



Teotihuacan

100-750 A.D. Referred to as "The City of the Gods," a pre-Columbian civilization located near modern-day Mexico City, it is known for the Temple of Quetzalcoatl (built 150-200 A.D.), honoring who was believed to be the creator. Beginning at 650 A.D., pyramids were constructed, two being the Pyramid of the Sun and the Moon. Although highly populated by 400 A.D., it was virtually abandoned by 700 A.D..



Middle Ages

c. 476-1453 A.D. A period of time in Western European history following the decline of the Roman Empire and ending midway through the 15th century, ushering in the Renaissance era.



Kingdom of Benin

1100-1897 A.D. A West African kingdom reaching its height around 1500 A.D. The empire ended when British troops destroyed Benin's capital city in the late 19th century.



Shapur I

reigned c. 215-272 A.D. Persian warrior king of the Sassanian Dynasty and military leader, his greatest triumph was the defeat of the Roman emperor Valerian in 260 AD, a turning point in the decline of the Roman Empire.



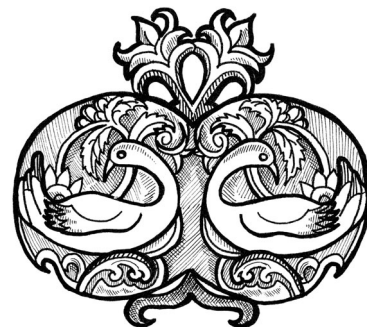
Dark Ages

476-1000 A.D. The first half of the Middle Ages, known as a period unproductive in the arts. It was followed by the High Middle Ages, a time of rebirth of culture and the institution of the church.



Samurai Warriors

1192-1868 A.D. A class of professional warriors of the former feudal system of Japan, they were distinguished by wearing two swords.



Byzantine Empire

begins 330 A.D. The eastern half of the later Roman Empire, Constantine I rebuilt Byzantium, its capital, which was later called Constantinople in his honor. The empire collapsed in 1453 with the invasions of the Ottoman Turks.



The Feudal System

begins 8th century A.D. The system of political organization during the Middle Ages based on a lord and vassal relationship, where lands or productive property were granted in exchange for servitude, including allegiance and military service.



Hanseatic League (Hansa)

12th century A.D. A league originally formed of German and Scandinavian seafaring merchants in order to protect cargoes and regulate tariffs along the North Sea and Baltic regions.