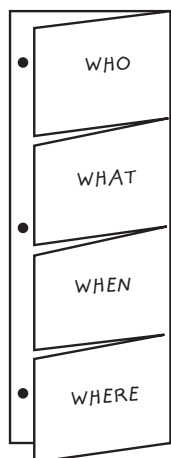# Emerging Europe and the Byzantine Empire, 400–1300

TOPIC SUMMARY

The European civilization of the Middle Ages was influenced by Germanic peoples, the legacy of the Roman Empire, and Christianity. Charlemagne expanded his reach, creating the Carolingian Empire. Later, various invaders and the collapse of central authority resulted in feudalism. Powerful new rulers consolidated their power and brought an end to the feudal system. In the eastern Mediterranean region, the Byzantine Empire grew and flourished.
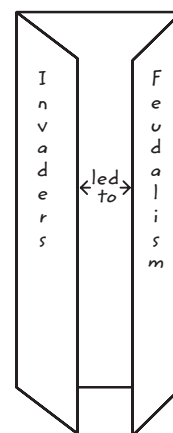
Describing

Four-Tab Book

Charlemagne was a powerful Christian ruler. After reading the related text, have students make and use this Four-Tab Book to organize information describing him under the categories of *Who, What, When,* and *Where.* Have students draw or copy a sculpture or picture of Charlemagne to include with the *Who* tab.

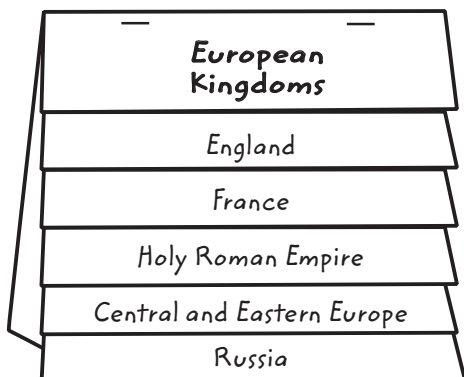**Materials Needed:** one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper and scissors

Summarizing

Shutter Fold

Have students create a Shutter Fold to summarize the actions of the Viking and Visigoth invaders, and how their actions led to feudalism. Inside each fold, have students create a bulleted list of important facts. For the invaders fold, have students focus on people, events, and places during the 800s and 900s. For the feudalism fold, have students focus on causes and social structure.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper

Identifying

Layered-Look Book

Students can create this Layered-Look Book to identify facts about European kingdoms during the High Middle Ages. Have students read the related text and conduct additional research to identify important people, events, and government institutions of England, France, the Holy Roman Empire, Central and Eastern Europe, and Russia.

Materials Needed: three sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper and a stapler or glue