Social Studies Vocabulary – Medieval Europe!

1. knight – warriors in armor who fought on horseback
2. excommunicate – exclude a person from church membership
3. Charlemagne – king of the Franks, who lived from AD 742-814, and conquered much of Western Europe, creating courts and schools, despite being unable to write
4. siege – an attempt to take an enemy’s property by force
5. code of chivalry – rules for knights
6. Black Death – a disease, the Bubonic Plague, which killed ~25,000,000 Europeans in the 14th century
7. mail – chain link armor
8. medieval – time period which refers to the middle ages, ~ 400CE – 1400CE
9. consensus – a general agreement
10. bailiff – person who enforces the lord’s wishes, bosses the peasants around

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1. noble – a wealthy, powerful ruler in feudal society
2. peasant – a poor, hardworking member of feudal society – at the bottom of the social order
3. serf – peasant who could not leave the manor, own property, or marry without the lord’s approval
4. social order – the rank of classes of people in a society
5. manor – a farming community with a lord’s residence at its center
6. heresy – beliefs which question or challenge official church doctrine
7. apprentice – a person who is learning a craft or trade from a master
8. Vikings – people also known as the Norsemen, who raided Europe, sailing from the fjords of Scandinavia
9. Magyars – nomadic people from Hungary who invaded Europe
10. Holy Roman Empire – territory now called Germany and Northern Italy, which formed out of the Eastern Frankish kingdom
11. William the Conqueror – a descendant of Viking invaders who conquered Normandy, France, this king invaded England in 1066 and was crowned king of England
12. grand jury – the jury which decides whether people should be accused of a crime
13. trial jury – the jury which decides whether an accused person is guilty or innocent
14. King John – English king who raised taxes and punished his enemies without trials; angry nobles finally met with him in 1215 and forced him to sign the “Great Charter”
15. Magna Carta – the “Great Charter”, this document limited the power of government and established the idea that people have rights: it took away some of the king’s power to collect taxes and gave freemen the right to fair, speedy trials by their peers

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1. parliament – a gathering of representatives from different parts of England who advised the King and helped him make laws
2. Slavs – people who organized medieval villages in Eastern Europe – in the region of the modern countries of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Croatia
3. Mongols – people who lived north of China, following their herds of grazing animals, traveling and attacking on horseback, conquering China, much of Southwest Asia, and much of Eastern and Central Europe, creating the largest land empire in the world
4. anti-Semitism – prejudice against Jews; in the middle ages this included special clothing restrictions, separate living areas (ghettos), loss of the rights to own land and practice certain trades, expulsion from some countries, and attacks from violent mobs
5. cathedrals – large churches paid for by church leaders and wealthy merchants and nobles