

Geography Challenge 1

Complete GC 1 and turn it in before 8 am on Friday, September 1st

Directions:

1. Read pages 4 and 5 of your textbook (I have included copies here).
2. Answer all 8 questions on page 2. Each question must be:
 - a. Written in complete sentences, or
 - b. The question AND short answer must be included
3. Label and color the map as directed. Accuracy and neatness counts.

Setting the Stage

Europe During Medieval Times

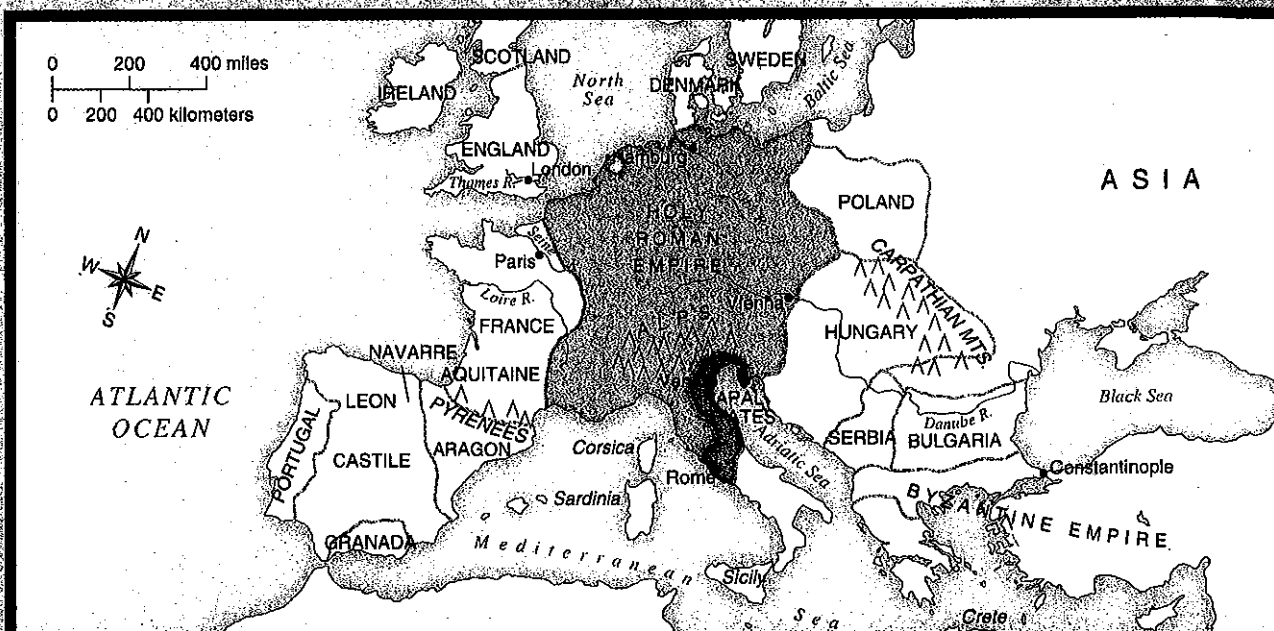
We will begin our study of the medieval world with the continent of Europe. Our study of this region will include England, the continent of Europe, and the Byzantine Empire (which straddled Europe and Asia).

Europe is bounded by seas and oceans and threaded with rivers. During medieval times, these waterways allowed people to travel more easily through Europe, but they also made settlements along coastal areas vulnerable to attack by invaders. Mountain ranges—like the Pyrenees, Alps, and Carpathian Mountains—helped protect settlements but also acted as barriers to travel and trade.

The period of time we call *medieval* began with the fall of the Roman Empire and lasted until about 1500 C.E. (C.E. means Common Era, and B.C.E. means Before the Common Era). Toward the end of this period, many Europeans felt they were living in a time of dramatic change. They began referring to the centuries since the fall of Rome as the Middle Ages. We still use this term today.

Historians divide the European Middle Ages into three periods:

- *Early Middle Ages*: From about 476 to 1000 C.E.
- *High Middle Ages*: From about 1000 to 1350 C.E.
- *Late Middle Ages*: From about 1350 to 1500 C.E.



