Geography Skills

Analyze the maps in “Setting the Stage.” Then answer the following questions and fill out the map as directed.

1. Locate the Holy Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire. **Label them on your outline map.** What mountain range lies between these two empires?

2. Locate the Italian peninsula. Then locate the physical feature that separates it from the Holy Roman Empire. **Draw and label this feature on your map.**

3. Locate and **label Constantinople.**

4. Some parts of medieval Europe were actually islands. Locate and **label these islands** on your map.

   The islands are __________________________

5. The Byzantine Empire includes lands on **which two continents**? __________________________

6. Draw and **label the Carpathian Mountains** on your map. **Through which medieval countries did they extend?**

7. **Label** the Seine, Thames, Elbe, Tiber, and Danube rivers. **Label** the cities that are located along these rivers. Why do you think large medieval cities were located along rivers?

8. Locate and **label the city of Hamburg** on your map. **What route might a trader from Constantinople have taken to reach the city of Hamburg?**
9. During medieval times, overland travel was dangerous, due to physical barriers, as well as wild animals and thieves. Because of this, sea travel was preferred. Based on what you know of the physical geography of Europe, why might its people have taken advantage of this form of transportation?

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10. Suppose invaders from northern Africa and the Middle East attacked western Europe. What body of water would they have to cross to reach lands in western Europe?

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11. The Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire are two different empires that existed at different times in history. The Roman Empire controlled all the land around the Mediterranean Sea, including present-day Spain, France, and England, and as far north as the Carpathian Mountains and the Black Sea. The Roman Empire ended around 476 C.E. The Holy Roman Empire, on the other hand, began around the year 800 C.E. How did the land areas controlled by the two empires differ?

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