

Middle Age Lesson 1 Enrichment

Choose one of the two enrichment activities to complete:

1. The Franks were a Germanic tribe that lived in the areas that is now Germany and France beginning in the 3rd century (the 200's). When Frankish tribes raided Roman towns and cities, the Roman Empire defeated the Franks and relocated them to Toxandria, in what is now the country of the Netherlands. Eventually, the Franks adopted Roman customs, but they still were not fully part of the Roman Empire. The Franks later, fully united under a series of military leaders to establish their own nation.



Charlemagne, whose name means 'Charles the Great', was a king of the Franks in the late 700s and early 800s. Over the hundreds of years, Christianity grew and became powerful and influential in the old Roman Empire. Also, remember that Islam was born and started a strong growth in the 500s. Charlemagne protected the Christian pope in 772 against

attacks, and conquered much of Italy in the process. In 774, he took the islands of Corsica and Sardinia from Muslim Arabs who controlled much of the Mediterranean area. He continued to wage war against the Muslims in Hispania (Spain) until his death. For his efforts on behalf of Christianity, Pope Leo III crowned him Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day, 800.

Charlemagne also made many improvements in military practices, economic practices, and he greatly valued education and the arts.

Write an editorial either praising or criticizing the Franks from the point of view of a Roman citizen. Argue for or against the Franks! Were the Franks beneficial for the Roman Empire, or were they enemies? First, make a list of ways that the Franks might have been beneficial or harmful to the Romans, from a Roman citizen's point of view.

2. Create a whole page chart comparing and contrasting medieval missionaries and monks. Student's charts should describe or explain each group's purpose, way of life, and role in the spread of Christianity. You will need to re-read pages 667-669 – Christianity Spreads to Northern Europe.