Charlemagne Unites Germanic Kingdoms.

Invasions of Western Europe
Effects of Constant Invasions and Warfare
Germanic invaders overrun western Roman Empire in 400s
Fighting disrupts trade and government; people abandon cities.
Merchants faced invasions from both land and sea. Their businesses collapsed
The breakdown of trade destroyed Europe’s cities as economic centers
Nobles and other city-dwellers left for rural areas. Marks the beginning of the Middle Ages — period from 500 to 1500
It’s also called the dark ages.
The decline of Learning
As cities are abandoned, level of learning declines.
The germanic invaders couldn’t read or write in Latin
The level of learning sank sharply as more and more people left for rural areas
Mostly priests and other church officials were literate.
Knowledge of Greek language and culture is almost completely lost
Loss of common language
Introduction of German language changes Latin, dialects develop
As german speaking people began mixing with the roman population, latin language began to change.
When Latin was still the official language, it was no longer understood.
Different dialects developed as new words and phrases came part of everyday speech
Years of upheaval between 400 and 600
Germanic kingdoms replace Roman provinces
Continual wars change borders between kingdoms.
The church provides order and security
The concept of Government changes
Germans held together by family ties and loyalty, not citizenship in a public state
Small communities are governed by unwritten rules and traditions
Germanic warriors pledged loyalty to their chief; live in lord’s hall he gave them food weapons, treasure.
In battle, warriors fought to the death at their lord’s side.
In Germanic stress of personal ties made it impossible to establish orderly government for large territories
Clovis rules the Franks.
Germanic people called Franks hold power in Roman province of Gaul