Popes and Kings
Essential Question:
What were the relationships like between Popes and kings and how did these relationships affect Europe?
Government

- There is no single emperor, king, president or ruler of Europe
- There are a bunch of rulers of small kingdoms who want more power
- Over time, kings began to gain more power
- And then there is the pope...
Describe European government during the Middle Ages.
Power of the Pope

• The pope was the head of the Christian Church in Europe

• Nearly everyone in Europe belonged to the Church so the pope had great power

• People saw the pope as God’s representative and so few people questioned his authority
Power of the Pope (cont.)

• The pope had a super power…

• EXCOMMUNICATION!!!
Excommunication

- Excommunication meant you were kicked out of the Church!
Excommunication

• But wait, there’s more!!!
• It also meant you would not get into heaven!
• Essentially it was the worst possible punishment... even worse than death!
List two reasons why the Pope had so much power.

Why was excommunication considered a “super power”?
The picture on the next page shows Charlemagne being crowned by the pope.

Who seems to be the one in charge in the picture?

What makes you think that?
Kings vs. Popes

Round 1:
Charlemagne vs Pope Leo
The Problem

• Both Charlemagne and Pope Leo thought they should lead all Christians

• Leo crowned Charles making it seem like Charles’ authority came from Leo

• This led to arguments over who really had power
Kings vs. Popes

Round 2:
Pope Gregory VII vs Henry IV
Henry, king not through usurpation but through the holy ordination of God, to Gregory, at present not pope but false monk. I, Henry, king by the grace of God, with all of my Bishops, say to you, come down, come down, and be damned throughout the ages. Sincerely, King Henry IV
I'm sorry pope, please let me in!

What? Sorry! Can't hear you! Come back tomorrow!
Pope Gregory Vs Emperor Henry IV

- Pope Gregory questioned Henry IV’s authority to pick bishops
- Henry IV tried to get Pope Gregory removed as pope
- Pope Gregory excommunicated Henry IV
- Henry IV begged for 3 days to be let back into the church so people would listen to him again
- Pope Gregory let him back in after proving the pope was the most powerful figure
Who won the battle between Pope Gregory and Henry IV? Explain your answer.
Assignment...

• Describe the battle between Kings and Popes

• Provide at least one example (tell one of the stories)

• (Finish for homework if necessary)