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Facts to Know

Attila	<i>Hun warlord; "Scourge of God" and "Fear of the World"</i>
Hermit of the Rocks	<i>hermit who prophesied that Attila would be a conqueror of nations</i>
Theodosius II	<i>son of Arcadius; Eastern Roman emperor; plotted to murder Attila, but failed</i>
Aetius	<i>Western Roman general; defeated Attila at Chalons</i>
Theodoric	<i>Visigoth chief who joined forces with Aetius at Chalons</i>
Thorismond	<i>son of Theodoric; took command of the Visigoth force after his father's death; saved the day for Aetius</i>
Valentinian III	<i>Western Roman emperor; supporter of Pope Leo I; succeeded his uncle Honorius</i>
Pope Leo I	<i>persuaded Attila not to attack Rome</i>

"I shall never be defeated in battle as long as I fight with the sword of Tiew." **Attila**

"Here I will perish in the flames, rather than surrender to my enemies." **Attila**

Vocabulary

- ransom payment for release of hostage or threat
- enraged in a rage, extremely angry
- barbarous savage and cruel; crude and uncivilized



Attila the Hun (434-453)

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the prophecy of the Hermit of the Rocks.
The hermit prophesied that Attila would be a conqueror of many nations and become very rich, but would die suddenly after he married the woman he would love.
2. How did Attila acquire the sword of Tiew?
One of Attila's shepherds noticed that an ox was bleeding from the foot. This led him to discover the sword of Tiew buried in the field. He took it to the palace and gave it to Attila.
3. Why did Attila renew war after agreeing with Theodosius to make peace?
Attila discovered that Theodosius had plotted to murder him.
4. Why did the Visigoths unite with Aetius against the Huns?
The Visigoths were as alarmed by Attila's invasion as the Romans were, and just as afraid of him.
5. What was significant about Attila's defeat at Chalons?
Chalons was the first time the Huns were defeated in Europe.
6. After campaigning in Italy the following year, why did Attila decide not to attack Rome?
Pope Leo I went out to meet Attila to persuade him not to attack Rome. Attila was impressed by Leo's appearance and authority. It is said Attila also had a vision of Peter and Paul warning him of death if he attacked Rome.
7. Discuss the fate of the Huns after Attila's death and what it says about their power.
After Attila's death, the Huns never again threatened Europe and disappeared from European history. Their power was due to Attila's leadership alone.

Activities

1. Locate on your maps: Cities
Orleans
Chalons
Aquileia
Venice Bodies of Water
Adriatic Sea
2. Begin a timeline of the Middle Ages in graphic form. Start your timeline with the sack of Rome by Alaric and the battle of Chalons. Leave plenty of room for additions. Refer to the timeline in the Appendix.