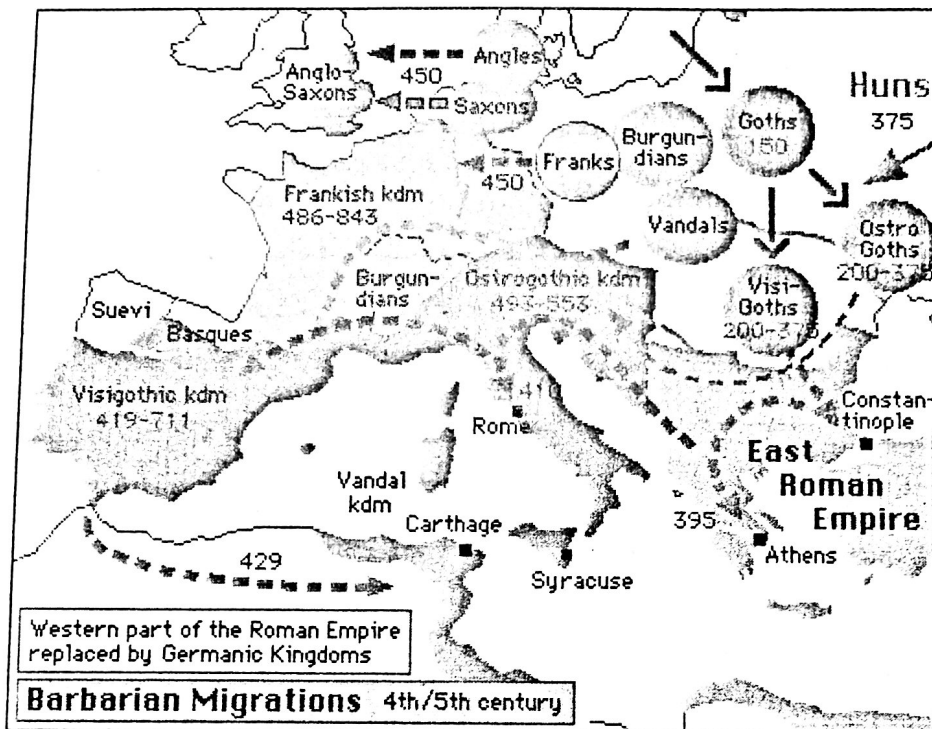


Name: _____

Date: _____

Aim: How did the fall of Rome impact Western Europe?

Do Now: Imagine you're living in Western Europe after the Roman Empire has disintegrated. How do you think your life might change?



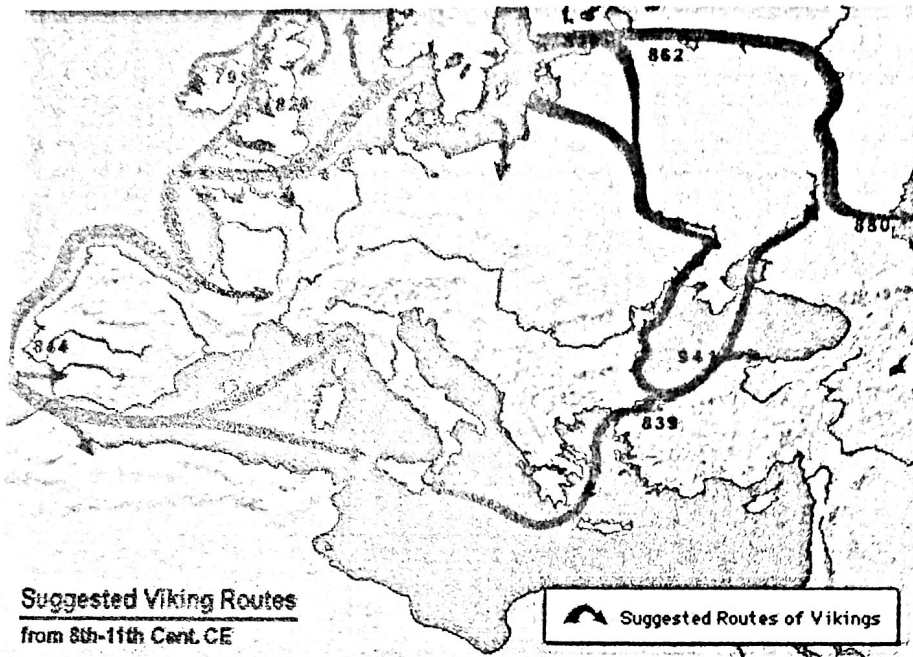
The map represents Europe after the fall of Rome (generally considered 476 AD). Use it to answer the questions below:

