

SECTION
3

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Ancient Greek and Roman achievements continue to influence our world today.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Feudalism provided stability after the fall of the Roman Empire. The Renaissance marked a rebirth of creativity in Europe.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Middle Ages the period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the modern era, from about A.D. 476 to 1453

medieval from the Middle Ages

feudalism a political system in which lords gave land to vassals in exchange for services

lord a powerful landowner

vassal a less wealthy noble who paid taxes to and served a lord in exchange for land

knight a vassal trained in combat who fought on behalf of lords

serf a person who lived and worked on the manor of a lord or vassal

manor a noble's house and the villages on his land where the peasants lived

Renaissance (REHN•ih•SAHNS) a rebirth of creativity, literature, and learning in Europe from about 1300 to 1600

patron a wealthy or powerful person who provides money, support, and encouragement to an artist or a cause

secular worldly or not related to religion

perspective a technique used by artists to give the appearance of depth and distance

Reformation a movement in the 1500s to change practices in the Catholic Church

Protestant a member of a Christian Church founded on the principles of the Reformation

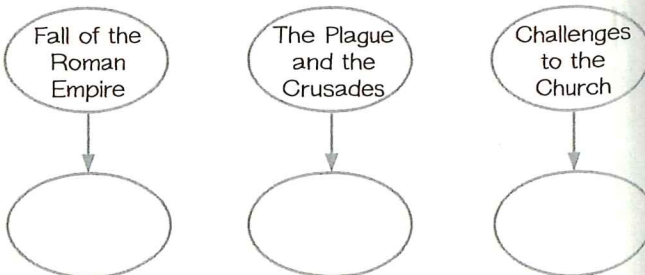
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the cause-and-effect diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to help you find the effect of the events listed in the first ovals in each pair.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R8

ANALYZE CAUSE AND EFFECT



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

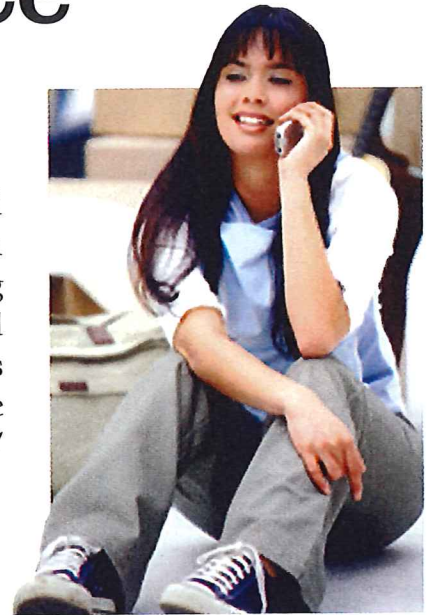
Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com



The Middle Ages and Renaissance

Connecting to Your World

Sometimes it can be difficult to imagine life without the ideas and technology that exist today. The pace of change seems to increase with every passing decade. Even 25 years ago, cell phones were just being invented. Now they are everywhere. At the beginning of the period in European history you are about to study, new ideas and inventions traveled much more slowly than they do today. Yet change did take place. In time, new ideas and discoveries challenged many Europeans' accepted beliefs about how the world worked and their place in it.



The Middle Ages

KEY QUESTION Why did feudalism develop in Europe?

Historians call the period of history between the fall of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the modern era the **Middle Ages**. It is also called the **medieval** period, from the Latin words for "Middle Ages." The collapse of the Western Roman Empire made many people fearful and uncertain. Europeans no longer had a strong central government, an army to protect them, or a common culture and belief system to unite them. Many advances of the ancient world were lost.

Cell phones Many people today use cell phones.

Bayeux Tapestry This textile shows feudal knights during the Norman Conquest of England from 1064 to 1066.



