

KEY

Name _____ Block _____

Fall of Rome and Feudalism Study Guide

A-day December 7th

B-Day December 8th

Use Lesson 1 and Lesson 2 readings, interactive notebook answers, and notes from class to answer the following:

1. Name the political and economic reasons for the Fall of Rome.

Political Reasons:

Political Instability-change in leadership, there was not a smooth transition of power often leading to rivals competing for the position.

Rome switched from citizens being their soldiers to mercenaries which decreased the loyalty of its military.

Poor leaders-Praetorian guards choose leaders who would reward them rather than those who were best prepared to be an emperor. Growing corruption of poor leaders, lead to a decline in the spirit of its citizenship.

Social and economic reasons:

People paid heavy taxes to maintain the empire. These taxes hurt the economy.

Many people lived in poverty due to high unemployment and heavy taxes. Large farmers drove small farmers out of business so they went to cities looking for a job but there weren't enough jobs.

Trade declined due to a poor economy and a rise in crime. The roads and cities were no longer safe.

2. When Rome switched from citizens to mercenaries in its armies; how did that decision **impact Rome**?

Weakening frontiers lead to Rome paying mercenaries soldiers to defend its borders. The mercenaries were not Roman citizens. It decreased the loyalty of its soldiers and weakened Rome. Communication throughout the empire was also difficult due to the size.

KEY

3. Name one lasting impact of the Roman Empire on our world today and explain the significance (its importance).

Answers will vary. ***Choose the contribution you think has had the greatest impact (most important) on our world today and EXPLAIN **WHY**.

Choices may include elements from: Art, Architecture, Engineering, Roman Language and Writing, Roman Philosophy, Law and Citizenship – (See Lesson 1: The Legacy of the Roman Empire)

4. Put these events in the correct order:

3- Charlemagne is crowned
2- Clovis rules
4- Feudalism is established in England
1- Rome Falls

5. Why was the time period from 476 c.e. – 1000 c.e. called the Dark Ages?

There was a lack of literacy, poverty, plagues, and there were very little advances in science.

6. Name Constantine's main influence on his people.

He established Constantinople and helped Rome's influence grow.

7. Why did feudalism develop?

Feudalism developed because there was a need for protection and stability after the fall of Rome. After Rome collapsed the western half the empire dissolved into separate kingdoms ruled by different tribes.

8. Why were loyalties oaths important?

Since there were no written contracts, your word of honor meant more.

9. Describe Charlemagne's main traits that would help identify him.

Charlemagne ruled the Franks from 768 to 814 CE, He was able to unite the Christian lands of Europe. He established the Holy Roman Empire and was crowned emperor by the Pope Leo III

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10. Describe a serf's main responsibility and their homes.







A serf's main responsibility was to grow food for the lord. Their homes had no plumbing, were cold and often one room.

11. Why weren't kings able to reunify and recreate Rome during the Middle Ages?

They wanted their own power and were not willing to give up their lands or position.

12. Why is having a food surplus so important and what does having a food surplus allow a civilization to do? **THINK: What leads to what...?

*Be sure to include the words **stable food supply, population growth, specialization (learning a certain skill), trade increase, science and technology, and economy.**

Stable food supply 	Having enough food for your community. Producing the food on your own (do not depend on other communities) You have enough to feed the existing population.
Food Surplus 	Having more than enough food for your community. Allows your population to grow.
Specialization 	The whole society doesn't have to focus on getting food. People no longer have to focus on survival. Other jobs can be created and other products in demand are created (specialization can now be the focus).
Increase of Trade 	More specialized jobs are created and items are in demand because of specialization. Increase in supply give people opportunities to purchase products.
Cities Develop/ Strong Economy 	More people move in to the community because of trading and because more jobs and goods are available. People have more money to spend because of a steady income.
Advancement in Science, Technology and Art 	These are luxury items and MONEY is necessary to have these. People invest their money to improve their lives.

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Directions: Identify the social structure of the Feudal System in order.

