Time Line for the Middle Ages

The Middle Ages lasted for about one thousand years. Ten important events which took place during that period of time are listed below. Use the dates and information to fill in the time line provided for you on the next page. You may wish to add other dates and information as you study the Middle Ages.

520 St. Benedict established the first monastery at Monte Cassino, Italy. He drew up a set of rules for the monks, which included vows of obedience, poverty and manual labor.

800 Charlemagne was crowned ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. This act symbolized a union of the church and state.

1066 William invaded and conquered England. He defeated King Harold who was killed at the Battle of Hastings. William brought feudalism and culture from France to England.

1096 First Crusade began. The Crusades were armies of Christians from all over Europe who marched to the Holy Land to regain lands captured by the Turks. The First Crusaders took the city of Jerusalem but paid a very heavy price in lives.

1147 Second Crusade was launched. This Crusade is generally considered to have been a failure.

1189 Third Crusade was one of the more successful. In it King Richard the Lion-Hearted obtained certain privileges for Christians from the Turkish ruler, Saladin.

1202 Fourth Crusade launched. In this Crusade the original purpose of the Crusades was abandoned, and the Crusaders burned and sacked many cities and villages on their route. They never reached the Holy Land.

1215 King John of England was forced to sign the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta gave some basic rights to the people and also said that the king was not above the law.

1291 Fall of Acre marked the end of the Crusades. Acre, the last Christian city in the Near East, was lost to the Turks.

1348 The black plague swept England and Europe. It was estimated that one out of every five people in England died. Spread by rat fleas, the disease is characterized by the victim turning dark purple in his last hours of life due to respiratory failure, hence the name, black plague.