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## SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE Summarizing

When you summarize, you restate information in your own words, including only the main ideas and key facts, not every detail. As you read the following passage about the Germanic invasions of Rome, note the main ideas and key facts. Then write a summary of the passage in the space provided. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. 992.)

Angles, Saxons, Burgundians, Lombards, and Vandals. All these groups spoke Germanic languages. When Rome was still strong, the Germanic tribes generally respected the borders guarded by the Roman legions. These borders stretched across Europe from the Black Sea to the North Sea. For many years, the Danube River divided the Germanic tribes in the north from their Roman neighbors to the south.

Though fearless fighters, the Germanic tribes feared the Huns, a nomadic people from central Asia. When the Huns began to move west, they first attacked the Ostrogoths, the most easterly Germanic tribe. The terrified Ostrogoths fled westward and pressed against their old enemies,

the Visigoths, Pushed off their land, the Visigoths looked for a new home south of the Danube River. Thus began the massive movement of Germanic people that eventually destroyed the western half of the Roman Empire. In A.D. 378, the Visigoths scored a victory against the Roman army and shattered Rome's military reputation.

The Huns kept raiding westward, destroying as they went. Germanic peoples near the Rhine—Burgundians, Frank, and Vandals—were forced to move. Bundled in furs, some 15,000 Vandal warriors and their families crossed the frozen Rhine River in the winter of 406. Meeting little resistance, they traveled west into the Roman province of Gaul. They raided the cities of Gaul as if they were defenseless and easily subdued Gaul's population of about 20 million.

Write your summary of the passage here.								
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