**CHAPTER 2: Europe’s High Middle Ages (1000-1300)**

**Part 1 Name:**

**The Feudal System**

* In the early 11th century, England inherited a new social system based on land, loyalty, and religion (called feudalism)
* Centre of feudal life was the manor (self-sufficient community)
* People either worked the land or were landowners
* Church played a big role in people’s lives
* Had a legal system
* Similar to a military arrangement
* Main purpose was to support the lord of the manor who was generally a knight

**William the Conqueror**

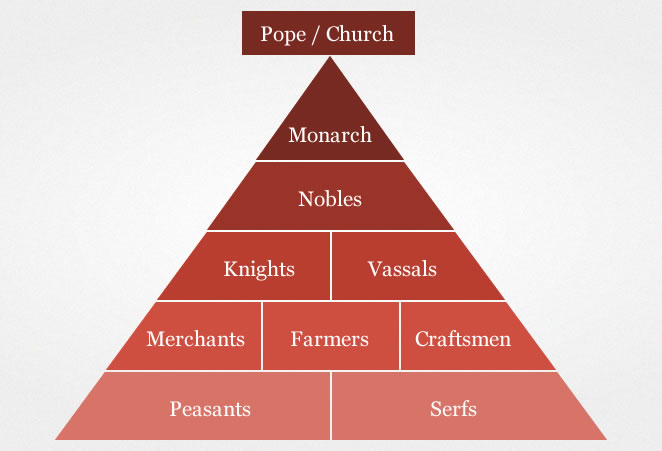
* From Normandy and won the Battle of Hastings
* Took possession of England and implemented the feudal system from Normandy
* Took lands from British nobles (earls) and gave them to his Knights
* In the old English system, people lived freely and opposed William’s changes
* William brutally ensured that feudalism would be established and it was throughout England within 5 years

**The Feudal Contract**

* Based on the 3 F’s: fief (land), fealty (loyalty), and faith (religion)
* Land was the source of all wealth
* Land was given to Knights in exchange for loyalty and was bound by an oath
* Knights (new nobles) had \_\_ obligations
  + Had to serve in the army at least 40 days per year
  + Had to supply the King with additional Knights during war
  + Had to serve in court and give the King advice
  + Had to give the King money on special occasions (weddings, etc.)
* In return, nobles had the King’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from attacks and help in settling disputes with other nobles
* Relationship was cemented by a ceremony involving an \_\_\_\_\_ and allegiance (loyalty)
* Nobles had similar ceremonies with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nobles (vassals)

**The Feudal Hierarchy**

* Land and protection were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for loyalty and military support throughout the hierarchy
* These “contracts” kept the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and was the foundation of the feudal system
* Words to know:
  + Tenant: person who occupies land
  + Serf: farming labourer
  + Freeholder: person who owns land (but pays fee to the King)
  + Vassal: holder of land based on an allegiance
  + Lord of the manor: tenant of a noble, runs the manor for profit
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gave nobles land (former Knights, also known as barons)
* They lived on their land and other nobles also lived on their land (called lords/tenants)
* Every noble had land (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) and was the “lord of the manor”



* Serfs and freeholders worked the land (\_\_\_)% of the population) and had few \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and power
* Serfs had no power and were considered a part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so could not be removed from it

**Check your Understanding**

* How did tenants gain protection? What did they offer in return?
* What is a contract? What is a feudal contract?
* What is the difference between a written and verbal contract?
* How did feudalism bring social order?
* How did feudalism suppress freedom? Who was exploited? What vital right did the exploited enjoy?
* Would you want this system in Canada?

**Medieval Life and Custom**

* Each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had farming lands, a pasture, a village, and woodlands
* The manor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (usually close to water) had a mill, church, blacksmith’s shop, and a tannery
* Had skilled workers for most specific \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Lords also kept \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (rent collector/supervisor)
* Homes were built from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and dirt floor
* Usually about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people lived in a house 9-10 metres by 3-4 metres with only one \_\_\_\_\_
* No plumbing or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Farm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lived in the home so conditions were unsanitary

**Work and Cooperation**

* Whole family helped with farming, even young \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Serf/freeholder children did not attend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had to cook for and cloth their families
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spent majority of their time farming
* Grandparents were rare (Why?)

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* Everyone worked from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary**

* Allegiance, Homage, Monumental, Contract, Freeholder, Exploit, Self-sufficient, Bailiff, Vermin, Vassal, Serf, Tenant