Objectives

• Summarize how new technology sparked an agricultural revolution.

• Explain how the revival of trade revolutionized commerce and led to the growth of towns.

• Analyze the rise of the middle class and the role of guilds.

• Describe life in medieval towns and cities.
Terms and People

• **charter** – a written document that set out the rights and privileges of a town

• **capital** – money for investment

• **partnership** – a group of merchants who pooled their funds to finance a large-scale venture

• **tenant farmer** – a farmer who paid rent for his land

• **middle class** – a new social class ranked between nobles and peasants
Terms and People (continued)

- **guild** – an association of merchants or artisans
- **apprentice** – a trainee
- **journeyman** – a salaried worker
How did changes in agriculture and trade lead to the growth of towns and commerce?

Enormous changes occurred in medieval Europe that led to the rise of the middle class and apprenticeship agreements.

These changes began in agriculture.
An agricultural revolution transformed Europe around A.D. 1000.

Peasants began using horses, a new kind of harness, and iron plows, and to plant more crops.
In addition to these improvements, peasants began to rotate crops to increase yields.

As a result, the population of Europe tripled between 1000 and 1300.
As the population grew, warfare declined and people began to travel. Trade routes expanded, leading to the exchange of goods such as silk, jewels, spices, and metals.
At the same time, towns and cities grew. A merchant who set up a town got a charter.
The use of money changed society.

• As people sought capital, banking grew.
• Merchants formed partnerships and developed insurance. Serfs became tenant farmers, who paid rent.
Merchants, traders, and artisans formed a new **middle class**.

They operated in **guilds**, using emblems such as these to advertise.
Guild members cooperated with each other and prevented nonmembers from operating in the trade.

- To become part of a guild, a child would first be an **apprentice**, or trainee.
- Most people worked for guild members as **journeymen**.
Women worked in many crafts and had their own guilds, especially in silk and wool making. Sometimes, a woman had the same trade as her father or husband and inherited his workshop.
Medieval cities were very different than the cities of today.

| They were surrounded by high walls and had very narrow streets. | There was usually a church with a steeple that could be seen from far away. | They were terribly overcrowded and had no sanitation. |
Section Review

QuickTake Quiz

Know It, Show It Quiz