Europe During Medieval Times

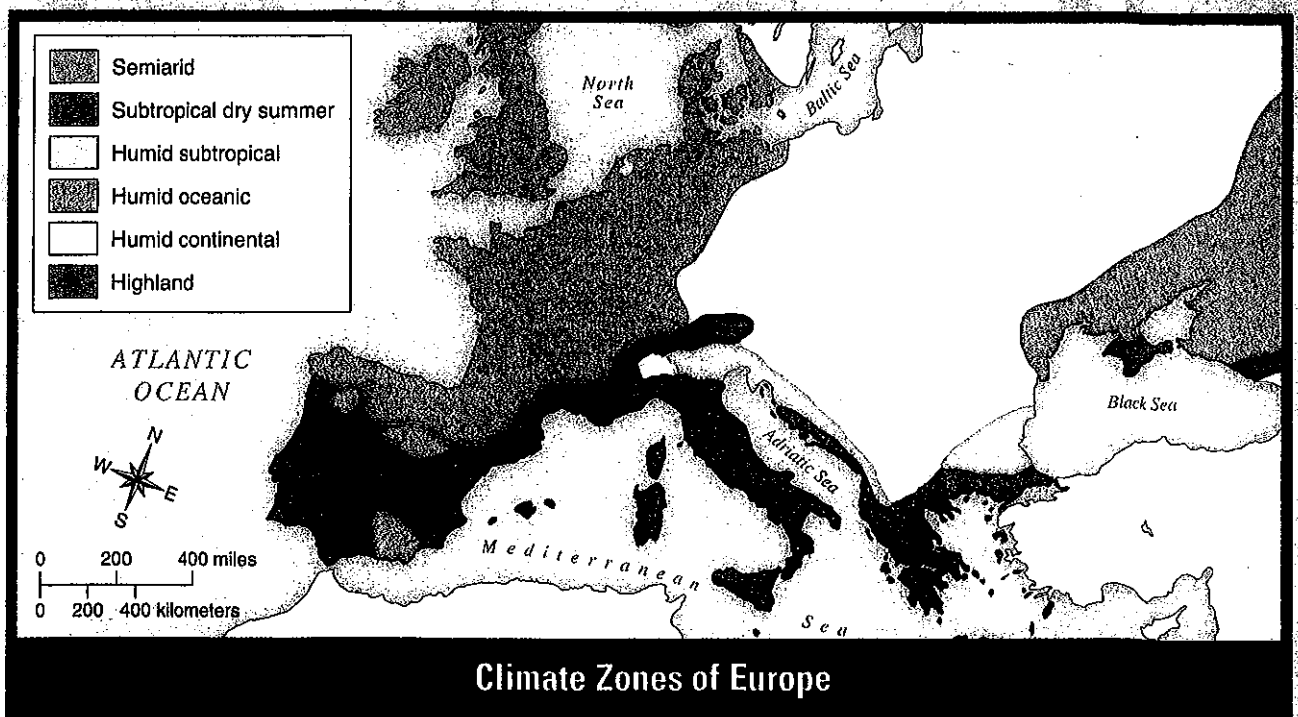
The Early Middle Ages began after the fall of the Roman Empire in the west. The Roman Empire had unified Europe. After the empire ended, western Europe fell into chaos. People spoke different languages and could not communicate as easily. Fewer travelers braved the ruined roads. Force became the law of the land. In the east, however, the Byzantine Empire survived Rome's fall.

By the start of the High Middle Ages, about 1000 C.E., life had become more stable. Many separate European kingdoms (such as England, France, the Papal States, and the Holy Roman Empire) had formed in the west.

During the High Middle Ages, most people in western Europe lived in the countryside under an economic and political system called *feudalism*. Under feudalism, a king (sometimes a queen) ruled the kingdom. The king granted land to nobles in exchange for military service. Peasants worked the land for the nobles.

The Late Middle Ages were a time of transition. Trade between the west and the east flourished once more, as it had under the Roman Empire. As a consequence, people in western Europe began moving from the countryside into towns. This led to many other changes.

Let's start our exploration of the Middle Ages with a close look at the Roman Empire. Why did it fall? What influence did it have on western civilization?



Medieval Europe Question 1

Label the continent of Asia.

What continent is located south of Europe?

Medieval Europe Question 2

Label the Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Black Sea.

In what ways might these bodies of water have influenced life in medieval Europe?

Medieval Europe Question 3

Label the Seine, Thames, and Danube Rivers.

Why do you think large medieval cities were located along rivers?

Medieval Europe Question 4

Label the Pyrenees, Alps, and Carpathian Mountains.

What effect do you think these mountains had on life in medieval Europe?

Medieval Europe Question 5

Label England, France, the Papal States, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Byzantine Empire.

Each of these areas had a different leader. Why do you think Europe had no single government during the Middle Ages?

Medieval Europe Question 6

Label the cities of Constantinople, Hamburg, London, Paris, and Rome.

What is common about the locations of all of these cities? How might that have affected life in medieval Europe?

