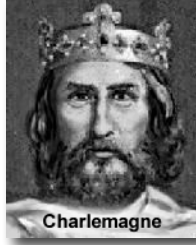


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARLEMAGNE AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

After the fall of the Roman Empire in Western Europe, Charlemagne built an empire that extended more than 800 miles from east to west. Though he ruled in an era many scholars describe as a "Dark Age," Charlemagne made the capital of his vast kingdom a center of learning.

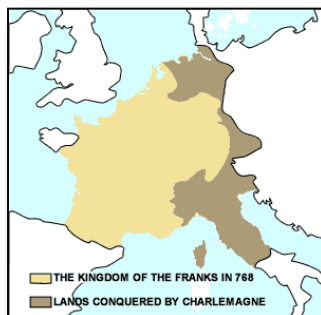


Charlemagne was a Frank. The Franks were a Germanic tribe that developed in present day France. He was part of the Carolingian Dynasty begun by his father, Pepin the Short, and named for his grandfather, Charles Martel. A giant of a man, Charlemagne was six feet, four inches tall in an era when most men were little more than five feet tall.

Charlemagne inherited his predecessors' talent for war. For many years after assuming the throne in 768, Charlemagne led his army on military campaigns throughout Western Europe, expanding the Frankish kingdom as he vanquished his foes. During his reign, Charlemagne doubled the size of Frankish territory to include present day France, northern Spain, Germany, and Italy.

Charlemagne sought to unite all of the Germanic tribes into a single kingdom that was modeled after the Romans. The Frankish kingdom eventually included people of diverse cultures who spoke many languages, so Charlemagne appointed native members of the lands he conquered to administer the provinces in his name.

Charlemagne provided funds that allowed monks to copy the works of Greek and Roman authors. Couriers



traveled throughout Europe to collect ancient manuscripts. Although Charlemagne was only barely able to read, he set up schools throughout his empire, and invited scholars from throughout Europe to establish a palace school in Aachen, the German city where he moved his capital.

In 800, Charlemagne traveled to Rome to celebrate Christmas with Pope Leo III. As Charlemagne rose from prayer, Leo placed a crown on Charlemagne's head and proclaimed him "Augustus," emperor of the "Holy Roman Empire." The coronation united Christendom under Charlemagne's rule, but it also troubled the newly crowned emperor. For if the Pope had the power to proclaim Charlemagne as King, the Pope might also have the right to remove his power.

Charlemagne crowned his son, Louis, King of Aquitaine in 813. Charlemagne presided over the ceremony himself and did not invite the Pope. Many years later, as Napoleon was about to be crowned Emperor of France in 1804, he took the crown from Pope Pius VII and set it on his head himself.

Charlemagne's empire crumbled soon after his death and the promise of returning the glory of Rome to Western Europe soon faded. The term Holy Roman Empire described various Frankish and German lands for another ten centuries, but the empire never again attained Charlemagne's promise of uniting Christendom into one kingdom.

Francis II, who ruled until the early nineteenth century, was the last monarch to call himself the Holy Roman Emperor. But after a defeat by Napoleon's army, Francis renounced his title and decreed himself emperor of Austria.

\*A higher-order learning question. Any reasonable answer will be accepted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Fill in the Blanks

Charlemagne was the greatest ruler of a \*F\_\_a\_\_k\_\_sh kingdom that emerged in W\_\_s\_\_e\_\_n Europe after the fall of the R\_\_m\_\_n Empire. By his death in 814, Charlemagne \*d\_\_u\_\_l\_\_d the size of the kingdom he inherited from his father, P\_\_p\_\_n the S\_\_o\_\_t.

C\_\_a\_\_l\_\_m\_\_g\_\_e's army captured land in present-day S\_\_a\_\_n, Germany, and I\_\_a\_\_y, so his empire included people of different c\_\_l\_\_u\_\_es who spoke many l\_\_n\_\_u\_\_g\_\_s.

Charlemagne administered his \*d\_\_v\_\_r\_\_e empire with help from a\_\_m\_\_n\_\_s\_\_r\_\_t\_\_rs he appointed from the lands he c\_\_n\_\_u\_\_r\_\_d.

Charlemagne made his empire a center of l\_\_a\_\_n\_\_g in an era many scholars consider a "Dark Age," despite being barely \*l\_\_t\_\_r\_\_te himself. He provided funding that allowed m\_\_n\_\_s to c\_\_y the works of G\_\_e\_\_k and R\_\_m\_\_n authors.

Pope Leo cr\_\_w\_\_ed Charlemagne H\_\_\_\_ R\_\_m\_\_n E\_\_p\_\_r\_\_r in 800, a title that concerned the Frankish ruler. Charlemagne wanted his \*s\_\_bj\_\_cts to believe he ruled on his on authority, and not by \*p\_\_r\_\_i\_\_s\_\_on from the ruler of the \*c\_\_u\_\_ch. Thirteen years later, C\_\_a\_\_l\_\_m\_\_gne did not i\_\_v\_\_te the P\_\_\_\_ as he c\_\_o\_\_n\_\_d his s\_\_\_\_ the King of Aquitaine.

### Answer in Complete Sentences

1. Why was Charlemagne known as a Carolingian ruler?

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2. What modern nations were part of Charlemagne's empire?

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\*3. Why was Charlemagne hesitant about being crowned Holy Roman Emperor?

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4. What happened to the Holy Roman Empire after Charlemagne's death?

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