

## Feudalism: Life in the Dark and Middle Ages

**WebQuest Description:** Students discover the aspects of feudal life and understand the hierarchy of power in a feudal society.

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** Feudalism, Dark Ages, Kings, Lords, Vassals, Manor, Knights, Serfs, Chivalry

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### Introduction

After the fall of the Roman Empire all of Europe was left in disarray. This time became known as the Dark and Middle Ages. From approximately 700- 1500 CE there was no consistent central ruling government. This resulted in the acceptance of the Feudal system as a means of the way society functioned. Feudalism is based around the relationships of land owners and the concept of militaristic protection. Feudalism created a hierarchical society of kings, lords, knights, and serfs. Each person no matter what the title had a part to play in this society that became manor life. We are now going to travel back in time to the middle ages and live in a manorial community under the feudal system.

### Tasks

In your groups you will be creating your own manorial community. Each member in a group will play a role in the manor life. Each role will have tasks to complete, as each group member researches their position within the feudal society. If any confusion or issues occur you may ask me as I am the King of the land.

### Process

**Individual Tasks**  
**Lord:** The Lord is the owner of the land in which the manor is located. The king gave land to his Noble Lords, who created the manor system on their land. The Lord governed the land ensuring that every citizen was contributing to his manorial society.  
 Create a name for your manor.  
 Create a coat of arms.  
 Write 2-3 paragraphs outlining the daily life of a Lord and his responsibilities.  
**Knight:** The knight trained all his life for knighthood. A knight would pay military service to the governing lord or vassal in hopes of becoming a noble lord himself.  
 Design a crest for your shield.  
 Create a Knight's code of chivalry.  
 Write 2-3 paragraphs outlining the origins of knighthood, the daily life of a knight, and the importance of understanding the rules of chivalry and courtly love.  
**Serf:** Serfs were also known as peasants and made up a majority of the manor population. The serfs were not true slaves but were indebted to the Lord. The serfs worked the land and payed the Lord with a portion of their production for use of the land.  
 Outline farming techniques used.  
 Describe tools used associated to the above farming techniques.  
 Write 2-3 paragraphs describing the daily life of a serf.  
**Group Task**  
 After completing your individual tasks, as a group you will design a map of your lords manor. The map should include all parts of the manor including: Lords castle, village, farm land, church, etc. You will create the map on a poster and present your groups manor to the rest of the class.  
**Helpful Links:** Middle Ages Information Middle Ages Farming

### Evaluation

**The Kings Evaluation**  
 The time has come for the king to evaluate your performance and knowledge of the feudal society in the middle ages.

Category and Score	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	Score
Individual Tasks	Incomplete assignments and or missing key elements to their assigned role in feudal society.	Meeting requirements, but lacking detail and complete understanding of their assigned role in feudal society.	Meeting expectations. Complete understanding of their assigned role in feudal society.	Exceeding expectations. Complete understanding of their assigned role in feudal society.	
Group Task	Incomplete or missing important parts of the feudal manor. May not have a key, and shows little to no understanding of the feudal manor.	Meeting minimal requirements. Lacking creativity and complete understanding of the feudal manor.	Meeting expectations. Complete map and key showing understanding of the manor and its important areas.	Exceeding expectations. Creative and complete map including key explaining the parts of the manor. Groups show complete understanding of feudal manor functionality.	

Category and Score	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	Score
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

Congratulations you have survived feudal life in the middle ages. You have discovered what life was like at each level of the hierarchical society. You now are ready to see the fall of the feudal system and the entrance into the European Renaissance.

## Teacher Page

### Standards

7.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe

1. Study the geography of the Europe and the Eurasian land mass, including its location, topography, waterways, vegetation, and climate and their relationship to ways of life in Medieval Europe.

3. Understand the development of feudalism, its role in the medieval European economy, the way in which it was influenced by physical geography (the role of the manor and the growth of towns), and how feudal relationships provided the foundation of political order.

### Credits

<http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=1778>

### Other