DEVELOPMENTS OF THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES

Agriculture
a. Agricultural production had suffered from repeated invasions during the Dark Ages.
b. Small wooden plows of Mediterranean farmers did not work well in the north

Heavy plows
a. Heavy plows appeared in the 900’s, could turn soil deeper and easier
b. Became common by the 1000’s, agricultural production increased
c. Cultivation of new lands, watermills, and rotating crops

A rural society to a more urban society
a. Agricultural production not enough to support large cities during Dark Ages.
b. As food production increased, creating surpluses, many people could now turn to other tasks, such as trading.

Trade
a. Trade and urban centers began to develop by the 11th century as many of the crusading armies began returning with goods from the Middle East.
b. Trade took place in Mediterranean, North Sea, and Black Sea

Population
a. In 200 C.E., European population stood at 36 million
b. In 400 C.E., 31 million
c. In 600 C.E., 26 million
d. In 800 C.E., edged up to 29 million
e. In 900 C.E., 30 million
f. By 1000 C.E., back to 36 million