



Life on a Medieval Manor

Mission: You are a traveling scribe recording life on a medieval manor. Visit every part of it, collect evidence, and figure out how feudalism worked: who gave what, and who got what in return?

Big question: How did feudalism and the manor system organize life in medieval Europe?

★ Warm-up: Fair trade?

Would you make this trade?

Farm someone's land 3 days a week for protection ✓ **Answers vary; this is the serf's deal.**

Fight in battles in exchange for land ✓ **The knight's deal.**

Key vocabulary

Feudalism	A system where land was exchanged for loyalty and service.
Fief	Land granted by a lord.
Serf	A peasant bound to the lord's land.
Manor	A lord's estate with its village and fields.
Tithe	One-tenth of income given to the Church.

1 Box 1

Start in the village

In the simulator: Enter the village and examine both objects.

What did a serf get in exchange for working the lord's land?

☐ Protection and a small plot of land ☐ A salary in gold ☐ Freedom to move anywhere

✓ **Protection and a small plot of land**

2 Box 2

Tour the manor

In the simulator: Enter all 6 places and collect at least 11 objects.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Feudal pyramid

Order the feudal pyramid from the TOP (most power) to the BOTTOM.

Put in order: King · Knights · Lords (nobles) · Serfs (peasants)

1. **King**
2. **Lords (nobles)**
3. **Knights**
4. **Serfs (peasants)**

Who gives what?

What did each group mainly GIVE?

Sort: Land (fiefs) and protection · Military service · Labor in the fields · Justice in the manor court · Part of the harvest

Lord	Knight	Serf
Land (fiefs) and protection Justice in the manor court	Military service	Labor in the fields Part of the harvest

4 Box 4

A day on the manor

Explain feudalism from the point of view of a serf OR a knight. Use a quote or fact from the manor.

Who I am

Look for: Names a role; at least 8 words

What I give and get

Look for: Explains the exchange; at least 16 words

Evidence

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

5 Box 5

Legend: the oath Legend only

Quote the oath of fealty and explain why promises like this held feudal society together.

Look for: Explains loyalty; an exact quote from the text; at least 25 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did feudalism and the manor system organize life in medieval Europe?

Look for: Feudalism was a system of exchanges: kings granted land (fiefs) to lords for loyalty and military service; lords gave land to knights who fought for them; serfs farmed the land in exchange for protection but were bound to it. The Church was powerful in everyone's life, and manors produced almost everything they needed.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	EVZ-E
 Investigator	1HA-I

**Watch for these misconceptions**

- "The Middle Ages were a time when nothing happened." Universities, cathedrals, and legal ideas like the Magna Carta developed.
- "The Magna Carta gave rights to everyone." At first it mostly protected nobles.
- "The Renaissance happened everywhere at once." It started in Italy and spread over centuries.