Crowns and Kingdoms

Trace how Frankish power became an imperial claim.

AWH.C.9.5.B "Describe the rise of Frankish kings, including the roles of Charles Martel and Charlemagne, and the establishment of the Holy Roman Empire."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one shift in political authority in each paragraph, circle the date tied to it, and number the three shifts in chronological order.

From Frankish Kings to Emperors

1. In the early 700s, the Frankish kingdom in western Europe still had kings from the Merovingian family. Yet a palace official called the mayor of the palace often controlled armies and government decisions. Charles Martel held that office, built support among Frankish warriors, and defeated a Muslim-led force near Tours in 732. The battle strengthened his reputation, but it did not make him king or end Muslim rule in Iberia. His son Pepin took the next step. With the pope's support, Pepin replaced the last Merovingian king in 751 and began a new Frankish royal line, the Carolingians.

2. Pepin's son Charlemagne became king in 768 and later ruled a much larger realm. Through wars and alliances, he extended Frankish power across much of western and central Europe. He relied on local officials to govern distant areas and sent inspectors to check their work. He also backed schools and the copying of books, linking political rule to a renewed interest in learning. His partnership with the pope mattered as much as his victories: on Christmas Day in 800, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne emperor in Rome. That imperial title did not turn his lands into the later Holy Roman Empire.

3. After Charlemagne died in 814, his successors struggled to hold his territories together. In 843, his grandsons divided the empire into three kingdoms. The eastern kingdom developed separately, and its rulers later sought authority beyond its borders. In 962, Pope John XII crowned Otto I, a ruler in the eastern Frankish tradition, emperor in Rome. Historians often use this coronation to mark the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire, which grew from eastern Frankish lands and included parts of Italy. Otto did not inherit Charlemagne's whole empire. Instead, he renewed the claim that a ruler in western Europe could hold an imperial title backed by the pope.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Charles Martel's role differ from Pepin's role in the rise of a new Frankish royal line?

2. How did Charlemagne extend Frankish power and govern the larger realm?

3. How did papal support help establish the authority of Pepin and Charlemagne in different ways?

4. Why is Otto I's coronation linked to the Holy Roman Empire rather than to the survival of Charlemagne's whole empire?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word museum label arguing whether Otto I's empire was simply Charlemagne's empire restored. Use at least three dated events from the passage, and explain one similarity and one important difference.

ANSWER KEY

Crowns and Kingdoms

HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.9.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one shift in political authority in each paragraph, circle the date tied to it, and number the three shifts in chronological order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Charles Martel's role differ from Pepin's role in the rise of a new Frankish royal line?	**Martel held power as mayor of the palace but was not king. Pepin replaced the last Merovingian king in 751 and began the Carolingian royal line.**
2	How did Charlemagne extend Frankish power and govern the larger realm?	**He expanded Frankish power through wars and alliances, used local officials to govern distant areas, and sent inspectors to check their work.**
3	How did papal support help establish the authority of Pepin and Charlemagne in different ways?	**The pope supported Pepin when he took the Frankish crown, and Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne emperor in 800.**
4	Why is Otto I's coronation linked to the Holy Roman Empire rather than to the survival of Charlemagne's whole empire?	**Charlemagne's grandsons divided his empire in 843. Otto ruled in the eastern Frankish tradition, not over the whole former empire, and historians often mark his coronation in 962 as the Holy Roman Empire's beginning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Otto I's empire was not simply Charlemagne's empire restored. In 751, Pepin replaced the Merovingian king, giving Charlemagne's family the Frankish crown. In 800, the pope crowned Charlemagne emperor after he had expanded Frankish rule. His grandsons divided that empire in 843, so its lands did not remain united. In 962, a pope crowned Otto I emperor, but Otto ruled from the eastern Frankish tradition rather than over Charlemagne's entire realm. Both rulers claimed imperial authority with papal support, yet Otto's empire grew from a different political base.

Accept claims that recognize both the renewed imperial title and the changed territory and political base. The label should use at least three accurate dated events and stay within 75 to 95 words.