15-1 Notes

* Mountains and rivers made it difficult for one group to rule all of Europe and encouraged the development of independent kingdoms.

* People called the Celts were pushed out of the area into Ireland, Wales and Scotland by the Angles and Saxons.
* The English Channel separated Britain and Ireland from the rest of Europe.

* The Alps separated Italy from central Europe.

* A Germanic people called the Franks, under King Clovis, settled the area that is now France.

* Nobles called mayors were in charge of kingdoms and they settled disputes, gave out land and fought their own wars.

* Charlemagne conquered much of western and central Europe and ordered these lands to convert to Christianity. His conquests earned him the name Charlemagne or Charles the Great.

* The pope was impressed with Charlemagne and on Christmas day AD 800 the pope declared Charlemagne the new Roman Emperor.

* Aachen was the capital of Charlemagne’s empire.
* One of Charlemagne’s major concerns was his belief in education.

* After Charlemagne, his empire was split and attacked by many different invaders. The Vikings raided and terrified all of Europe. Vikings lived in villages near the sea in fjords or steep-sided valleys that are inlets of the sea. They robbed villages and churches, carrying off anything of value.

* The king of Germany, Otto I, protected the pope from invaders and was rewarded with the title of emperor. His territory was most of Germany and northern Italy known as the Holy Roman Empire.
* St. Patrick – a priest who traveled to Ireland where he spread the Christian message and set up churches and monasteries.
* Inspired by St. Patrick, Pope Gregory the I or Gregory the Great became a Christian and wanted all of Europe to become Christian, so he sent missionaries out to teach their religion.
* Missionaries – people who are sent out to teach their religion
* Monasteries played an important role in medieval Europe – they schooled people, provided food and rest to travelers, offered hospital care for the sick. They also helped preserve knowledge.
* Excommunicate – to exclude a person from church membership
* Concordat – an agreement between the pope and the ruler of a country. The Concordat of Worms limited the emperor’s power.