Chapter 6, lesson 3
CULTURE of the MIDDLE AGES
Essential Questions

• How did the Church influence political and cultural changes in medieval Europe?

• What innovations and developments of medieval Europe still affect us today?

Lecturing in a Medieval University by Laurentius De Voltolina (14th Century).
Why does it matter?

During the High Middle Ages, Europe experienced a surge in architectural innovations and an intellectual revival.

Many of the innovations of this day are still with us, such as the university and literature written in the language of the people (vernacular).
Lesson Vocabulary

theology - The study of God
vernacular – the language of the people
chanson de geste – heroic epic
Scholasticism - Philosophical system to reconcile faith and reason
Thomas Aquinas - Dominican friar and champion of scholasticism. Wrote the Summa Theologica.
Canonized – to be declared a saint, holy.
Guiding Question:

How did innovations change the architecture of churches and cathedrals in Europe?
Architecture

• The Romanesque style was popular in the 11th and 12th centuries.
  — Vaulted roofs and lots of pillars.
  — Dark with not a lot of windows.

• The Gothic style appeared in the 12th century.
  — Used ribbed vaults and flying buttresses to support the massive masonry.
  — Allowed for lots and lots of windows.

  • Stained glass windows depicted Gospel scenes and scenes from the lives of saints.
In the left frame: Saint-Sernin, Toulouse
In the right frame: Amiens Cathedral
Which is Gothic, which Romanesque?
Remember the Guiding Question:
How did innovations change the architecture of churches and cathedrals in Europe?

• Innovations like the flying buttress and a combination of ribbed vaults and pointed arches allowed for a grander, higher, style of building with greater interior space and windows; Romanesque to Gothic.
Universities

Guiding Question:

How did universities reflect the intellectual revival that occurred in Europe during the High Middle Ages?
Universities

• The modern university was a product of the European High Middle Ages.

• The earliest universities were developed under the support of the Catholic Church, usually from cathedral schools or papal decree.*

• Later they were also founded by kings and princes.

• The first university was in Bologna, Italy.

• The University of Paris and Oxford (England) were founded in the High Middle Ages.

What Can You Discern from the Picture?

Lecturing in a Medieval University by Laurentius De Voltolina (14th Century).
Universities

• Theology – “Theos” means God.
  – Theology is the study of God.
• Scholasticism was a philosophical method that sought to show that faith was in harmony with reason.
• Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican friar who championed Scholasticism, was an advisor to popes and bishops, and wrote the Summa Theologica.
  – Canonized by the Catholic Church.
Thomas Aquinas by Fra Bartolommeo
Universities

• Natural Law – Thomas believed that all men could arrive at knowledge of God by using reason; and could determine good from evil, even without revelation or teaching.

• But what is reason?
  – *Reason* is the capacity for **consciously** making sense of things.
Roger Bacon

- English philosopher who blended mathematics, physics, logic, and experimental science, with philosophy. Considered by some to be the father of modern science.
Remember the Guiding Question: How did universities reflect the intellectual revival that occurred in Europe during the High Middle Ages?

• A new love of learning, of reason, and the birth of science spread through the new universities of Europe.
Vernacular Literature

Guiding Question:

Why was the development of vernacular literature important during the High Middle Ages?
Vernacular Literature

• Latin was the universal language of medieval Europe.
• In the 12th century, literature began to be written in the vernacular – the language of everyday speech.
  — Troubadour poetry.
  — Chanson de geste – heroic epic.
    The earliest and finest example of this is *The Song of Roland*.
  — *The Canterbury Tales* of English author Geoffrey Chaucer.
  — Dante’s *Inferno*.

*Page from the manuscript of the SONG OF ROLAND, early Frankish epic.*
Remember the Guiding Question: Why was the development of vernacular literature important during the High Middle Ages?

- Vernacular literature bolstered national identity and gradually brought about the codification of European languages.
Looking back...
The Arabic name for the journey of Muhammad and his followers to Medina (Madinah) from Mecca (Makka).

*Hijrah*
This Roman emperor moved the capital of the empire from Rome to Constantinople and issued the Edict of Milan, which granted official tolerance to Christianity.

_Emperor Constantine_
"NO!
Try not!
DO or DO NOT,
There is no try."