



# European Medieval Times

Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11

## Cities & Towns

### Dark Ages

Feudalism brought protection and stability to Europe, but the **Dark Ages** **continued** because most people stayed on their manors, there was little trade or education, and wars continued between kingdoms.

### Towns & Cities

At the beginning of the Middle Ages, towns were still part of the land controlled by Lords, but as towns grew bigger, they felt they no longer needed protection from the Feudal system-they did not want to pay taxes to a Lord. They paid for a **charter**-a legal document that let them elect their own town/city officials and raise their own taxes to pay for what they needed. They became free.

Feudal Manors produced everything they needed: they grew their own food and made all their own supplies. As towns grew, Europe again had to open trade routes to trade for things they needed. **With trade came wealth, new goods, and ideas.**

Write this on the LEFT-on the RIGHT, add 4 pictures or descriptions of things you might find in a Medieval town.

Write this on the NEXT LEFT-on the RIGHT of that page, add processing from Chapter 5 of your book to show understanding of Magna Carta and Bubonic Plague.

## The Decline of Feudalism

### Political changes

There was a constant struggle for power during the Middle Ages. The monarchy struggled with the Church. The people of towns and cities also struggled with the monarchy and aristocrats (lords).

### Legal reform & the Magna Carta

King Henry II of England made new legal reforms that gave people a right to a trial by jury. He also gave the King the right to try Church members. In England, the people also forced King John to sign the **Magna Carta**-a charter that gave more rights to the people and limited the right of the monarchy. People were starting to demand fairness and governments started to look more like what we have today.

### Bubonic Plague

Another reason for the decline of Feudalism was the Bubonic Plague (Black Death), a disease caused by bacteria and spread by fleas. 1/3 to 1/2 of all people in Europe died. Power shifted to peasants because there weren't enough workers. Workers could demand better pay and rights.