1. What happened in Western Europe during the 4th and 5th centuries that caused this map to take shape?

2. There were five main groups of people who established kingdoms in Western Europe after the fall of Rome. For each area, name the people who established control:

- Southwestern Europe (Iberian Peninsula, present-day Spain and Portugal) _____
- Southern European peninsular (present-day Italy) _____
- Northwestern European islands (present-day United Kingdom) _____
- Northwestern Europe (present-day France) _____
- Central western Europe (present-day Germany) _____

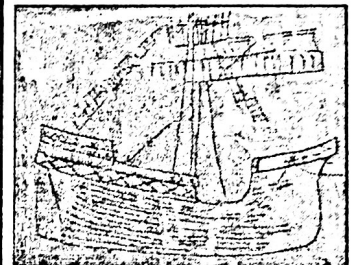
3. Was Eastern Europe affected the same as Western Europe after the fall of Rome? Make a hypothesis: why or why not?
-
-



Vikings

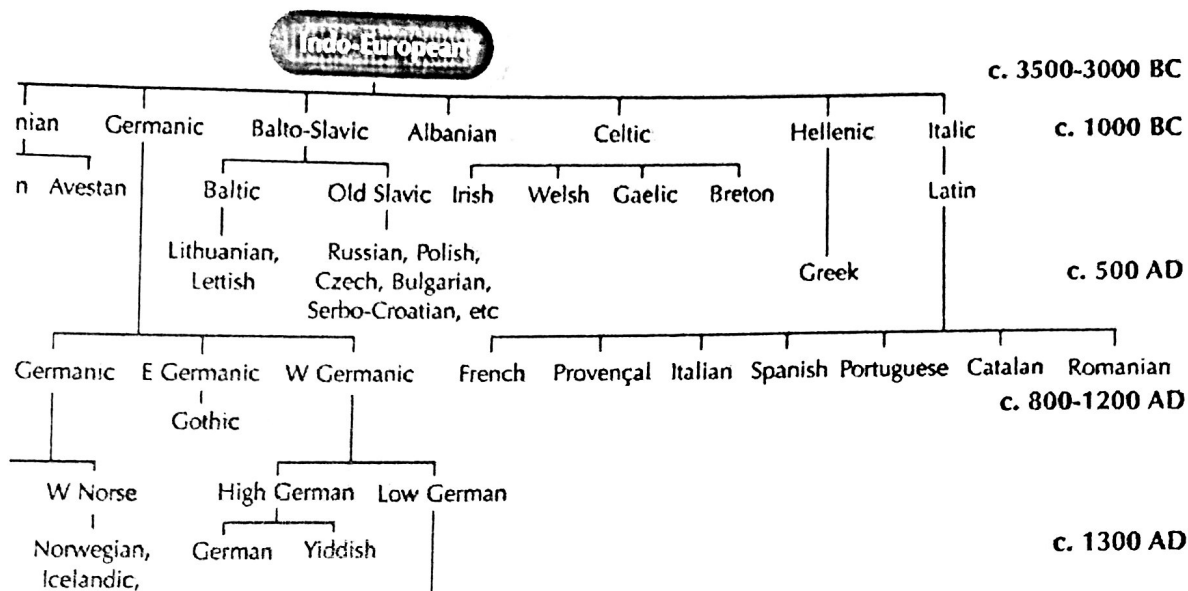
From the 8th to 11th centuries the Western European coastline was periodically invaded by Vikings (also called Northmen or Norsemen). Many scientists believe this is due to a warming in the North Atlantic which melted ice that had previously blocked Viking ships.

