Expansion of Europe

• A Christian Europe
  – Middle Ages (time between the fall of Rome and modern times- about 1k years)
  – Roman Catholic Church- powerful pope- spread Roman culture and law to Germanic peoples
  – Eastern Orthodox Church- spread Greek and Roman culture and law to Slavic people
Expansion of Europe

• The Middle Ages
  – Ad 800- Charlemagne united western Europe
  – After he died, it broke up again
  – King couldn’t hold off invaders- feudalism developed
    • King- give land to nobles- nobles provide military service and payment as knights
    • Most people were serfs (peasants)- worked the land- given food and shelter but had no freedom
Expansion of Europe

• The Crusades
  – Christian Europe vs. Islam Middle East and Africa
  – Fight over Palestine- the Holy Land for both groups
  – Nobles raised volunteer armies to fight the Muslims- not successful
  – However, had a large impact
    • Increased trade
    • Kings became more powerful bc of tax $$
    • Feudalism go bye-bye- modern nation-states formed
Expansion of Europe

– Spain- late 1400s- Muslim Christian conflict again
– Muslims had controlled Iberian Peninsula for 700 years- Spanish wanted to take it back- the Reconquest- 1492
– Bubonic plague, aka Black Death also spread through Europe in 1300s- killed 1/3 of people
  • Shortage of labor BUT higher wages and more freedom
Expansion of Europe

• The Renaissance
  – “rebirth”- 1350-1550- renewal of learning
  – Especially in Italy- wealthy merchants supported scholars and artists- Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci
  – Renewal of classics
  – Humanism- importance of individual and human society
    • reason AND faith are the path to knowledge
Expansion of Europe

• The Reformation
  – 1500s- humanism makes people rethink Catholicism
  – 1517- Martin Luther- German religious leader- wanted to correct religion- Pope rejected Luther
  – Formed Protestantism- developed in northern Europe
  – Wars between Catholics and Protestants broke up religious unity
  – Strengthened power of monarchs- shifted away from church leaders
Expansion of Europe

• European Explorations
  – Everybody wants to get to Asia
  – Portugal figured out a round-Africa route
  – 1492- Columbus sailed for Spain heading west- landed in Americas
  – Spain eventually found gold and silver- became crazy-rich
    • Other countries want in- England, France, Dutch- led to conquests
    • Colonies pop up all over the world
    • Destroyed local cultures