

# Medieval Europe Map Instructions

1. Title your map: Medieval Europe
2. **Label in black** the following seas/oceans and **neatly shade blue**:
  - \*Mediterranean Sea      \*Black Sea      \*North Sea
  - \*Atlantic Ocean
3. **Label in black** the following rivers and **neatly trace in blue**:
  - \*Po River      \*Seine River      \*Rhine River      \*Danube River
4. **Draw** in the following mountain ranges with **brown triangles** ^^^^ and **label in black**:
  - \*Carpathian Mountains      \*Alps Mountains
  - \*Pyrenees Mountains
5. **Color** in the following kingdoms/empires with the correct color. *The boundaries are already drawn on the map for you.*
  - \*Holy Roman Empire = red      \*Spain = purple
  - \*Britain = orange      \*Papal States = green
  - \*France = yellow
6. **Draw a black dot and label** the following cities:
  - \*Rome      \*Constantinople      \*Hamburg
  - \*London      \*Paris
7. **Create a compass rose** near your key.
8. **Color code** and create a **key** to show what the different symbols and color on your map represent.

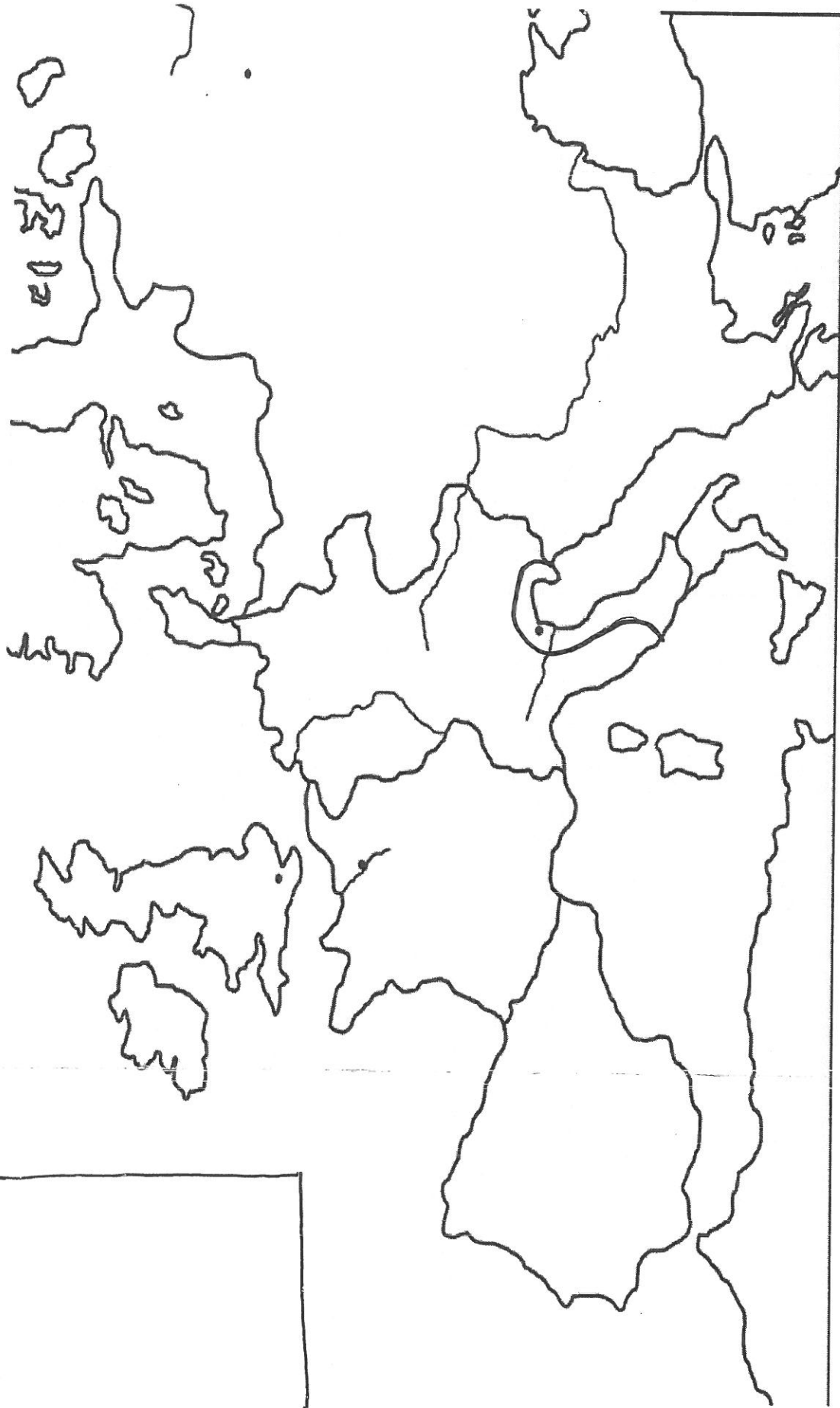
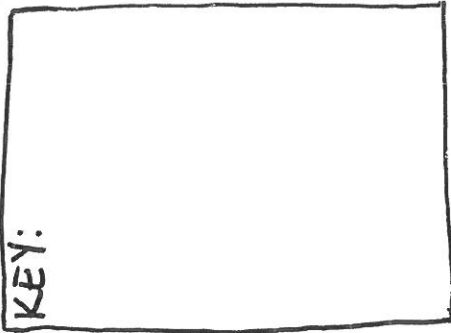
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAP TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY:**