European Knight Knights often wore a suit of armor to protect themselves in battle. These suits made it difficult to move quickly—the average suit weighed 65 pounds! **What might the advantages and disadvantages of armor be?**

air holes for breathing

body armor for protection



flexible gloves for sword handling

Medieval Society The Germanic tribes in western Europe were quite different from the Romans. They had no tradition of central government. At first, many small kingdoms replaced the Roman Empire. Roads and water systems were not kept up. Trade declined. As their economies slowed, western European towns shrank. Residents abandoned them, heading to the countryside to become farmers. Literacy—and with it the educated middle class—all but disappeared.

During the early Middle Ages, invaders such as the Huns, Moors, and Vikings threatened Europe. Constant conflict and warfare plagued the region. In the 700s, a ruler named Charlemagne (SHAHR•luh•MAYN) brought much of France and Germany under his control. Charlemagne was a strong military leader. He worked with the pope, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, to strengthen the church and his own empire. Pope Leo III crowned him emperor in 800. However, Charlemagne died in 814. In 843, his three grandsons divided his empire among themselves. Europe again became a disorderly group of small kingdoms.

Faced with such disorder, Europeans turned to a political system called **feudalism**, which would remain in place from about the 9th to the 14th century. Feudalism created a new social structure in Europe. The king ruled at the top of society. Nobles, church officials, knights, and peasants had their places below the king.

Feudalism depended on an agreement between two groups of nobles—lords and vassals.

- **Lords**, or powerful landowners, gave some of their land to less-wealthy nobles called vassals.
- **Vassals** pledged to serve their lords. They paid taxes to the lords in exchange for their plots of land, called fiefs (feefs).
- Some vassals were warriors known as **knights**, who began combat training as young boys. Knights fought on behalf of their lords.
- The feudal structure also included peasants. Most were **serfs**, who lived and worked on a noble's land. Serfs received housing and protection in return.

This political system kept Europe divided into many small kingdoms and estates, with little trade between them. As a result, the nobles' lands became the center of most economic activity. The main part of a noble's land was called a **manor**. Often the manor was a fortified house, surrounded by farmland worked by serfs. Manors supplied much of what their residents needed. Towns grew less important, as townspeople left to work on manors.

The Role of the Church The Roman Catholic Church was one institution that survived the fall of Rome. After the division of the Roman Empire, Christianity split into several different churches. The Roman Catholic Church developed in the Western Roman Empire. Many of the Germanic tribes that invaded Rome converted to Christianity. The religion spread slowly across Europe. The church became the main source of education during the Middle Ages. Church officials built universities where nobles could go and study.

Eventually, the territory once controlled by Charlemagne became the Holy Roman Empire. It was a loose confederation of states associated with the Catholic Church, rather than a unified empire with a strong central government. Even so, the Holy Roman Empire helped to bring Europe back together after the divisions of the Middle Ages.

ANALYZE CAUSES Explain how events in Europe contributed to the rise of feudalism.

