

**Do you have a relationship with someone that includes mutual obligations? How does it work?**



# Terms, People, and Places

Feudalism:

Manorialism:

Vassals:

Feudal Contract:

Knight:

Chivalry:

Manor:

Serf:

Fief:

# Lesson Objectives

- Explain how feudalism shaped medieval society.
- Describe the life of knights and nobles.
- Analyze how the economic system of the manor worked and how it affected nobles and peasants.

# Summary

## “Feudalism and the Manor Economy”

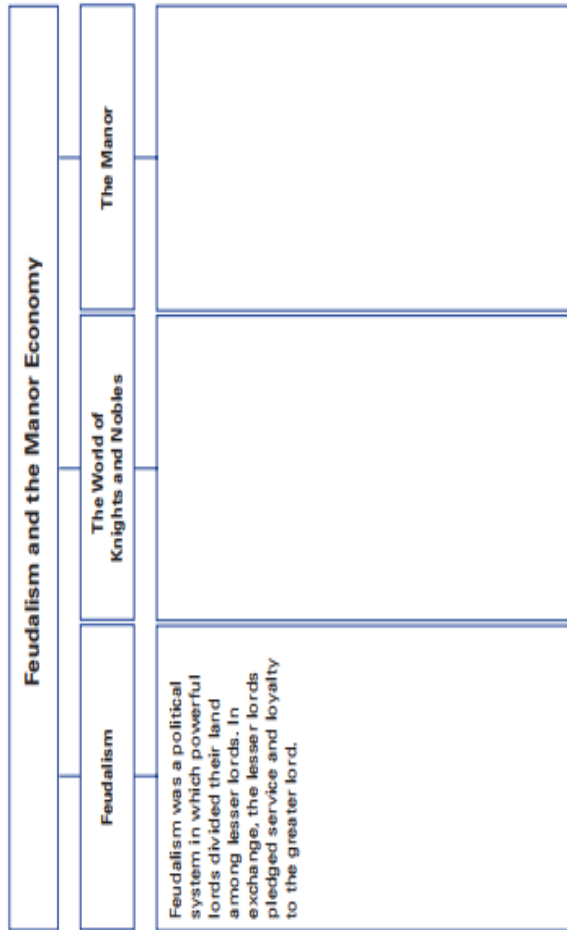
Feudalism, a new political and social system based on mutual obligations among lords and vassals, gave a strict order to medieval society.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoB4NVklyf4>

CHAPTER <b>7</b> SECTION 2	<b>Note Taking Study Guide</b> FEUDALISM AND THE MANOR ECONOMY
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**Focus Question:** How did feudalism and the manor economy emerge and shape medieval life?

*As you read this section in your textbook, use the flowchart below to identify the main ideas for each red heading. One main idea has been entered for you.*



CHAPTER  
**7**  
SECTION 2

## Section Summary

### FEUDALISM AND THE MANOR ECONOMY

Medieval society was a web of duties. Even kings and nobles exchanged vows of service and loyalty. These vows were part of a new political and legal system, called **feudalism**. This system was the basis of life during the Middle Ages.

Feudalism was a system of rule made up of lords and lower lords, called **vassals**. They exchanged vows called the **feudal contract**. This contract gave the lords the right to expect military service, payments, and loyalty from their vassals. In return, the lords promised to give their vassals protection and **fiefs**, or estates. Many of these nobles lived in fortress-like homes called castles.

All aristocrats had a place in this structured society. For nobles, war was a way of life. Many trained from boyhood to become **knights**. They learned to ride horseback, fight, and care for weapons. They practiced fighting in pretend battles called **tournaments**. Noblewomen, too, shared in the warrior society. Ladies took over estates while their lords were at war and might even be in charge of defending their lands.

In the Middle Ages, knights had to follow a code of ideal conduct called **chivalry**. It required knights to be brave, loyal, and honest. **Troubadours**, or wandering musicians, often sang about knights and their ladies.

The **manor**, or lord's estate, was the basis of the feudal economy. Everything that people needed was grown or made on the manor. Most peasants on manors were **serfs**, workers tied to the land. Serfs were not slaves, but they could not leave the manor without permission. They had to work the lord's lands several days a week, pay certain fees, and ask permission to marry. In return, they were allowed to farm several acres for themselves and received protection during war. Their work was hard. Hunger and disease were common. Yet, they found times to celebrate, including Christmas and Easter.

### Review Questions

1. What was one promise vassals made to their lords in the feudal contract?

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2. How was the manor the basis of the feudal economy?

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### READING CHECK

What was the code of ideal conduct that knights had to follow?

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### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *aristocrats* in the underlined sentence. What does *aristocrats* mean? Reread the paragraph. What group of people is being discussed? Are these people serfs or nobles? Use these clues to help you figure out what *aristocrats* means.

### READING SKILL

**Identify Main Ideas** Write a sentence on the lines below that identifies the main idea of this Summary. Be sure to include the word *feudalism* in your sentence.

