



Feudal Structure:

The feudal system provided local self-defense in the absence of strong rulers with large armies. The structure of the system was based on land. As payment, for military services, rulers gave land to nobles, who in turn earned an income from the land in repayment, the nobles would arm knights and foot soldiers to fight for the ruler.

Fief: a grant of land or an estate

Lord: a ruler who grants a fief in return for military service.

Vassal: a person who receives a fief. The vassal, in return owes the lord :

1. Knights and foot soldiers
2. Ransom money if the lord is captured in war
3. Housing and food for the lord and his knights when they visit the vassal's fief

Homage: a vassal's oath of loyalty to a lord, often in exchange for land.

Knight: a warrior who pledges loyalty to a lord, often in exchange for land. Later in the Middle Ages, a knight received training and lived by a code. Serve God and the feudal lord (and/or king); demonstrate skill with weapons; follow the chivalric code of politeness, courage, honor, truthfulness, respect for women and defeated enemies.

Peasant: a person who works the land

Serf: a peasant of the lowest class, who is bound to the land and cannot leave it.

Page (age 7-14) - Serve the women of the manor; learn manners; religion, reading and writing

Squire (age 14-21) - Serve the men and the knights; learn hunting, hawking, chess, poetry, lute playing, care of horses and equipment.

Role of the church		
Feudalism	Political System	based on Germanic Customs mutual obligations fiefs awarded to vassals lords minted coins and made laws lords headed manors lords protected people
Manorialism	Economic System	originated from Roman estates (latifundia) serfs controlled the land property was shared lords headed manors lords protected people

1. King A grants a **fief** to B. B then owes what to A?
2. B grants a fief to C. C grants part of this fief to D. What does D owe C?
3. Under the feudal system, can a person be both a lord and a vassal?
4. How is C affected if B is called by A to perform feudal services?
5. A is captured in war and held for ransom. What obligation does B have to A?
6. What obligation do the peasants on the fief of B have if A is captured?
7. B and his knights go to visit C on his estate. Is C obligated to receive them? Why or why not? What about D receiving B?
8. Serf E sees a better piece of farmland on B's estate. Can he go there? Why or Why not?
9. The knights granted fiefs by B are all _____ Of B.
10. Are B, C and D vassals of A? Why/Why not?
11. What is the relationship between the serfs and the lords and knights?