Animated GEOGRAPHY

European Feudalism

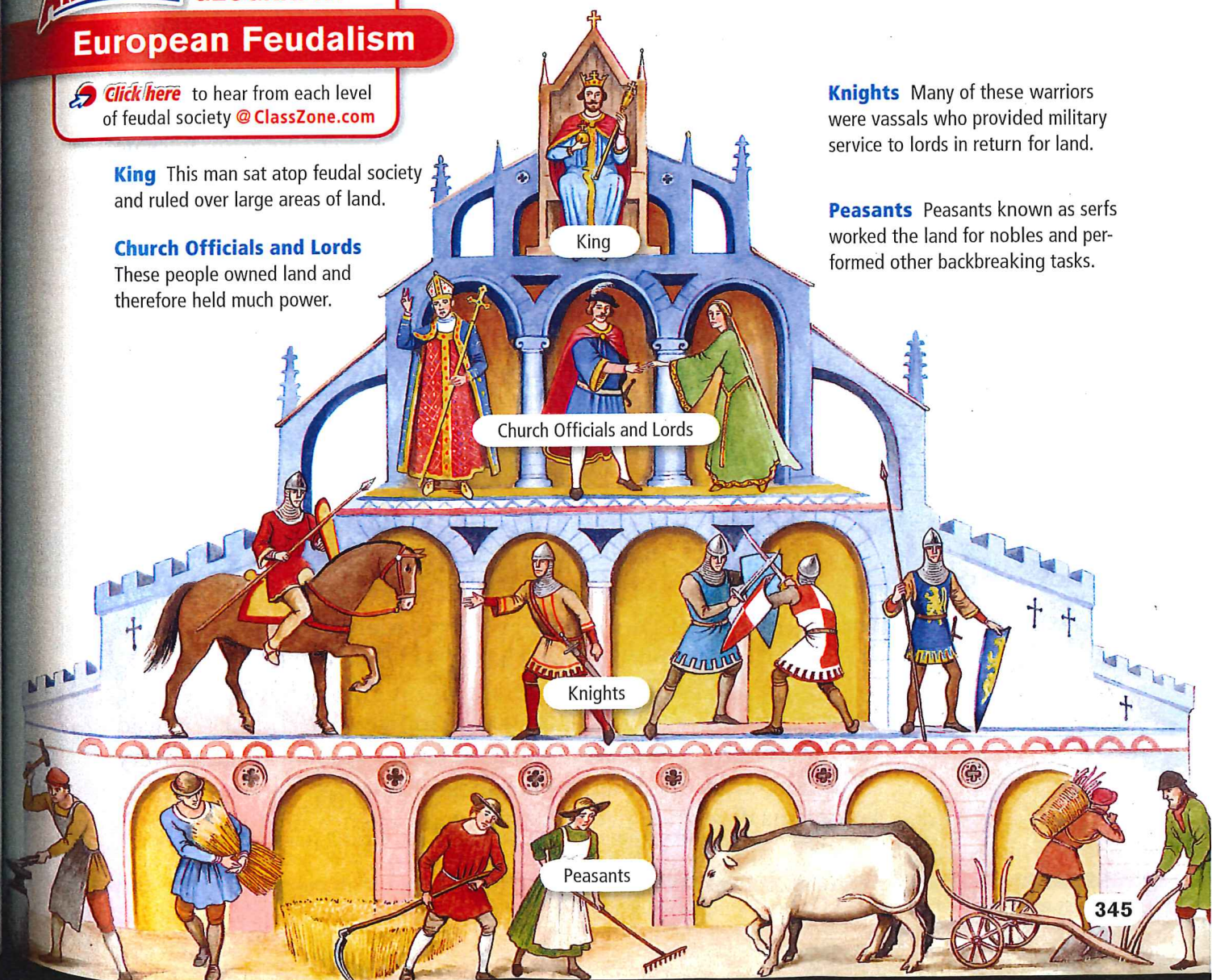
[Click here](#) to hear from each level of feudal society @ [ClassZone.com](#)

King This man sat atop feudal society and ruled over large areas of land.

Church Officials and Lords These people owned land and therefore held much power.

Knights Many of these warriors were vassals who provided military service to lords in return for land.

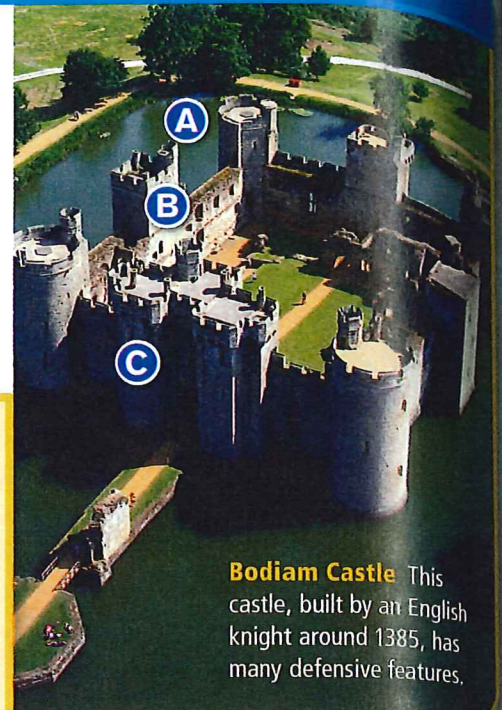
Peasants Peasants known as serfs worked the land for nobles and performed other backbreaking tasks.