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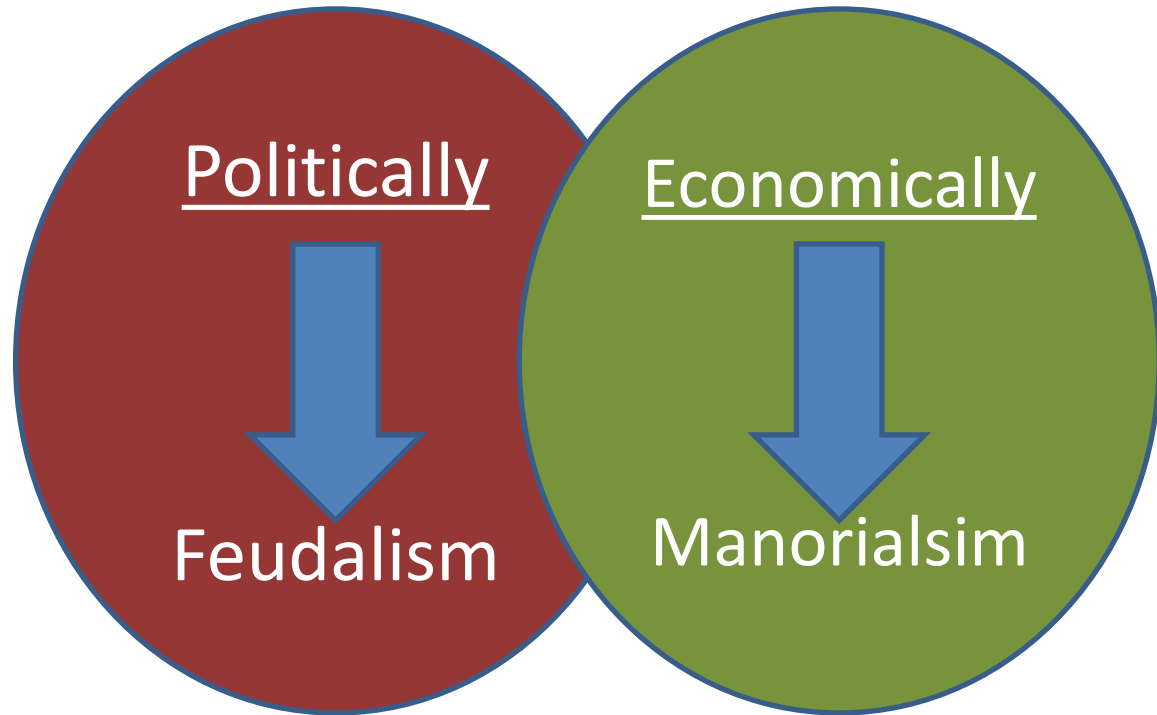


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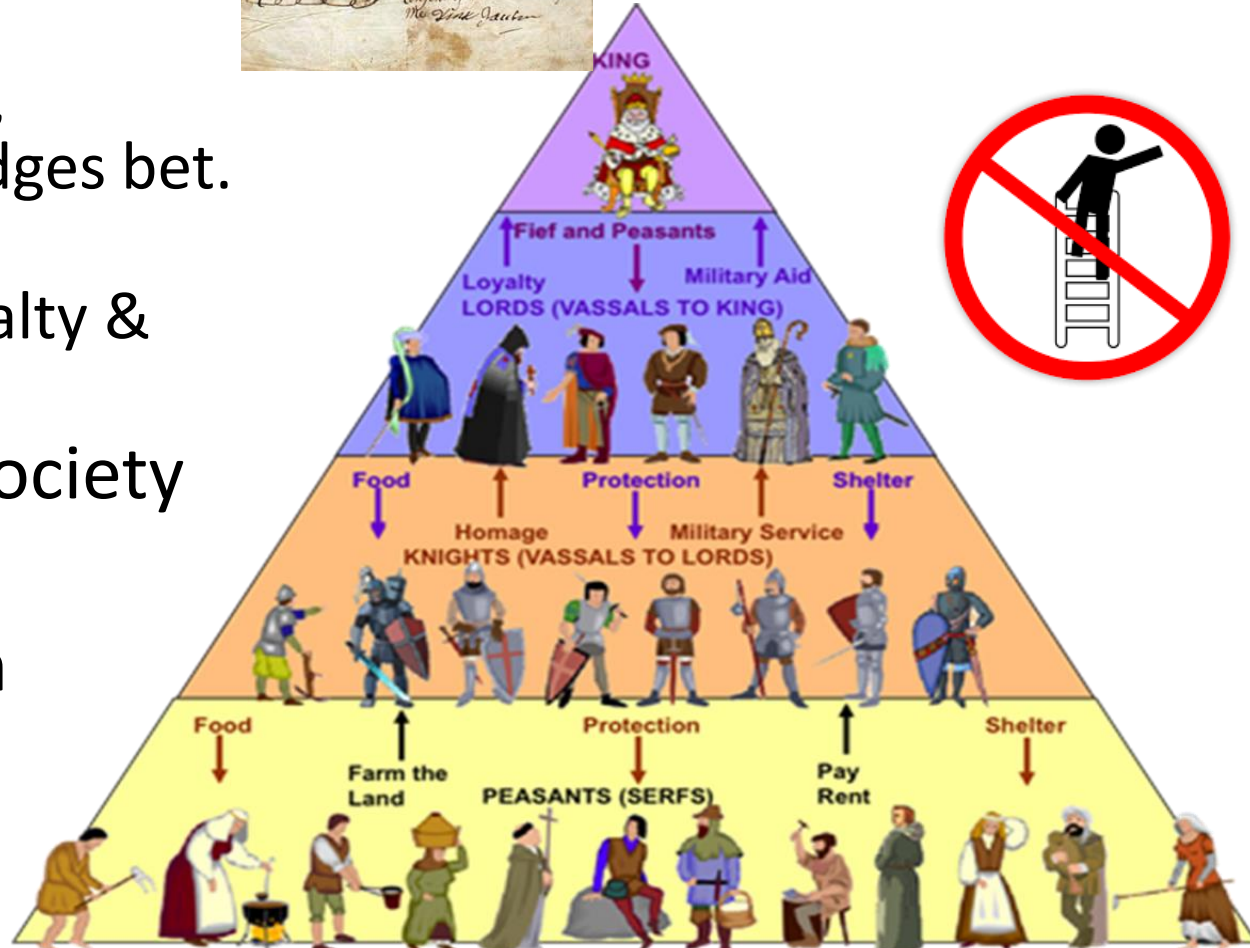
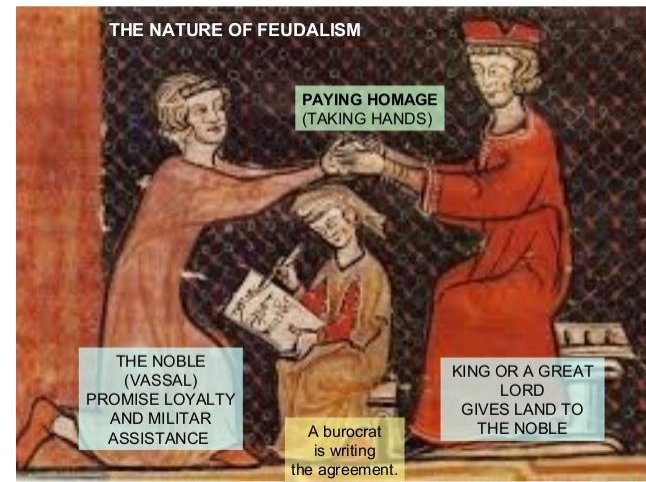
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# Aim #2: How did feudalism and manorialism shape medieval life?



