The Dark Ages
A History Channel Documentary (Part I)

Directions: Answer the questions below as you follow along with the video.

1. In 410AD the Roman Empire falls to the Visigoths. Why is their takeover so unique?

2. Who is Alaric? How did his knowledge of Roman warfare work to his advantage?

3. Why do the Germanic tribes, such as Alaric’s need to attack the Roman cities?

4. How did the Roman people protect themselves against the outside invaders such as the Visigoths? Why did this plan fail to work to their advantage?

5. How did Rome contribute to their own demise?

6. What was the role of the Christian church during the beginning of the Middle Ages?

7. Who were the Merovingian’s? How were they connected to Clovis?

8. What was “the ordeal”? What was it used for?

9. How did the Latin Western half of the Roman Empire view the people of the Greek Orthodox East? How did the people of the East view the Latin West?
10. What were the symptoms of the Bubonic Plague? How did it arrive into Justinian’s Constantinople?

11. What was a long-term effect of the “Plague of Justinian” on Europe?

13. What was daily life like for families living during the Dark Ages? How long would most children live?

14. Who was Beade? Why was his collection so unique for people living during the Dark Ages?

15. How did Pope Benedict defy death at the Abbey Monastery?

16. In 730AD the African Moors travel to France in order to attack in the name of Islam. Why was Europe a desired location to strike?

17. How did French general Charles Martel finance his army against the Muslim Moors?

18. Why was Charles Martel’s grandson, Charlemagne named “the greatest King of the Dark Ages?”

Think back over some of the issues that the people of the “Dark Ages” faced. How did these issues contribute to the idea that the people were taking steps backwards in human progress?