CONNECT to History

Feudal castles were designed for defense against enemy attacks. Many included the following defensive features:

- Moats **A**, filled with water, prevented attackers from getting too close.
- Watchtowers **B** allowed guards to fire on approaching enemies from a protected position.
- Thick stone walls **C** kept enemies out of the castle's inner courtyard.



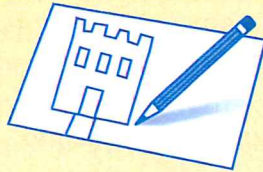
Bodiam Castle This castle, built by an English knight around 1385, has many defensive features.

Activity

Design a Castle Floor Plan


Materials

- paper
- pencil
- ruler



1. Be sure your castle has these features: walls, windows, and moat.
2. Research and add one other defensive feature to your castle.

The Renaissance

 **KEY QUESTION** How did the Renaissance change Europe?

Peace and stability were returning to Europe. Merchants again felt safe traveling on the roads. Trade began again. Towns grew. Travel spread new ideas, which set the stage for change.

Forces of Change At the end of the 11th century, thousands of western European Christians took part in the Crusades, a series of military expeditions to take back the Holy Land, Palestine, from the Muslims. The Crusades led to centuries of mistrust between Christians and Muslims and imposed economic burdens on many Europeans. However, they resulted in economic growth, increasing trade between towns on the Mediterranean Sea and in the Middle East.

The importance of towns increased during the Crusades, when towns were needed to supply armies. As towns grew into cities and serfs left manors to find better work, feudal lords lost power. In the 1300s, the deadly plague, known as the Black Death, swept through Europe. About one-third of Europe's population died. The high death rate led to a labor shortage, which further weakened feudal ties.

All these forces helped bring about the Renaissance. The **Renaissance** (REHN•ih•SAHNS) was a 300-year period of renewed interest in learning and art from about 1300 to 1600. The rediscovery of ancient Greek and Roman knowledge influenced the Renaissance. Europeans developed new ideas about art, science, and humanity.

The Rebirth of Europe The Renaissance began in the city-states of the Italian Peninsula. Increased trade between Italian towns and the Middle East after the Crusades had made many Italian merchants and bankers wealthy. They used their new wealth to build and furnish beautiful palaces. Some became **patrons** of the arts, supporting painters and writers. They showed their pride in their city by hiring architects to build churches, public fountains, and sculptures. City-states like Florence, Rome, and Venice competed to display the talents of Italy's finest artists, such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

Renaissance art reflected the beliefs of the period. Many scholars began to study humanity, prompting a new interest in the individual and in **secular**, or worldly, concerns. Many Renaissance paintings still had religious themes, but others depicted contemporary people instead of biblical figures. Painters also found new ways to create more lifelike portraits and realistic landscapes. The technique known as **perspective** gave objects in a painting the appearance of depth and distance. The Renaissance also produced notable writers. Many wrote in their national languages, rather than Latin, which was the practice before the Renaissance. For example, the poet Dante wrote his finest works in Italian.



Mona Lisa Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* is one of the most famous paintings of the Renaissance.