# Feudalism Develops

- invasions= monarchs too weak
  - No order or protection
- decentralized system of gov't
  - **Feudal Contract**, exchange of pledges bet. lords & vassals
  - Land/fief for loyalty & military service
- rigid hierarchal society
- Land is power!
- warfare common
  - knights





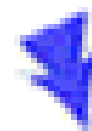
# How Feudalism Works

## KING

Provides money, army on demand  
Bestows land on his many Nobles

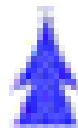


## NOBILITY



Provides military service  
and protection on demand

Bestows land on  
his many Knights

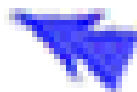


## KNIGHTS

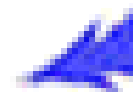


Provides military service  
and food on demand

Bestows land on  
his many Vassals

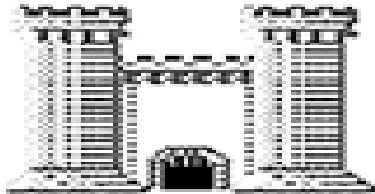


## VASSALS





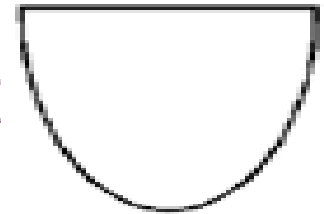
# MEDIEVAL LIFE



Manorialism =  
Economic  
System

Cooperation  
and Mutual  
Obligations

Feudal / Manorial  
Relationships



Feudalism =  
Political  
System

**KING**

Fief & peasants

Loyalty

Military Aid

**LORDS  
(VASSALS)**

Food

Homage

Military Service

Shelter

Protection

**KNIGHTS  
(VASSALS)**

Food

Shelter

Protection

Farm the land

Pay Rent

**PEASANTS (SERFS)**



# Checkpoint

Why & How did feudalism develop?

# Knights

- honorable & respected
- adopted **Chivalry**
  - code of conduct
  - brave, loyal, honest
  - protect women



**The Code of Chivalry**  
To live one's life so that it is worthy of respect and honor by

**Fair Play**  
Never attack an unarmed foe.  
Never charge an unhorsed opponent.  
Never attack from behind.  
Avoid cheating.  
Avoid torture.

**Nobility**  
Exhibit self discipline.  
Show respect to authority.  
Obey the Law.  
Administer Justice.  
Protect the innocent.  
Respect women.

**Valor**  
Exhibit courage in word and deed.  
Avenge the wronged.  
Defend the weak and innocent.  
Fight with honor.  
Never abandon a friend, ally, or noble cause.