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

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

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Medieval Europe Map Activity

1. Complete your map using the instructions on the "Medieval Europe Map Instructions" page. (not attached)
2. Use the "Europe in the Early Middle Ages" article to complete the following activities to learn about the geography of Europe during medieval times.

### PART ONE:

Answer the following questions using the article.

1. Why is Europe sometimes described as the "peninsula of peninsulas"?  
*peninsula = piece of land mostly surrounded by water*

2. Write down 5 facts about Europe's topography.

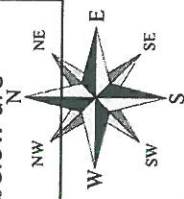
3. Who are 6 groups that moved and settled into Europe after the fall of Rome? What is the group that became most dominant in Gaul and Germany?

### PART TWO:

There are many rivers and waterways throughout Europe. Draw and describe the 3 main purposes of these physical features


### PART THREE:

Using the compass rose and a map, determine whether the statements written below are true (T) or false (F).



\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Holy Roman Empire is the largest kingdom of Medieval Europe.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Seine River is the longest river on the map.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. On the map you created, the northernmost city is London.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Spain is southeast of Holy Roman Empire.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Pyrenees Mountains divide France and Spain.





## Europe During Medieval Times

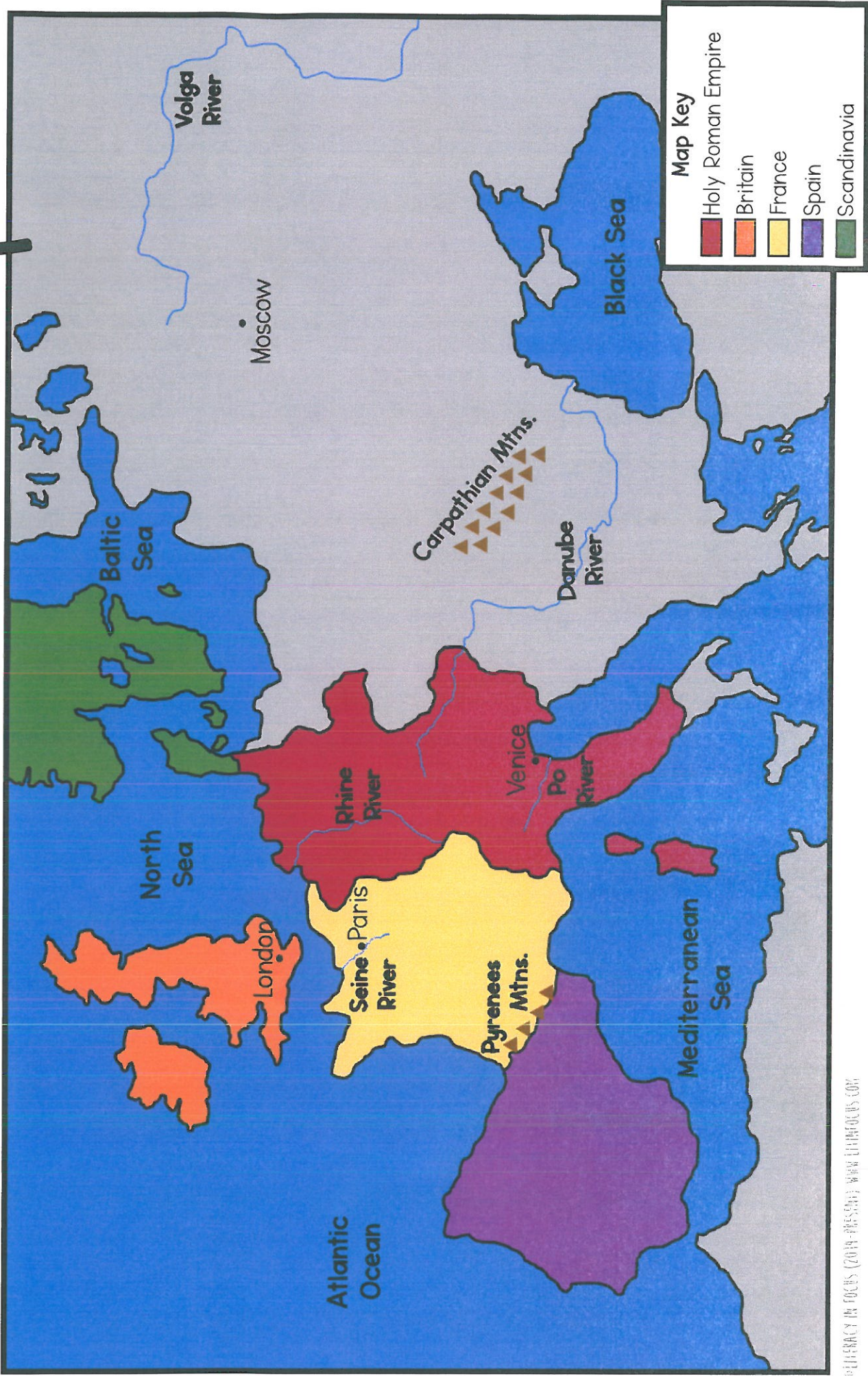




## Climate Zones of Europe



# Medieval Europe





## Section 1

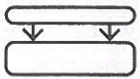
# Europe in the Early Middle Ages

### Key Ideas

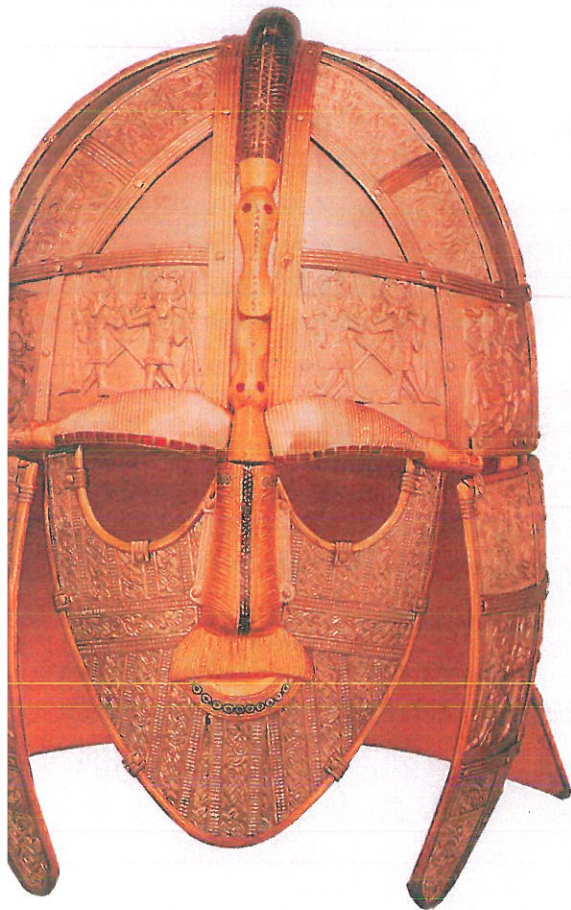
- Europe's varied geography of plains, mountains, and rivers has attracted many different peoples.
- After the fall of Rome, Germanic tribes such as the Franks formed kingdoms.
- The Frankish emperor Charlemagne united a large part of Western Europe.

