

Study Questions/Key Words

Using the "Recap of the Medieval Europe" and Chapter 11 Powerpoint, answer the questions below.

STUDY QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answer each of the following questions in complete sentences and in your own words.

1. Why did trade and travel decline after the [fall of Rome](#)?
2. Who was the first "Holy Roman Emperor"? What were the connections between "[The Empire](#)" and "[The Church](#)"?
3. Define [feudalism](#) and describe the characteristics of its organization.
4. Why were strong kings rare and central government generally missing under the feudal system?
5. What was the importance of "[the Church](#)" and the Christian religion in the lives Europeans in the [Middle Ages](#)?
6. How did the ritual and [sacraments](#) of the [Church](#) establish a constant relationship with its individual members?
7. How did the [Church](#) use the powers of [excommunication](#) and [interdiction](#) in maintaining its power?
8. During the [Middle Ages](#), where (or by what group of people) was the learning and knowledge of Europe kept alive?
9. What was the dominant philosophy of the [Middle Ages](#) called? Who was its most outstanding spokesman? What were its basic beliefs? How did that philosophy view life and learning?
10. What were the three [estates](#) of medieval European society and what was the primary duty of a member of each [estate](#)? How was this social organization challenged by the changing economy?
11. Describe the [guilds](#). How did the [guilds](#) improve the lot of freemen? How did they hold freemen down?
12. Who were the [bourgeoisie](#), *burgesses*, or *burghers*? Why did their growing numbers challenge the social structure of Europe?
13. How did the [Crusades](#) help to begin a change from Medieval society into modern? Why are the [Crusades](#) sometimes called "successful failures"?
14. Why and in what ways did kings and central governments grow stronger at the end of the [Middle Ages](#)? What obstacles stood in the way of the creation of strong central governments?
15. Why was the re-establishment of trade so important to the transformation of Europe?