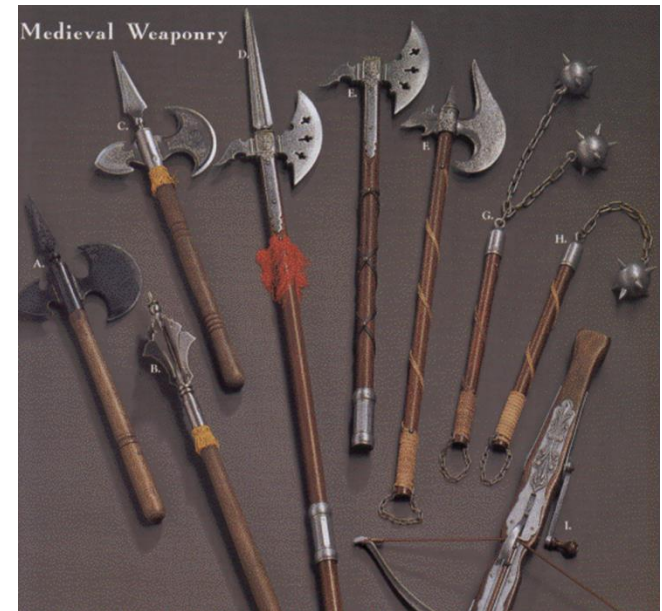
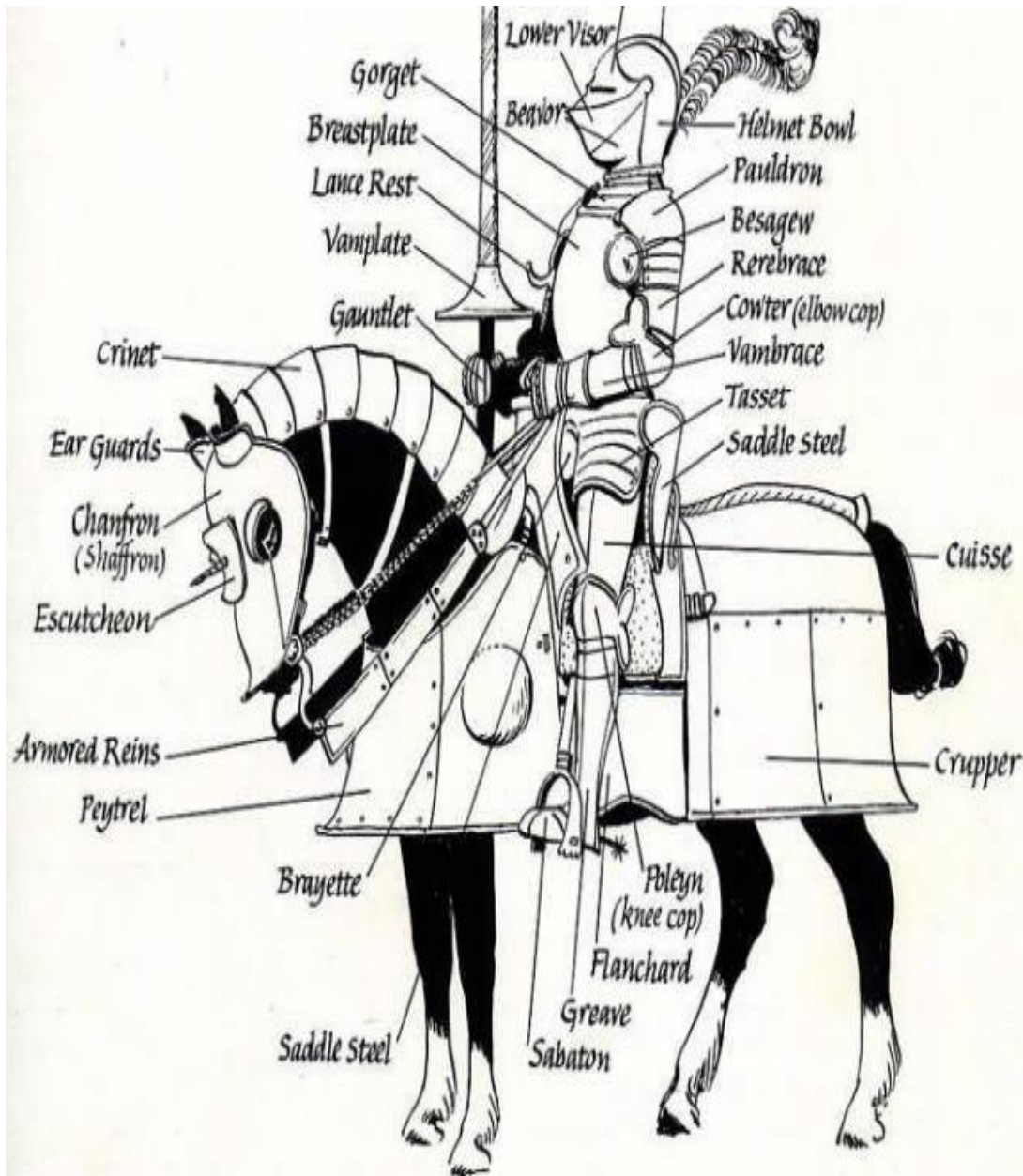
**Honor**  
Always keep one's word.  
Always maintain one's principles.  
Never betray a confidence or comrade.  
Avoid deception.  
Respect life.

**Courtesy**  
Exhibit manners.  
Be polite and attentive.  
Be respectful of host, authority, and women.

**Loyalty**  
To God, Sovereign, Country, and the Code of Chivalry.



# Medieval Knight Attire & Weaponry



# The Met



# The Code of Chivalry

To live one's life so that it is worthy of respect and honor by

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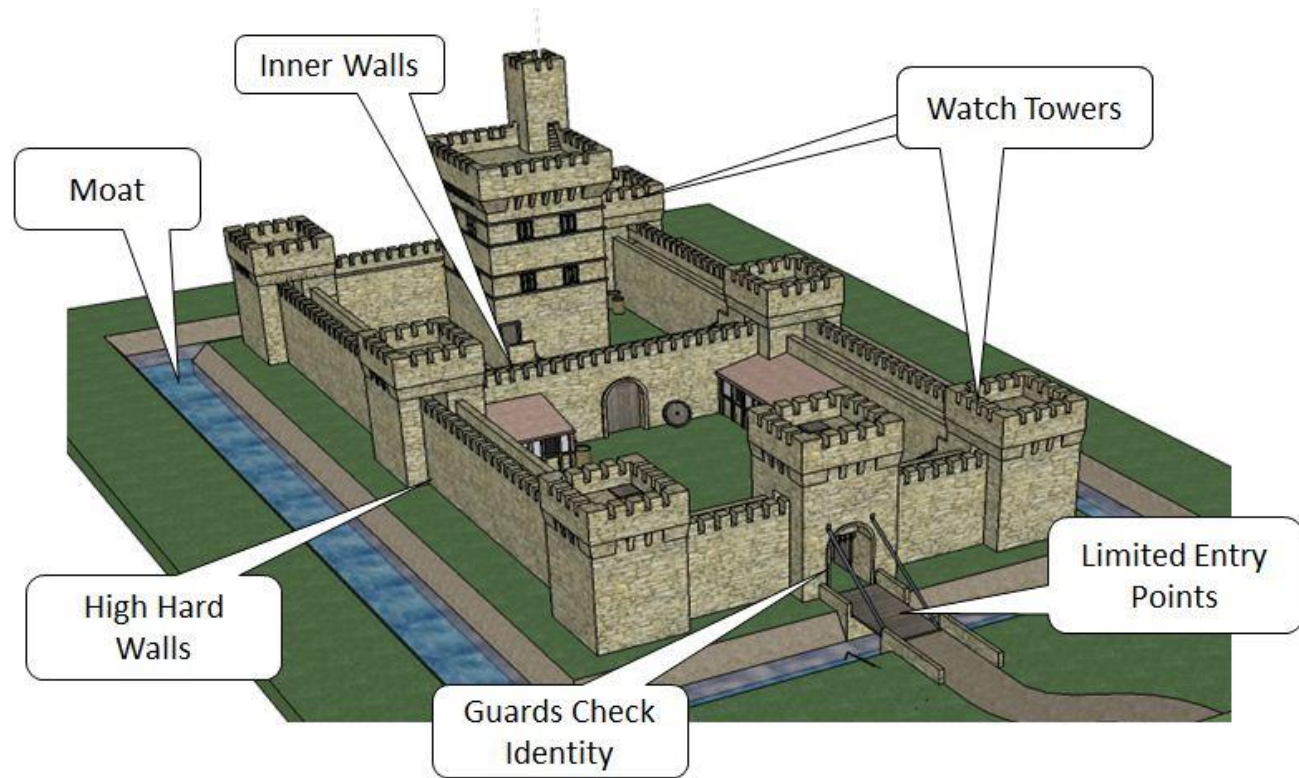
## Loyalty

