BUILDING VOCABULARY  European Middle Ages

A. Matching  Match the description in the second column with the term or name in the first column. Write the appropriate letter next to the word.

   ____ 1. Middle Ages  a. worldly  
   ____ 2. Franks  b. Christian religious community in which members devote their lives to God  
   ____ 3. monastery  c. family that ruled the Franks from 751 to 987 and built an empire in western Europe  
   ____ 4. secular  d. a German people who held power in Gaul in the 500s  
   ____ 5. Carolingian Dynasty  e. important Christian religious rite that paved the way for achieving salvation  
   ____ 6. Charlemagne  f. ruler in the Carolingian Dynasty who reunited western Europe and spread Christianity through the region  
   ____ 7. sacrament  g. German-Italian empire that was the strongest state in Europe from 962 to about 1100  
   ____ 8. Holy Roman Empire  h. period of time in European history from about 500 to 1500

B. Completion  Select the term or name that best completes the sentence.

   fief  vassal  canon law  tithe  lay investiture  serf  manor  clergy

   1. In the Middle Ages, a _____________ was a lord's estate.
   2. A person who received land from a lord was called a _____________.
   3. A _____________ was a peasant, or worker, who was bound to the land.
   4. Peasant families paid the village priest a church tax called a _____________, which amounted to one-tenth of their income.
   5. A _____________ was land granted by a lord in exchange for military protection and other services.
   6. In a ceremony called _____________, kings or nobles appointed church officials.

C. Writing  Write a short letter from a medieval knight to his chosen lady using the following terms.

   lord  knight  chivalry  tournament  troubadour