Medieval Europe Question 7

Color the areas of Europe in the "humid oceanic" climate zone green.

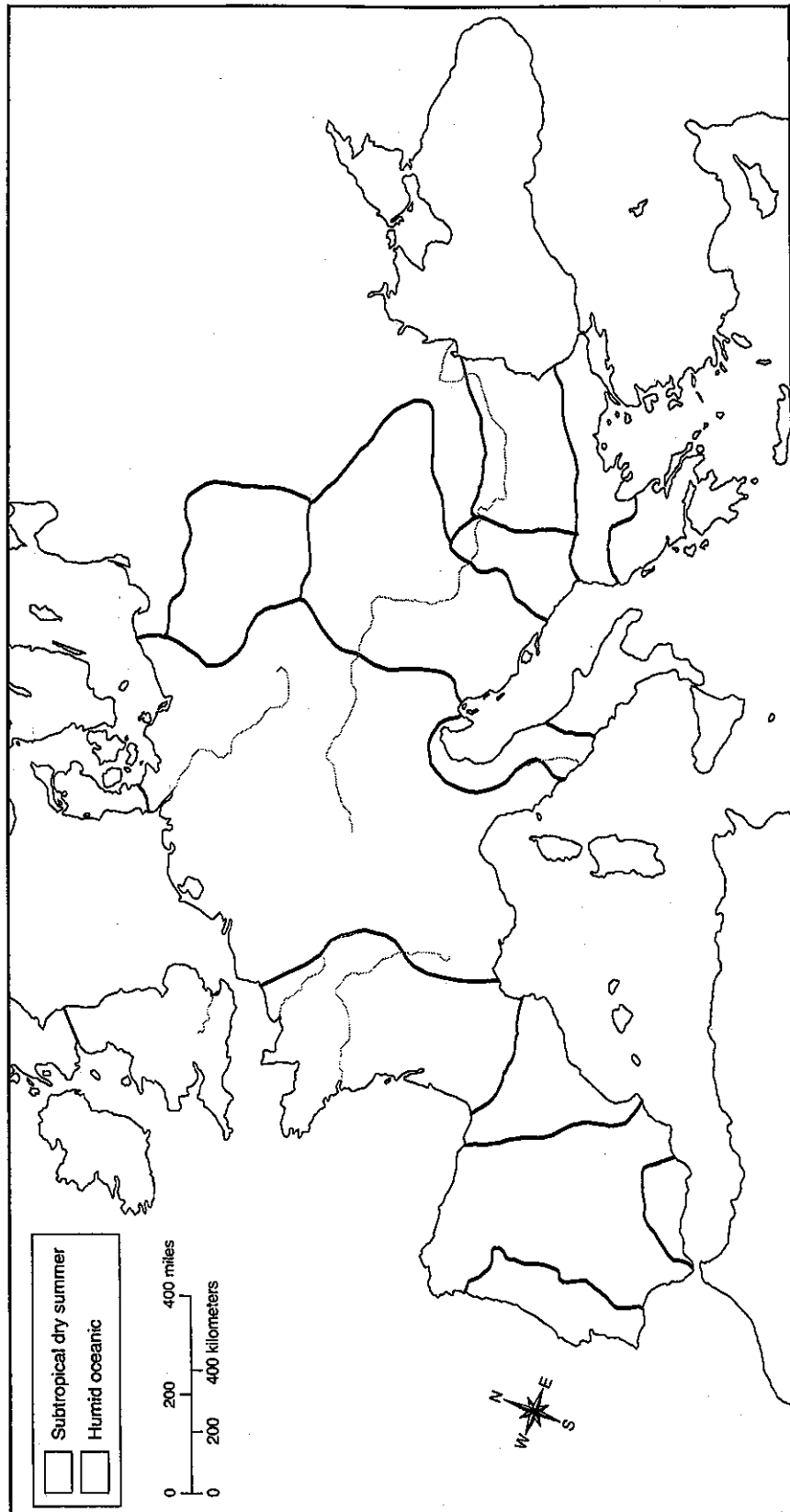
Medieval farmers used plows to break up the soil here. They rotated their crops (e.g., planting wheat or rye in the fall, oats or barley in the spring). What does this tell you about the climate and soil in this zone?

Medieval Europe Question 8

Color the areas of Europe in the "subtropical dry summer" climate zone orange.

In this zone, medieval farmers were able to grow a host of crops, such as wheat, olive trees, and wine grapes. What does this tell you about the climate and soil in this zone?

GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE 1





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To complete each Geography Challenge card, answer the questions in complete sentences. Label the map on the opposite page as directed.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8