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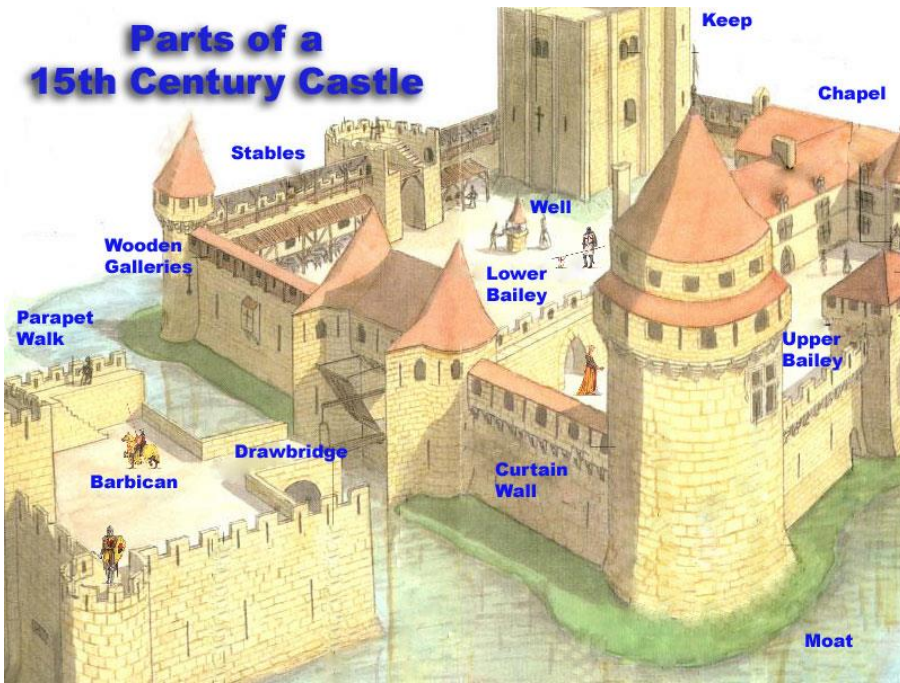
# Castles

- fortresses
- War won by conquest of rival's castle





# Parts of a 15th Century Castle



# CASTLE TRAPS & DEFENSES

## AWESOME FEATURES TO WITHSTAND ANNIHILATION

### TROU DE LOUP

Pit with sharp stake — defensive obstacle or covered to serve as booby trap

### ARROWSLITS

Slit in wall for archers, providing protection from attackers while they fired

### BENT ENTRANCE

Narrow gateway with sharp turn—designed to slow attackers

### TALUS

Sloped base of a defense wall—kept invaders far from the wall

### MURDER HOLE

Hole in ceiling for rocks, scalding water or tar to be thrown on attackers

### SPIRAL STAIRCASE

Usually spiraled clockwise going up—put right-handed attackers at a disadvantage

### MOAT

Deep trough, often full of water, served as a first line of defense

SOURCES: CastlesAndManorHouses.com, The History of Castles: Fortifications Around the World by Christopher Gravett

DOOMSDAY CASTLE

#DOOMSDAYCASTLE

TUESDAYS 10P



# Feudal Warfare

## Catapult



## Siege Tower



## Battering Rams



# English Castle





## **Checkpoint**

What was feudal life like for knights?

# Role of Noblewomen

- active roles
  - ran lord's estate
  - some fought & in politics
- expected
  - bear kids
  - obedient



**Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204)**  
Politically active, went on crusade, &  
ruled England for her son- Richard



## **Checkpoint**

What role did women play in medieval society?

