

POPES VS. KINGS: A GRUDGE MATCH!



During the Middle Ages both popes and kings became increasingly powerful. While popes had great spiritual power, kings held political power. Christian monarchs ruled many European kingdoms such as, France and England. On the other hand, popes were seen as God's representative on earth. One could predict these two power house leadership positions would come into conflict often. Disagreements about church leadership appointments and political policy became inevitable as each party struggled to maintain power.

In this grudge match you will determine a winner of each round by placing a check in the box of the leader who had more power. At the end, your selections will provide evidence, supporting who ultimately had the most power!



POPES

ROUND ONE

KINGS

Since attackers like the Vikings were not Christian, they did not view Christian institutions like monasteries and churches as holy, hence, they were fair game to pillage. The pope depended on the king and his army for protection.

Place a check below leader with the most power.

POPES

ROUND TWO

KINGS

With hope to restore the power of the late Roman Empire, King Charlemagne was crowned emperor of the Romans by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day in 800. Charlemagne's empire included all of modern France and stretched into Germany, Italy, Austria and Northern Spain.

Place a check below leader with the most power.

POPES

ROUND THREE

KINGS

Popes and kings disagreed about who should be able to appoint bishops (*local church officials*). King Henry IV asserted that since kings were chosen by God, they should be able to choose the bishop in their kingdom. Emperor Henry the IV said, "Our Lord Jesus Christ has called us to kingship, but has not called you to the priesthood...You who have not been called by God...[are suggesting that the king's appointments should be rejected]."

Agree? Place a check to the right.

POPES

ROUND FOUR

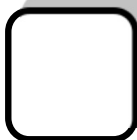
KINGS

In 1073 King Henry IV selected a bishop that Pope Gregory VII did not like. The Pope excommunicated (cast out of the church) King Henry IV. Remember, Christians believe that if you die while excommunicated you will not go to heaven. Desperate, the King turned to his nobles for support, but they were also afraid. The King apologized and asked for forgiveness. ***In fact, the king stood barefoot in the snow for three days before the Pope would even talk to him.***

POPE

ROUND FIVE

KING



Pope Gregory VII thought popes should be able to appoint bishops (church officials). He said that kings did not have the power to choose holy leaders because they themselves were not holy. He said, "Who does not know that kings...derive their [leadership] from men who are ignorant of God. [Kings] raised themselves above other fellows through...every kind of crime...Does anyone doubt that priests...are considered as masters over kings?"

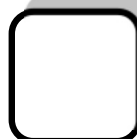


Agree? Place a check to the left.

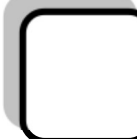
POPE

ROUND SIX

KING



The Pope is viewed as God's representative on earth. After the collapse of the Roman Empire, many people in Italy looked to popes as their leaders. As a result some popes lived much like royalty with lavish palaces.

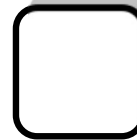


Place a check below leader with the most power.

POPE

ROUND SEVEN

KING



The church and monasteries were the keepers of knowledge. Monks wrote and compiled religious and other texts. Thus, some of the first universities were created by the church. As the top religious leader, the Pope often determined what would be taught. In addition to religion, universities also taught law, medicine and astronomy. Of course, the language of the church was Latin and since Latin was not the spoken language, the church clergy had ultimate control over the information being taught.



Place a check below leader with the most power.