[Click here](#) to see more works by Renaissance artists @ [ClassZone.com](#)

COMPARING Medieval and Renaissance Art



MEDIEVAL

Madonna Enthroned by Duccio di Buoninsegna

- Created art with religious themes, especially scenes from the Bible
- Created flat, two-dimensional art



RENAISSANCE

Peasant Wedding by Pieter Brueghel

- Created art about secular as well as religious themes, with more emphasis on the individual and daily life
- Created lifelike, realistic sculptures and paintings

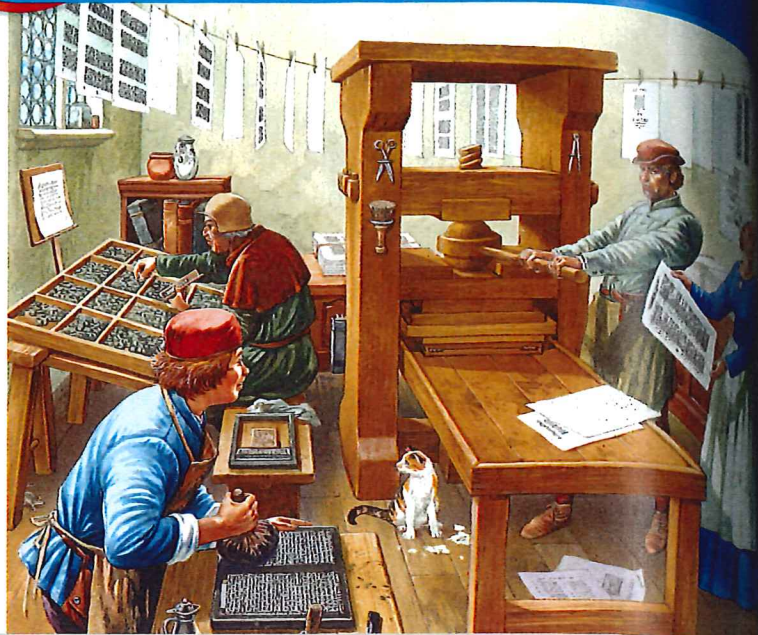
CRITICAL THINKING

Form and Support Opinions Which artistic style seems more lifelike? Why?

The Printing Press The invention of the printing press had a huge impact on European society. Johann Gutenberg, a German, created a machine that pressed movable type against paper. Until then, Europeans copied books slowly by hand. The printing press allowed 500 times as many books to be printed in the same amount of time. The first book printed on Gutenberg's press was a Bible. Ideas spread as books became cheap enough for many to buy.

CRITICAL THINKING

Draw Conclusions How did the printing press help ideas spread during the Renaissance?



The Renaissance Spreads In the late 1400s, the Renaissance began to spread north from Italy to France, England, Germany, and Flanders, a region that today is part of Belgium. The Hundred Years' War, a series of battles between France and England, ended in 1453. With the conflict over, cities and trade routes expanded. A wealthy merchant class developed. Like the Italian merchants, they eagerly sponsored artists and writers. So did the monarchs of these countries, who viewed artistic achievements as a source of national pride.

Unlike the Italian artists, many northern European artists chose to paint scenes of everyday life. Pieter Brueghel the Elder, an artist from Flanders, painted peasants dancing and feasting. His paintings included many details of daily life. Authors such as William Shakespeare examined human nature. Many of Shakespeare's plays, including *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*, are still performed today. Scholars also made scientific advances, learning more about the human body and the minerals that make up the Earth's surface.

The scholars in northern Europe were also more interested in studying Christianity than ancient Greek and Roman art. Their studies led them to call for reforms to existing religious practices. They criticized the Catholic Church for caring more about wealth and power than about spiritual matters. Renaissance knowledge and ideas like these spread across Europe, aided by the printing press. People began to examine and question the institutions around them.

FIND MAIN IDEAS Explain how the ideas of the Renaissance changed Europe.

The Reformation

KEY QUESTION What concerns led Martin Luther and others to break with the Catholic Church?