# Manorialism

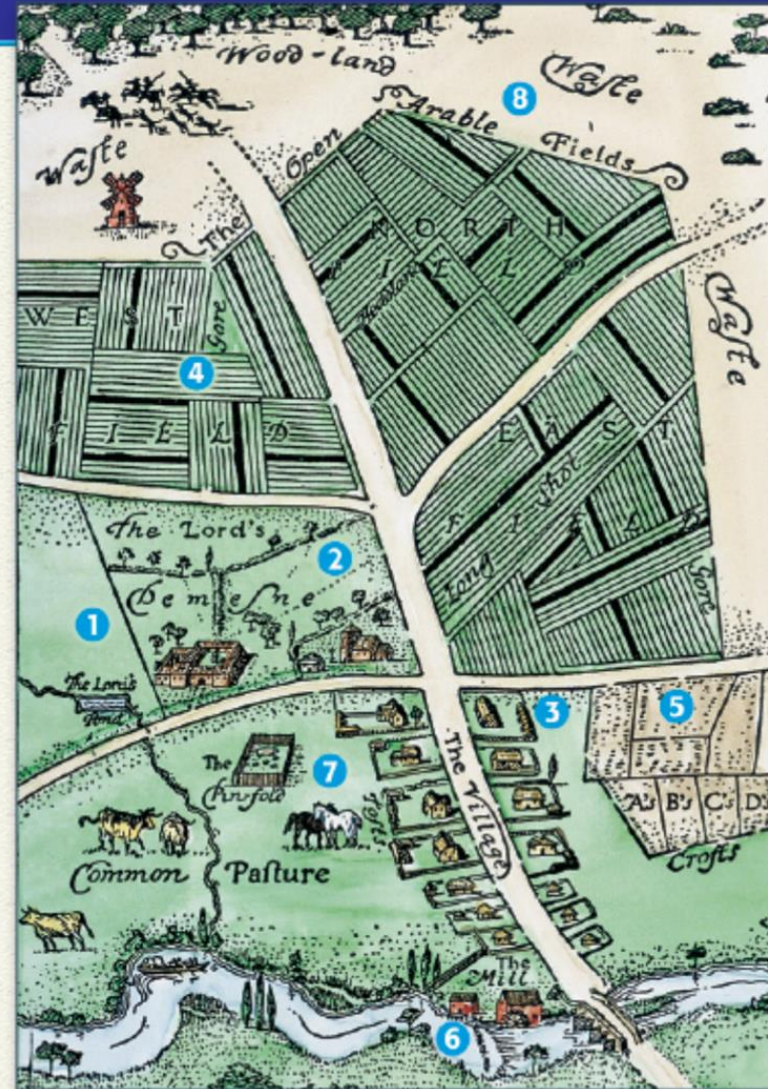
- heart of medieval economy
- self-sufficient estate
  - no trade
- Included 1/more villages
- Mutual obligations
- Helped organize lord's fiefs
  - supporting feudalism

## History *in* Depth

### The Medieval Manor

The medieval manor varied in size. The illustration to the right is a plan of a typical English manor.

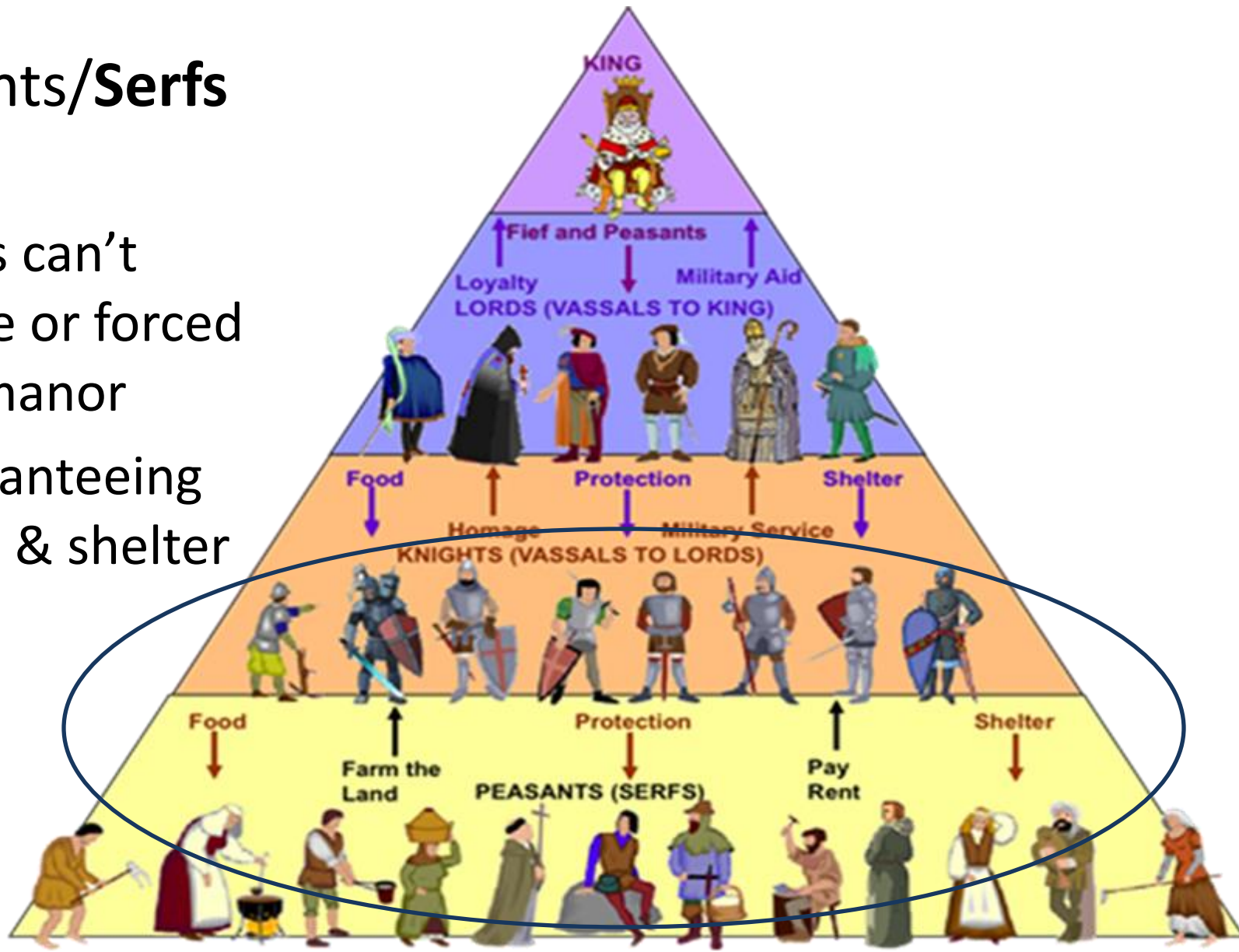
- 1 Manor House**  
The dwelling place of the lord and his family and their servants
- 2 Village Church**  
Site of both religious services and public meetings
- 3 Peasant Cottages**  
Where the peasants lived
- 4 Lord's Demesne**  
Fields owned by the lord and worked by the peasants
- 5 Peasant Crofts**  
Gardens that belonged to the peasants
- 6 Mill**  
Water-powered mill for grinding grain
- 7 Common Pasture**  
Common area for grazing animals
- 8 Woodland**  
Forests provided wood for fuel.



