

The Franks

Answer the following questions in the spaces provided using information from pages 21-26 of *Pathways*. **Unless otherwise indicated, please use complete sentences.**

1. Define the following terms. Point-form is acceptable.

wergild _____

arson _____

betrothal _____

plague _____

prodigies, portents _____

social class _____

Carolingian Empire _____

exhalations _____

renaissance _____

2. Characterize the Frankish people who conquered much of the Roman province of Gaul.

3. What caused the Merovingian kingdom to decline after the death of Clovis I?

4. Identify and briefly describe the Frankish people's legal code.

5. Examine the feature titled *Crime and Punishment in the Salic Code* on page 22.

a) What was the most serious offence in Frankish law?

b) Why do you think killing a boy under twelve carried a larger fine than killing a girl under twelve?

6. What two social classes existed in Frankish society? What advantages or disadvantages did each class experience?

i. _____

ii. _____

7. Examine the statistics on page 24 comparing Franks in the year 700 with Canadians in 1994/95.

a) Why do you think the Frankish infant mortality rate (children who die before one year old) was so high?

b) Why do you think the average life expectancy of Frankish people in 700 was so much lower than Canadians in 1994/95 (20 years ago)?

c) Why do you think the age of marriage for a Frankish woman was so much younger than a Canadian woman today?

d) Why do you think the average heights of Frankish men and women were so much less than Canadian men and women today?

8. How did Charlemagne manage to keep such strong control of his empire?

9. How did Charlemagne's Renaissance improve Frankish society?
