

7.37 Examine the spread of Christianity north of the Alps and the roles played by the early church and by monasteries in its diffusion after the fall of the western half of the Roman Empire.

Learning



TARGET

I can show how Christianity spread north of the Alps and the roles played by the early church and by monasteries.

Christianity and Medieval Society

The Big Idea

**The Christian Church was central to
life in the Middle Ages.**



Instructions



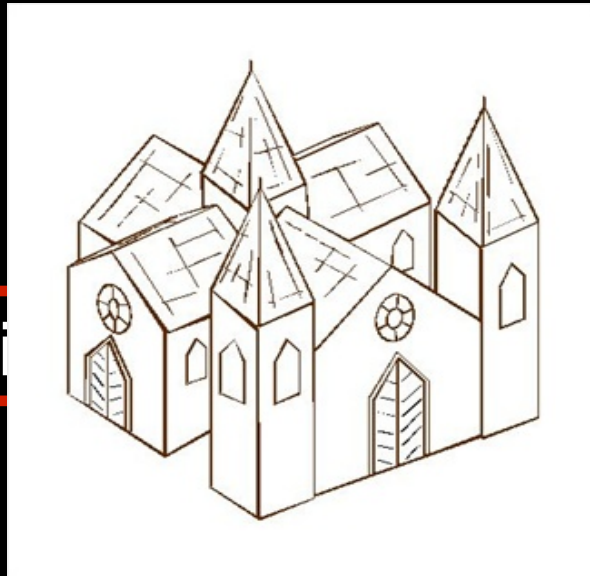
- Red text: (STOP and pay close attention) Critical information. You should copy it exactly.
- Yellow text: (SLOW down and pay attention) Useful information. You should write it in your notes in your own words.
- Green text: (Read and GO to the next text) You do not have to write.

The Church in the Middle Ages

Super Huge Fact:

- The Church was the single most powerful organization in western Europe during the Middle ages
- Dominated peoples lives, from peasants to kings

Manor



m

THE
CHURCH

Think About It...



- Is the Church the most powerful organization today?
- Does the Church or your religion play a huge role in your everyday life?



- In the Middle Ages, it was and it did.

The Church in the Middle Ages

- Religion was a huge part of everyday life.
- People were Christian/Roman Catholic.
- People were loyal to the Pope - the head of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Freedom of religion was not a huge concept.



How did the Church get so powerful?

1. By being incredibly organized
2. By gaining wealth and political power, greater than some kings!
3. By spreading its teachings all over western Europe

Church organization



- **Pope in Rome**
 - **Archbishops (regions)**
 - **Bishops (major cities)**
 - **Priests (manors and villages)**
 - **Monks and nuns (monasteries)**
 - **Religious community**
- Diagram description: A central pink dot has a long arrow pointing to the right. From this dot, four curved pink arrows point downwards to the left, connecting to the first four items in the list: Pope in Rome, Archbishops (regions), Bishops (major cities), and Priests (manors and villages).



Church Wealth

- Kings and nobles donated land or left it to the Church when they died.
- Everyone tithed - paid taxes for services provided by Church.
- Church became the biggest landowner.
- Land=Wealth in the Middle Ages!!

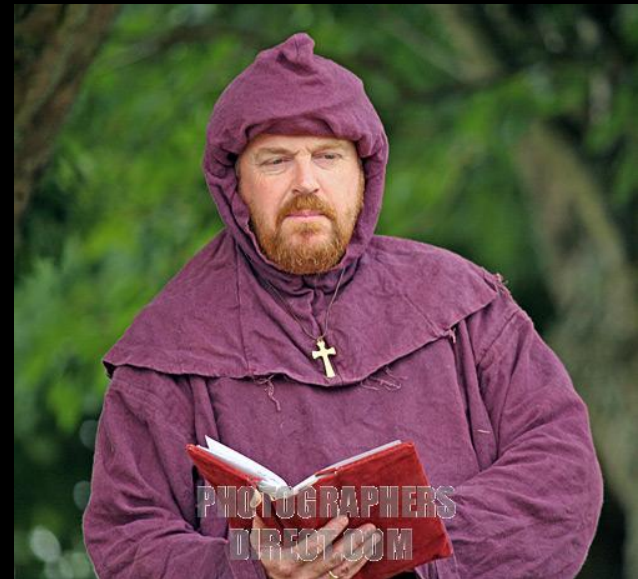
Importance of Priests

- Priests were very important in spreading Christian teachings to every day people.
- One on every manor.
- Made sure they were following canon law - church laws that guided behavior.



What did priests do?

- Mass on Sunday
- Weddings and baptisms
- Talk to villagers about their problems
- Bury the dead
- Heal the sick
- Teach reading and writing
- Collect tithes
- Keep all village records



Monasteries

- School
- Food and rest
- Hospital care
- Taught carpentry and weaving
- Developed better methods for farming
- Preserve knowledge
- Abbot: leader of a monastery

Church teachings

Super Huge Concept:

- There is heaven and there is hell.
- Lead a good life and follow church laws and you will go to heaven.
- Otherwise...

Church Teachings

How would you live your life if you knew you were going to one of these places when you died?



Exit Questions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdA8DMISJ1o>

1. Explain why priests were important to the Church as well as to ordinary people in the Middle Ages?
2. Why did people follow church teachings in the Middle Ages?