# Mutual Obligations

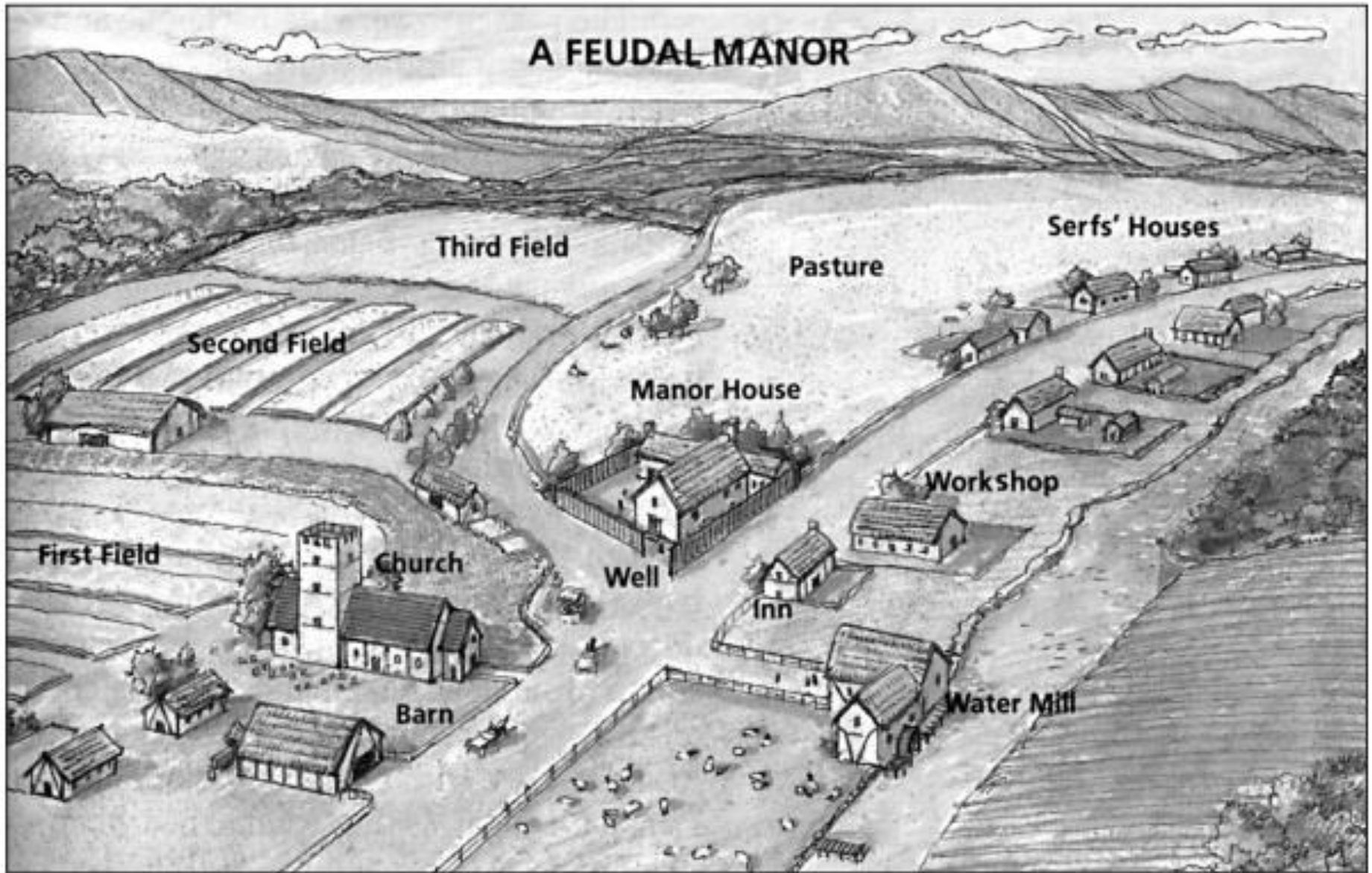
- bet. peasants/Serfs & lord

- Serfs can't leave or forced off manor
- guaranteeing food & shelter

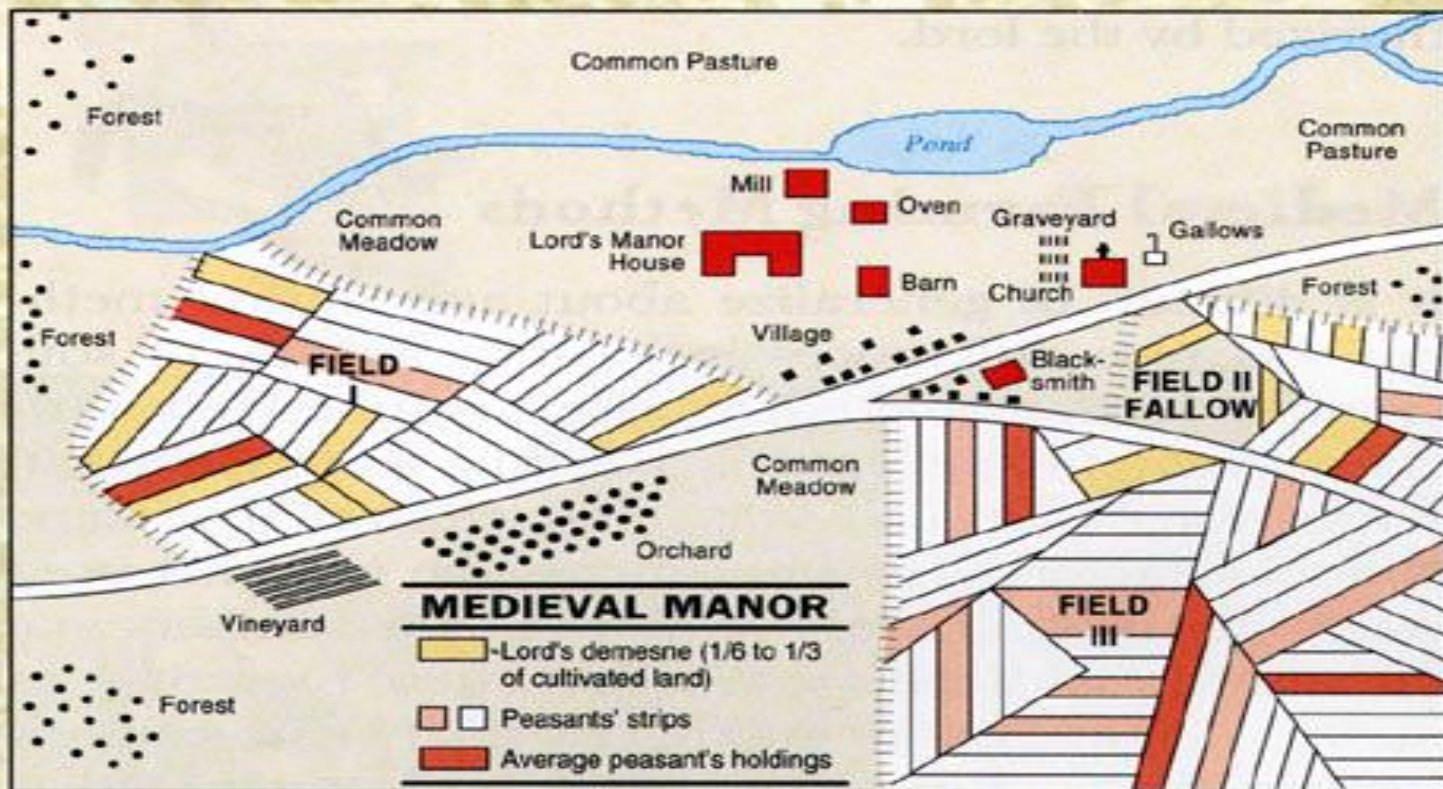




# A FEUDAL MANOR



# Medieval Manor



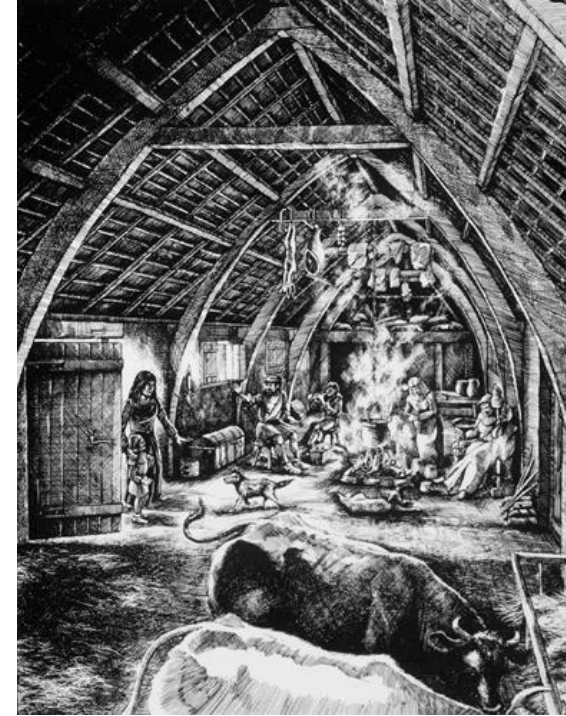
*The manor, the self-contained economic unit of early medieval life, operated on a system of reciprocal rights and obligations based on custom. In return for protection, strips of arable land, and the right to use the nonarable common land, the peasant paid dues and worked on the lord's demesne. Under the three-field system, one-third of the land lay fallow so that intensive cultivation did not exhaust the soil.*

# Harsh Life for Peasants



# Harsh Life for Peasants

- long hours of back-breaking labor
- lived in crowded huts w/ livestock
- simple diet
- Hunger & disease common



# Harsh Life for Peasants

- Accepted harsh life as god's plan
- Celebrations w/ feasts & dance





## **Checkpoint**

How did the economic system of the manor economy work?

# Feudalism and the Manor Economy

## Feudalism

Feudalism was a political system in which powerful lords divided their land among lesser lords. In exchange, the lesser lords pledged service and loyalty to the greater lord.

## The World of Knights and Nobles

Warfare was a way of life, as nobles battled for power. Noblewomen supervised estates. Knights practiced chivalry, protecting the weak.

## The Manor

The lord's estate included one or more villages, the surrounding lands, and the peasants who lived there. The manor was the heart of the feudal economy.



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.