World History Middle Ages Vocabulary

1. **Serfs** - agricultural workers that belong to the manor.
3. **Holy Land** - the area of Palestine held spiritually important to Christians, Muslims, and Jews.
4. **Crusades** - a series of four holy wars to drive the Muslims out of Palestine.
5. **Inquisition** - a trial held by the Catholic Church to get rid of heretics.
6. **Heresy** - a belief that contradicted the teachings of the Church.
7. **Schism** - a division within the Catholic Church.
8. **Richard the Lionheart** - the King of England who left to join the crusade, leaving others to rule in his place.
9. **Reconquista** - beginning in the 11th century, a military campaign to drive the Muslims out of Spain.
10. **Byzantine Empire** - Eastern Roman Empire that began when Constantine moved the capital out of Rome to Byzantium (Constantinople).
11. **Black Death** - the outbreak of the Bubonic Plague that spread across Asia, North Africa, and Europe in the mid 14th century.
12. **Charlemagne** - was the 1st in Western Europe to bear the title of emperor in over 300 years.
13. **Feudal System** - a system of political organization prevailing in medieval Europe.
14. **Medieval** - means middle age; it comes between the era of Greco-Roman civilization and the intellectual, artistic, and economic change of the Renaissance.
15. **Holy Roman Empire** - a loose federation of mostly German states and principalities headed by the emperor, lasting from 962-1806.
17. **Secular** - concerned with the material world, or power involved in politics.
18. **Excommunication** - to cut off officially from the Roman Catholic Church.
19. **Magna Carta** - English document signed by King John in 1215.
20. **Canon Law** - the law governing the church.