



Medieval Europe: Invasions

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity

Examine Viking, Magyar, and Islamic invasions and their impact on the development of Europe.

Standards

C3: D2.His.14.9.9-12. Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of past events.
C3: D2.Hist.16.9.12. Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations to a reasoned argument about the past.
C3: D2.His.15.9-12. Distinguish between long-term causes and triggering events in developing a historical argument.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will trace the paths of invasions in Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries through time and space.
- Students will identify the causes and effects of invasions on the development of Europe.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry1>

Ask

Who invaded Europe and where were their homelands?

- Click the URL above to launch the map.
- ? What three areas provided invaders? [*Scandinavia, northern Africa, western Eurasia*]
- ? What areas in Europe were controlled by the Muslims? [*Southern Spain and Mediterranean islands*]
- Historians agree the Magyars came from Asia and arrived by horse. They disagree on the area of origin—the steppes of central Asia or the mountains of the Caucasus.

Acquire

How and why was Europe invaded?

- ? From which direction did the Muslims invade? [*From the south across the Mediterranean*]
- ? What route did the Muslim invaders use to reach France? [*By sea from the Caliphate of Cordoba*]
- With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- Select the Sources layer check box to turn on the layer.
- Click Pushpin 1, and read the information.
- ? Why did the Muslims invade France? [*To capture riches and raise taxes from conquered people*]
- ? What areas were settled by the Magyars? [*Between the Alps and Carpathians*]
- ? Which group invaded the most territory in Europe? [*The Vikings*]

Explore

Where and why did the Vikings invade?

- ? Which area do you think the Vikings invaded first? [*Answers will vary; British Isles because of their proximity*]
- Click Pushpin 2, and read the information.
- ? Why did the Vikings invade there? [*To gain wealth*]
- ? How did the Vikings interact with the inhabitants? [*They killed the monks and captured some for slavery.*]
- ? Which geographic features supported the Viking invasions? [*Seas and rivers*]

Analyze

How did the Viking invasions change over time?

- Turn off all layers. Turn on the layer, Viking Settlements and Raids. Click the layer name to open a legend.
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Raids.
- Click the Play button, and observe the patterns.
- ? When and where did the Vikings establish the most settlements? [*Tenth century; Iceland, Greenland North America, and Russia*]
- ? How did the location of the areas raided differ from the areas settled? [*Areas raided were accessible by sea or river travel*]
- Turn on the layer, Sources. Click Pushpin 3, and read the information.
- ? Who were the Varangians and why did they settle where they did? [*Vikings; they were invited by the local princes to rule the Slavic lands.*]

Act

Why is feudalism considered to be a response to invasion?

- ? What do you think Europeans did to prevent further invasions? [*Built castles; trained fighters*]
- Turn on the Castles layer.
- ? During what century were most of the castles built? [*Twelfth century*]
- ? Why do you think they were built then? [*For defense and to prevent further invasions*]
- Click Pushpin 4, and examine the diagram.
- ? How did the social structure of feudalism support defense? [*Two groups in society pledged to defend the king's lands.*]

IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE

- Click a feature on the map, and a pop-up window will open with information.
- Links and images in the pop-up are often clickable.
- An arrow icon in the upper right of the window indicates that multiple features have been selected.
- Click the button to scroll through the features.

USE THE TIME SLIDER

- A time-enabled map layer must be visible.
- Click the lower slider button and stretch it to the end time period that you wish to view.
- Click the Play button (right arrow).
- Click the Configure button (the wrench icon) to change the slider's speed.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Use filters to identify Viking expansion through the centuries, and create a presentation showing their diffusion across the landscape of Europe.

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History: The Human Journey by Holt — Chapter 4*
- *World History: Patterns of Interaction by McDougal Littell — Chapter 11*
- *World History by Glencoe — Chapter 9*
- *World History by Prentice Hall — Chapter 7*