Middle Ages Unit Major Terms and Concepts

Be able to define and explain the importance of the following terms, people and places:

* excommunication
* tithe
* Charlemagne
* William the Conqueror
* parish
* moat
* fief
* vassal
* knight
* serf
* manor
* feudalism
* feudal contract
* Crusades
* Pope Urban
* apprentice
* journeyman
* page
* troubadour
* usury
* Black Death
* Bubonic Plague
* clergy
* monastery
* cathedral
* monarchy
* nobility
* Seljuk Turks
* Byzantine Empire

Be able to discuss in detail the following important concepts of medieval times:

**CHURCH**

* the importance of the Roman Catholic church in medieval life
* how the church became so powerful
* the power struggle between the pope and the king
* positive and negative aspects of the church

**WAR**

* defense mechanisms of a castle
* reasons for feuding nobles
* role of knights in feudalism

**FEUDAL ROLE AND MANOR LIFE**

* positive and negative aspects of the feudal hierarchy
* how feudalism began
* the average life of a male/female peasant
* the feudal contract – defense and services
* decline of feudalism

**TOWN AND TRADE**

* A town’s characteristics
* how the plague was able to spread
* the growth of towns
* the decline of feudalism
* the importance of guilds
* the economic switch from a barter to money economy

**CRUSADES**

* why the crusades occurred
* where the Byzantine empire fit in
* intellectual and common beliefs and how they changed because of Crusades

**BIG IDEAS TO UNDERSTAND**

* Changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas and those wanting to preserve established traditions
* Contacts and conflicts between peoples stimulated significant cultural, social, political change
* The multiple causes/consequences of the Crusades
* Power and authority in the Middle Ages (Manor, Royal, Church Courts)

**QUESTIONS TO ANSWER**

* Who had more influence and power during the Middle Ages, the monarchy (state) or church?
* Was religion the primary cause of the Crusades?
* What were the major causes of the end of feudalism?
* How did the spread of new ideas affect Europe in the Middle Ages?

**IDENTIFICATION**

Be able to locate the following on a map:

Italy, France, England, Holy Land, Jerusalem, Constantinople