15-5 Notes

* Plague – a disease that spreads quickly and kills many people.
* The Black Death is a plague that swept through Europe in the 1300s killing millions. It originated in central Asia and was carried by fleas. The plague was believed to first be spread along the Silk Road. Because of the plague, trade declined and wages were few and in demand.
* Hundred Years War – a war between England and France
* The first major battle of the Hundred Years’ War was fought at Crecy where English archers defeated French army and forced the French king to give up some of his kingdom.
* Joan of Arc – a young French peasant girl whose faith stirred the soldiers and helped her lead them in the Hundred Years War. With her help, the French defeated the English. As she prophesied, she was captured by the English, tried in an English court for heresy and improper dress, was found guilty and burned at the stake. Almost two decades later after an investigation, she was found innocent and was made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church in 1920.
* During the Middle Ages, Muslims ruled most of Spain and Portugal even though most of the people living there were Christians and some Jews. The Christians’ struggle to take back this land, the Iberian Peninsula was called the *Reconquista* or “reconquest”.
* In 1469, Princess Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon; within 10 years they became king and queen combining their lands creating the country of Spain. They wanted Spain to be a Catholic, so they created the Spanish Inquisition and forced the Muslims and Jews to convert or be tortured and charged with heresy. Most left the country.