_____ **WAS IT A KNOCK OUT? TOTAL YOUR SCORES** _____
_____ is the winner!

1. Defend why you believe he (either the king or pope) has more power. Explain two reasons below. _____

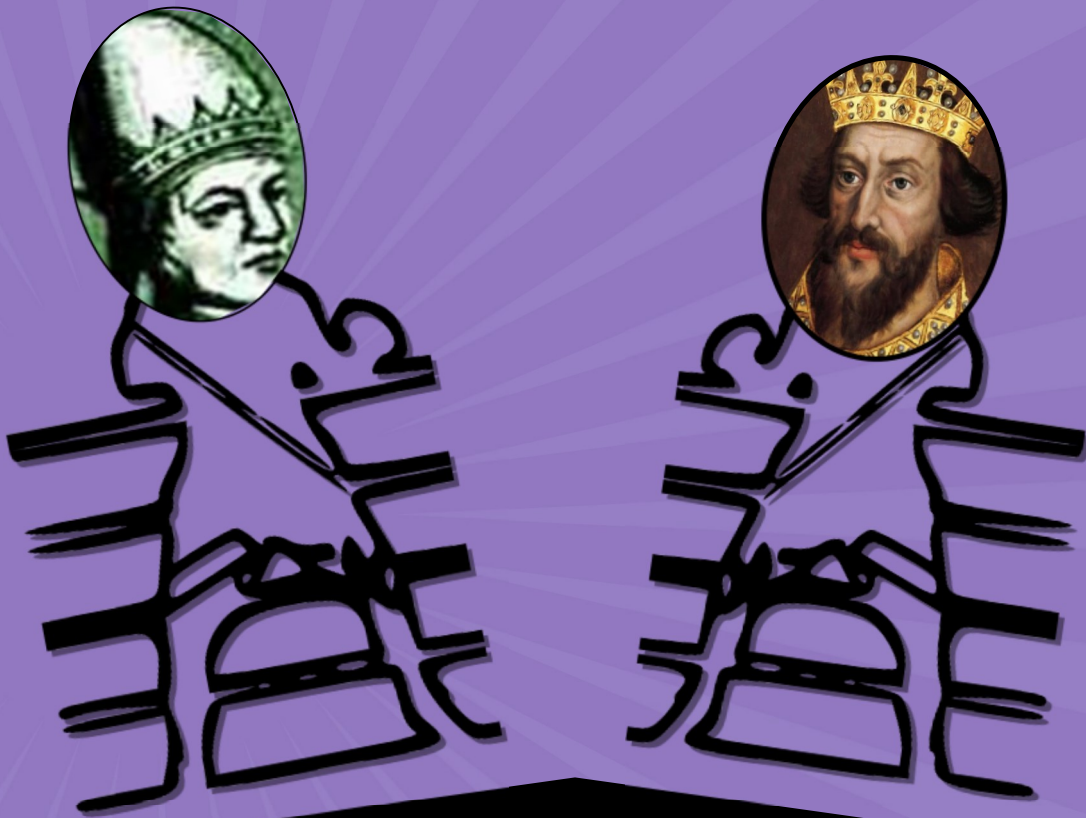
THE GREAT SCHISM: A POWER STRUGGLE THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

While the king only had power in the West of the former Roman Empire, popes struggled to maintain power over both the East and West. As you may remember, the eastern Byzantine Empire had long established that their kings were both religious and political leaders (called a patriarch). When Pope Leo IX tried to assert his power over the Eastern Byzantine Empire, the Patriarch in the East (Celurius) denied to acknowledge Leo's religious leadership. Pope Leo IX excommunicated him, which had little effect, but this argument led to a split in the Christian church called the **Great Schism**. Today, this battle is reflected in the political and cultural division between the East and West. In fact, today the majority of Eastern Europe practice Eastern Orthodox Christianity. According to the World Fact Book, 2011, approximately 75% of Russia, 76% of the Ukraine, 88% of Romania and 98% of Greece practice Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Furthermore, there are 250 million Eastern Orthodox Christians in the world! Orthodox Christians do not look to the Pope as their religious leader. The West, who supported Leo's initial assertion of the pope's power, would become known as Roman Catholic. Roman Catholics still view the pope who resides in Vatican City (a walled city state located in the city of Rome) as their religious leader. The Pope is still one of the most powerful religious leaders in world with over 1.2 billion Catholics world wide.

- 2. Underline the text that best supports the main idea that the *Great Schism* has "changed the world".
- 3. Describe how the disagreement between Pope Leo IX and Byzantine Patriarch Celurius led to the *Great Schism*.

**STUDENTS
DECIDE
WHO WINS**

A POWER STRUGGLE GRUDGE MATCH!



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