**The Decline of the Church: Why was it that the Catholic Church was losing it's grip on the people of Europe?**

*Imagine the Church as a stone brick - a foundation stone to the Christian faith. As we read through the various sources, think about the factors we learn about as tools to chip away at the brick.*

**Life and Character of a Cardinal**
Medici letter <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/lorenzomed1.asp>

* Reading through the letter, what are the things Lorenzo is warning his son about?
* How do these things relate to the decline of the church?
* How could we categorize these instructions?
* How could we relate the categories to tools to chip away at the Church?

**Investigate the Great Schism: The Pope and Anti-Pope**

* Make a flow chart of the steps that lead up to the splitting of the Catholic Church.
* **Letter of Petrach against the Anti-Pope** [**http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/14Cpetrarch-pope.asp**](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/14Cpetrarch-pope.asp)
* What did the other Cardinals think about this schism? <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/grtschism1.asp>
* How does this chip away at the brick of the Church?

**Quotes from Wycliff & Hus**

Wycliff (c. 1320 – December 1384) and his followers, the Lollards, were rebellious and radical in the eyes of the Catholic Church. He disagreed with the church influencing secular power. He and his associates translated the entire bible from Latin to the common English language of his day - a highly risky move.

· http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1382wycliffe.asp

* choose to read the Bull against him by the pope, the Condemned Conclusions of Wycliff, or the Reply of Wycliff
* *What are your thoughts about Wycliff. What end do you think he will meet?*

Jan Hus, or John Huss as he is known in English, came from the Czech Republic. He was an advocate for reforming the church, and his teachings influenced his followers, the Hussites, to wage a war against the Catholic Church. What were some of his revolutionary thoughts about the Catholic Church and its teachings? For these thoughts, he is burnt at the stake as a heretic. Read the next article to find out what he was thinking as he was about to be put to death.

* · <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1415janhus.asp>

**As we can see from the various Primary Sources, many people knew about the issues going on with the establishment of the Catholic Church and many people were already starting to demand change, but it would take the leadership and fearlessness of men who followed to finally break off larger chunks of the rock that was the Catholic Church.**

**Paragraph homework question: In your opinion, what was the most detrimental factor in the decline of the church.**