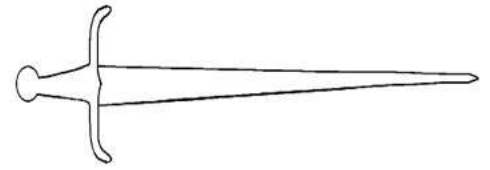


CHARLEMAGNE



Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, was a powerful medieval emperor who sought to unify all the Germanic people. He became the King of the Franks, a Germanic tribe in 771. His goal was not only to unite Europe, he also wanted to convert his subjects to Christianity. These goals meant the great military strategist spent much of his time in war. In 800, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. This helped him immensely when he began to revive culture and intellectualism in Europe. He was very educated, knowing both the Latin and Greek languages.

Charlemagne was a zealous defender of Christianity. He was generous with his gifts of land and money to the Holy Roman Church. As a means of recognizing Charlemagne and to keep his allegiance to the church, he was crowned the Holy Roman Emperor on December 25th, 800.

As Charlemagne's power throughout Europe expanded, he was able to accomplish much of what was important to him. His military campaigns included the defeat of the Saxons and its total conversion to Christianity. He also conquered the kingdom of the Lombards in Italy and invaded the Moor-controlled area of northern Spain. Over a 20 year span, just before he became Emperor, he added Bohemia and the middle Danube basin.

Charlemagne was Emperor over vast territories, which became known as the Carolingian empire. He was a talented diplomat and a just administrator over his immense land holdings. He promoted education and a renewed emphasis on scholarship and culture. In his palace in Aachen, where he spent a lot of time with his 18 children, he included a school with the best teachers recruited throughout the land. He invited many eminent scholars to his court, and he established a great library of Christian and classical works. He also created the Carolingian minuscule, a standardized method of writing. It eventually became the foundation for modern European printed alphabets.

WHILE YOU'RE READING...

MARK WITH SYMBOLS

!

when you find something interesting.

?

when you are unsure or confused by something.

*

when you find something important.

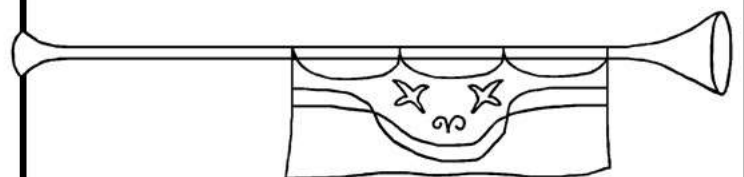
HIGHLIGHT WITH COLORS

yellow

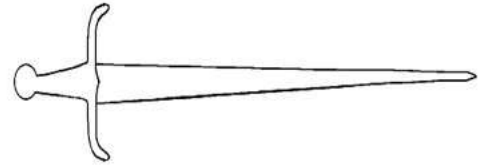
power words or key terms

green

key phrases and definitions



CHARLEMAGNE

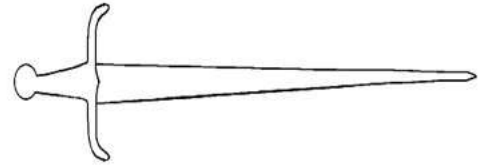


Questions I have while reading:

Summary of what I have read:



CHARLEMAGNE



Question 1: What did Charlemagne accomplish through his military campaigns?

Question 2: What were some of Charlemagne's goals for Europe?

Question 3: What were Charlemagne's views on education?