During the 14th and 15th centuries, criticisms of the Catholic Church grew more intense. In the 1500s, these concerns set the stage for the **Reformation**, a movement to change church practices. Martin Luther, a German monk, led this movement. In 1517, Luther wrote his Ninety-Five Theses, a list of statements of belief. He attacked practices he saw as corrupt. Luther posted his theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. His supporters sent copies throughout Europe.

Luther's ideas spread quickly. Many northern countries broke with the Catholic Church. Other reformers in Switzerland, Scotland, and England created their own **Protestant** sects, the name given to Christians who protested against the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church tried to slow the expansion of Protestantism. They began their own Catholic Reformation. Luther was excommunicated, or cast out of the Catholic Church. Church leaders sent missionaries overseas in an effort to spread Catholic ideas around the world.



Martin Luther Luther nails his Ninety-Five Theses to the church door in Wittenberg.

SUMMARIZE Explain what concerns led Martin Luther and others to break with the Catholic Church.

Section 3 Assessment

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ClassZone.com

TERMS & NAMES

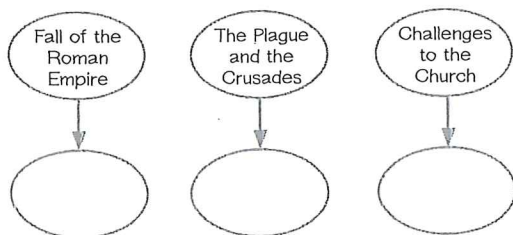
1. Explain the importance of

- Middle Ages
- feudalism
- Renaissance
- Reformation

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Analyze Cause and Effect Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

How did the plague help bring about the Renaissance?



KEY IDEAS

3. In what ways did the Crusades contribute to the start of the Renaissance?
4. Where did the Renaissance begin?
5. What was Martin Luther's role in the Reformation?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Compare and Contrast** What were the main differences between the Italian Renaissance and the Renaissance in northern Europe?
7. **Draw Conclusions** What did the leaders of the Catholic Church hope to achieve with the Catholic Reformation?
8. **CONNECT to Today** How is the Internet similar to the printing press? How are they different?
9. **WRITING Prepare an Art Lecture** Choose a painting by a Renaissance artist. Visit an art museum or library to do research. Prepare a short talk for the class on the artist and the significance of the painting. Show the class a picture of the artwork.

SECTION
4

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Feudalism and religion provided stability during the Middle Ages. The Renaissance marked a rebirth of creativity in Europe.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Revolutions in science, politics, and industry transformed Western Europe. After two world wars, European nations found new ways to cooperate.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Scientific Revolution a major change in European thinking in the mid-1500s that led to the questioning of old theories

Enlightenment a philosophical movement in the 1600s and 1700s that was characterized by the use of reason and scientific methods

French Revolution a conflict in France between 1789 and 1799 that ended the monarchy and led to changes in the way France was governed

nationalism pride in and loyalty to one's nation

Industrial Revolution the shift that began in Britain in the 1760s from making goods by hand to making them by machine

imperialism the practice of one country controlling the government and economy of another country or territory

Holocaust the systematic murder of Jews and other minorities by the Nazis during World War II

European Union (EU) an organization of European nations whose members cooperate on economic, social, and political issues

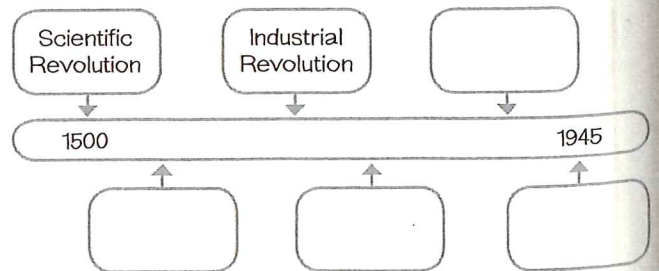
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the time line shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the time line to help you place the events of modern European history in order.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6

SEQUENCE EVENTS



 **GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**
Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com