**Key Terms** • Middle Ages • medieval • topography • clergy

➔ **Visual Glossary**



**Reading Skill Sequence** Take notes using the graphic organizer in your journal.



▲ Replica of an Anglo-Saxon helmet, A.D. 600s

**A**fter the western Roman empire collapsed, Western Europe began an era of social, political, and economic decline. But from the ruins of the Roman empire, a new European civilization emerged. Historians call this period between ancient times and modern times—roughly from A.D. 500 to 1500—the **Middle Ages**. Its culture is called **medieval** civilization, from the Latin words meaning “middle age.”

## The Geography of Europe

Geographers sometimes describe Europe as a “peninsula of peninsulas.” A quick glance at a map of Europe explains why: Europe is a large peninsula that sticks out from the larger Eurasian landmass. Smaller peninsulas extend from the main European peninsula into the surrounding seas. In the north, the Scandinavian Peninsula divides the Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea. In southern Europe, the Iberian, Italian, and Balkan peninsulas push into the Mediterranean Sea.

**Mountains and Plains** Europe's **topography**, or the physical features of its surface, is varied. Mountains edge much of the continent. To the north, a range of mountains runs along the Scandinavian Peninsula. The Alps form an arc of high mountains across southern Europe. To the west, the Pyrenees divide Spain and France. To the east, the Urals separate Europe and Asia.



## Europe: Physical



The Alps in northern Italy



The Danube River valley

**KEY**

**Elevation**

6,000	1,829
3,000	914
1,000	305
500	152
Sea level	Sea level

0 400 mi  
0 400 km  
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection

**Map Skills**

- Place** What peninsulas are labeled on this map?
- Region** How does elevation vary across Europe?

The North European Plain is the fertile heart of the continent. It stretches from the vineyards of France through the forests of Germany and into Eastern Europe. Some migrating peoples from Eastern Europe used this broad plain to travel west.

Europe's topography affects its climate. Except in the far north, moist westerly winds blow inland from the oceans, bringing rain. Those winds give most of Western Europe a relatively warm, moist climate year-round. However, mountains block the winds from reaching the Mediterranean countries. As a result, they have a Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers.

**Waterways** Europe's rivers flow from the central mountains and highlands. These

rivers bring water to farmland and form natural boundaries. They make trade easier. Most early European cities formed near major rivers.

The longest rivers in Western Europe are the Rhine and the Danube. In Roman times, they marked the eastern and northern borders of the Roman empire. The Danube flows eastward across the broad central plains into Eastern Europe, emptying into the Black Sea. The Rhine runs northward through Germany and the Netherlands to the North Sea. Its waters carry fine soil that is deposited along the way, building up rich farmland.

