Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Medieval Church

**Lack of a strong, centralized government throughout Europe**

1. The Germanic tribes who conquered the Romans did not have a single, centralized government that ruled Europe. What kind of government(s) were in place instead?
2. As a result of the system of government used by the Germanic tribes, what was the only “stable” element of that time in Europe? Explain what made this element a source of stability.
3. What happened to the Church after the new Feudal society emerged?
4. What two powers did the Church use to try to control rulers at this time? Explain how each power worked.

**Fear of the afterlife**

1. What is the most common question that religions have/still do try to answer for people?
2. Why was this question so important to people in Europe during the Middle Ages?
3. How did the Church hold the “keys to happiness” for people during the Middle Ages?
4. Since they Church held these “keys,” what did they gain as a result?

**Impact on social/daily life**

1. Who was the focal point of the key moments in people’s lives during the Middle Ages?
2. Why were Church buildings the center of social life during the Middle Ages?
3. Explain what tithes were.
4. Compare how people of the Middle Ages felt about their tithes, compared to how they felt about their taxes.
5. Explain what Canon Law was.
6. Compare the punishments one might suffer for breaking government laws versus the punishments one might suffer for breaking Canon Law.

**Economic Reasons**

1. How did the land owned by the Church increase their influence over the people of the Middle Ages?
2. What did the Church teach people about failure to pay their tithes?
3. What was an indulgence? How were they originally obtained? What would eventually become the most common way of getting them?
4. What was the Church able to do, as a result of tithes & indulgences?