Justinian’s Code- Reform of law that influences Monarch’s codes of conduct

Justinian becomes an **autocrat**- Sole ruler with complete authority.

He serves with his wife **Theodora**- She served as an advisor & co-ruler to Justinian.

Power & Fall

Peasants begin to form the backbone of the empire for taxes, land production, & soldiers

Byzantine Empire builds one of the stronger militaries in the world using Greek Fire.

The Byzantine Empire holds back many opposing invaders...

By serving as a barricade to protect the growing Germanic kingdoms

Changes in Western Europe

The middle age begins & The northern Germanic peoples begin to shift power to the North.

Western Europe offered a lot of fertile land, & resources that bring about change.

Wars would ravage the landscape destroying the Roman Empire leading into the Dark Ages.

Cultures blended into the Medieval Civilization- Latin for “middle age”

People begin to settle into Kingdoms.

Kingdoms Begin

The Franks lead by **King Clovis** conquer the area that would become France.

Islam would begin to build a huge empire in the Mediterranean area.

Battle of Tours- Charles Martel defeat a Muslim army out of Western Europe

Europeans hate the Muslims, but gain a lot of knowledge such as science & math.

Charlemagne

Charlemagne- Grandson of Charles Martel, begins to conquer most of Europe into the old Roman Empire model

Pope Leo II makes an ally out of him & proclaims him Emperor of the Romans. This leads to **Christendom** in Europe

He sets out to control a United Europe & spread Christianity.

He revives **Latin Learning** & extends government & ideals to much of Europe

INVASION

The **Treaty of Verdun** would split the European Empire into 3 regions & brought conflict

Muslims constantly try to expand empire with little success.

Magyars attack much of Europe before they settle back into Hungary.

The **Vikings**- seafaring raiders from north Europe, would take to the seas & dominate large sections

Leif Erikson will set up the first European colony in North America.