(Right) Vikings left graffiti in European buildings, such as their names, rude jokes, and sketches of their ships!

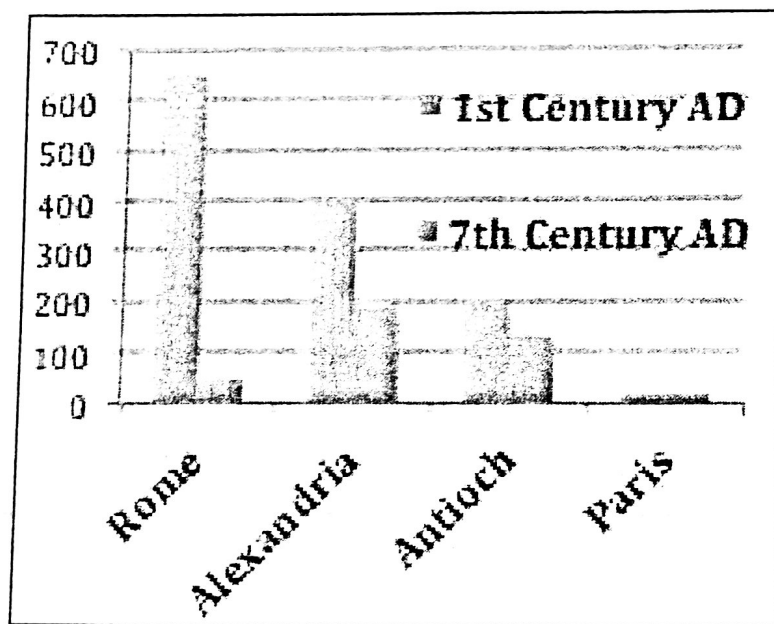


Primary Source Excerpt: In 793 the pagans from the northern regions came with a fleet of ships to Britain like stinging hornets and spreading on all sides like fearful wolves, robbed, tore, and slaughtered not only beasts of burden, sheep, and oxen, but even priests and deacons, and companies of monks and nuns. And they came to the Church of Lindisfarne, laid everything waste with grievous plundering, trampled the holy places with polluted steps, dug up the alters, and seized all the treasures of the holy church. They killed some of the brothers, took some away with them in fetters, many they drove out, naked, and loaded with insults, some they drowned in the sea. – *Brother Simeon of Durham, 12th century*

4. How did the Europeans (mostly by now settled-down Germanics) seem to feel about the Vikings? Why?
-
-



5. What happened to Latin (the main language of the Roman Empire) after the fall of Rome (476 AD)? Why might this have happened?



6. The graph measures population in thousands. What seems to have happened to Western European cities after the fall of Rome? Why might this have happened?

7. Hypothesize: What effect might these intellectual and urban changes have had on Europe after the fall of Rome?

Perspective: The era between 500 and 1000 has rightly been called the "Dark Ages." During this half-millennium the face of Western Europe and North Africa changed for the worse. Germanic tribes, no longer held in check by Rome, and later, Viking invaders, overran what are today Spain, France, Germany, Italy and the smaller states of the region. Wherever they went, rape, barbarity, cruelty, illiteracy, and war followed. Roman roads, once enabling trade to exist, went to disrepair. Cities threw up walls in a vain attempt to keep the invaders out. Their population dwindled. Buildings collapsed, learning declined, and savagery triumphed. Now separated, the people's language changed from Latin, the common language of the empire. The Church crushed thought and progress. The poor sought shelter on manors – often giving up their freedom for protection by the new "royalty." "Kings," little more than tribal chiefs, usually unable to read and write, fought to control petty kingdoms and the millions of peasants, or serfs attached to the land. Serfs suffered the most from these endless wars. Death and disease were the order of the day.

8. Why does this passage claim the time period from 500 to 1000 AD is justly called the "Dark Ages"?

9. You will examine more information and other perspectives on the time period in Europe after the fall of Rome, which is often called the "Dark Ages," "Middle Ages," or Medieval Period. Based on what you've examined so far, write a paragraph discussing how the fall of Rome impacted Western Europe. Be sure to use specific evidence.
