Medieval Europe: Invasions

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

WORLD HISTORY

Target audience – World history learners	Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	Examine Viking, Magyar, and Islamic invasions and their impact on the development of Europe.
Standards	**C3: D2.His.14.9.9-12**. Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of past events. **C3: D2.Hist.16.9.12**. Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations to a reasoned argument about the past. **C3: D2.His.15.9-12**. Distinguish between long-term causes and triggering events in developing a historical argument.
Learning Outcomes	• Students will trace the paths of invasions in Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries through time and space. • Students will identify the causes and effects of invasions on the development of Europe.

Map URL: http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry1

🔍 Ask

Who invaded Europe and where were their homelands?

- → Click the URL above to launch the map.
- ? What three areas provided invaders? *[Scandinavia, northern Africa, western Eurasia]*
- ? What areas in Europe were controlled by the Muslims? *[Southern Spain and Mediterranean islands]*
- – Historians agree the Magyars came from Asia and arrived by horse. They disagree on the area of origin— the steppes of central Asia or the mountains of the Caucasus.

⏬ Acquire

How and why was Europe invaded?

- ? From which direction did the Muslims invade? *[From the south across the Mediterranean]*
- ? What route did the Muslim invaders use to reach France? *[By sea from the Caliphate of Cordoba]*
- → With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- → Select the Sources layer check box to turn on the layer.
- → Click Pushpin 1, and read the information.
- ? Why did the Muslims invade France? *[To capture riches and raise taxes from conquered people]*
- ? What areas were settled by the Magyars? *[Between the Alps and Carpathians]*
- ? Which group invaded the most territory in Europe? *[The Vikings]*

🔍 Explore

Where and why did the Vikings invade?

- ? Which area do you think the Vikings invaded first? *[Answers will vary; British Isles because of their proximity]*
- → Click Pushpin 2, and read the information.
- ? Why did the Vikings invade there? *[To gain wealth]*
- ? How did the Vikings interact with the inhabitants? *[They killed the monks and captured some for slavery.]*
- ? Which geographic features supported the Viking invasions? *[Seas and rivers]*

more ▶

📋 Analyze

How did the Viking invasions change over time?

→ Turn off all layers. Turn on the layer, Viking Settlements and Raids. Click the layer name to open a legend.
→ Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Raids.
→ Click the Play button, and observe the patterns.
? When and where did the Vikings establish the most settlements? *[Tenth century; Iceland, Greenland North America, and Russia]*
? How did the location of the areas raided differ from the areas settled? *[Areas raided were accessible by sea or river travel]*
→ Turn on the layer, Sources. Click Pushpin 3, and read the information.
? Who were the Varangians and why did they settle where they did? *[Vikings; they were invited by the local princes to rule the Slavic lands.]*

☑ Act

Why is feudalism considered to be a response to invasion?

? What do you think Europeans did to prevent further invasions? *[Built castles; trained fighters]*
→ Turn on the Castles layer.
? During what century were most of the castles built? *[Twelfth century]*
? Why do you think they were built then? *[For defense and to prevent further invasions]*
→ Click Pushpin 4, and examine the diagram.
? How did the social structure of feudalism support defense? *[Two groups in society pledged to defend the king's lands.]*

IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE

- Click a feature on the map, and a pop-up window will open with information.
- Links and images in the pop-up are often clickable.
- An arrow icon in the upper right of the window indicates that multiple features have been selected.
- Click the button to scroll through the features.

USE THE TIME SLIDER

- A time-enabled map layer must be visible.
- Click the lower slider button and stretch it to the end time period that you wish to view.
- Click the Play button (right arrow).
- Click the Configure button (the wrench icon) to change the slider's speed.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://www.esri.com/schools.

THEN TRY THIS...

• Use filters to identify Viking expansion through the centuries, and create a presentation showing their diffusion across the landscape of Europe.

📑 TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History: The Human Journey by Holt* — Chapter 4
- *World History by Glencoe* — Chapter 9
- *World History by Prentice Hall* — Chapter 7
- *World History: Patterns of Interaction by McDougal Littell* — Chapter 11