CENTURIES OF CHRISTENDOM (MIDDLE AGES)

EARLY CENTURIES (500-1000 A.D.)

Known for:

1. Cultural synthesis between Roman culture and Germanic tribes

2. Political decentralization - There were kingdoms, but feudalism predominated and no Empire lasted.

3. Expansion of Roman Catholicism - Popes became very powerful, more powerful than Kings, and monasteries flourished preserving knowledge.

4. Invasions of Vikings, Magyars and Saracens

5. Separation of Roman Empire into East and West - Byzantine Empire flourishes for 1,000 years as a centralized empire with Greek Orthodox as its main religion and the Greek-based cyrillic alphabet as its alphabet.

LATE CENTURIES OF CHRISTENDOM (1000-1500 A.D.)

1. Agricultural improvements (three field system, heavy-wheeled plow, horse shoe and collar, and windmill) and greatly increasing trade.

2. Above improvements led to a great increase in population

3. Increase in population led to the rebirth of cities

4. Increasing wealth led to the building of magnificent Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals

5. Increasing wealth led to the building of universities in cities all over Europe

6. The Roman Catholic Church's attempt to liberate the Holy Land from Moslims led to 8 Crusades which were later called the "rehearsal for Empire" meaning rehearsal for when Europe dominated the rest of the world after Columbus' and other Europeans' voyages of discovery.

7. Persecution of Jews, witches, and homosexuals

8. Black Death led to Great Depression

9. Hundred Years' War

10. Great Schism in Catholic Church - double papacy (Rome and Avignon, France)