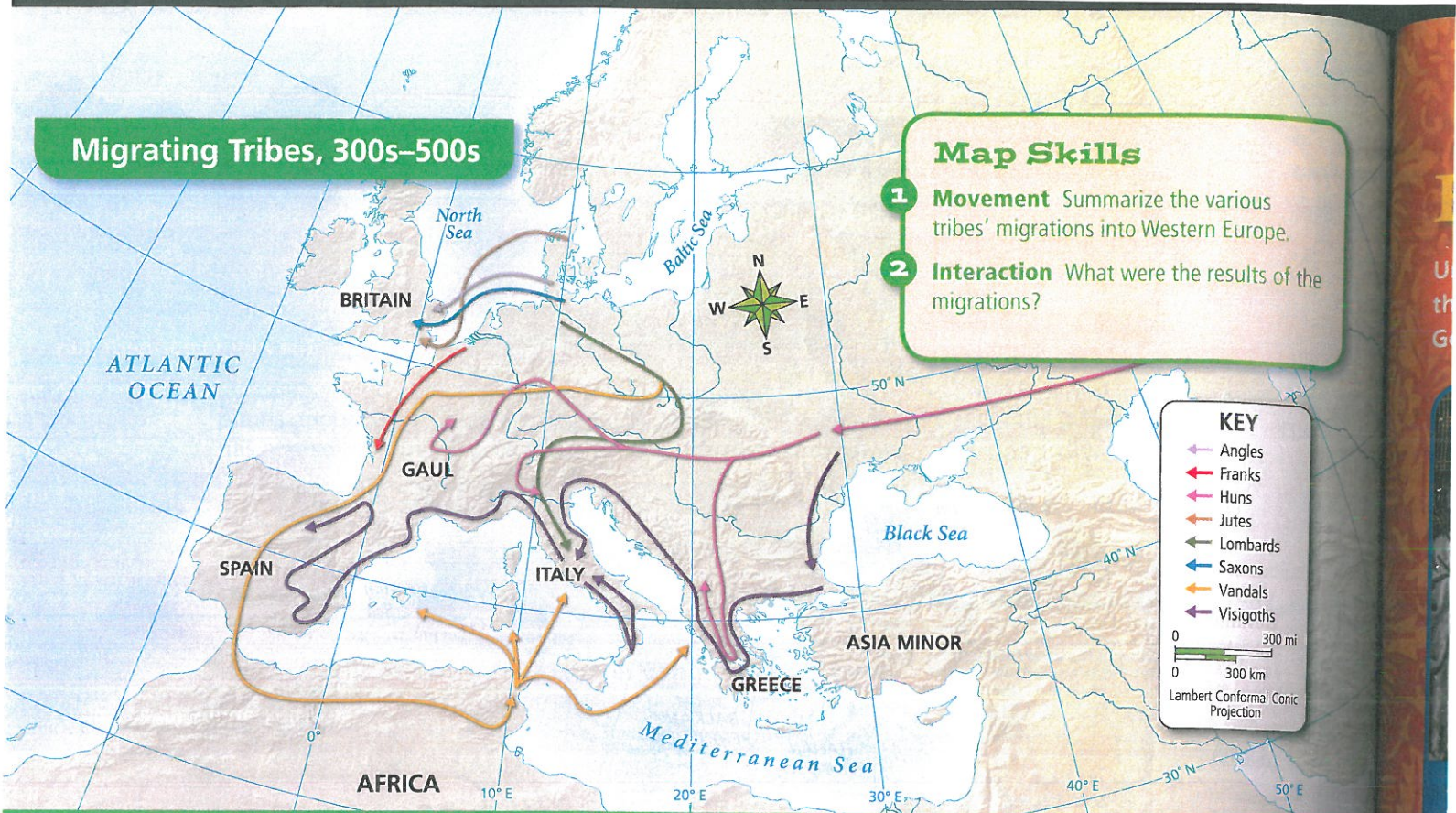
**Reading Check** Why is Europe referred to as a "peninsula of peninsulas"?



## Migrating Tribes, 300s–500s

## Map Skills

- 1 Movement** Summarize the various tribes' migrations into Western Europe.
- 2 Interaction** What were the results of the migrations?



## New Kingdoms in Europe

Over time, the favorable geography of Western Europe attracted different peoples into the region. The Huns and Germanic tribes began to migrate into the Roman empire by around A.D. 300. Some, such as the Lombards, settled in Europe's river valleys. Others, such as the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, moved across the North Sea to the British Isles. These tribes divided Europe into a collection of small, warring kingdoms.

**The Rise of the Franks** In A.D. 486, the Frankish leader Clovis I defeated the last Roman army in Western Europe. Next, he took over several of the Germanic kingdoms. By the early 530s, the Franks controlled much of the land in Gaul (present-day France) and Germany. Although the Franks grew rich from their conquests, their central government did not last long. Eventually, the Frankish lands broke into smaller local kingdoms.

**Charles Martel Takes Power** In 717, a leader named Charles Martel—or Charles the Hammer—united the Frankish lands under his rule. His most important victory was the battle of Tours in 732, when he led Frankish warriors to defeat a Muslim army from Spain. The battle of Tours ended one of the last Muslim military invasions of Western Europe.

**unite**, *v.*, to bring together

◀ The Germanic tribes made detailed metalwork and jewelry such as the objects here. Clockwise from left: a buckle, a clasp, and a sword hilt

